

East Goscote

LONG FURROW

EAST GOSCOTE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



MAY 2024

Sponsored by Josiah Hincks and East Goscote Parish Council



Friendly and Experienced Car Dealer Right on your Doorstep

See Page 6

IN THIS EDITION



BOROUGH COUNCILLORS ROUND-UP

Page 9



THE GREENER GOSCOTE PAGE

Page 21





JOSIAH HINCKS

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Hello...

EDITORIAL

As you will see we have a jam-packed edition for you this month, including the Parish Council's Annual Reports, an editorial piece about Goscote Services, and details of the Scout Summer Fete! We hope you find something of interest and as always the magazine is for everyone to share their news - if you would like to submit an article, advert, or letter of interest please contact us using the details below.

Here you will find a selection of items included in this edition.

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IN THIS EDITION

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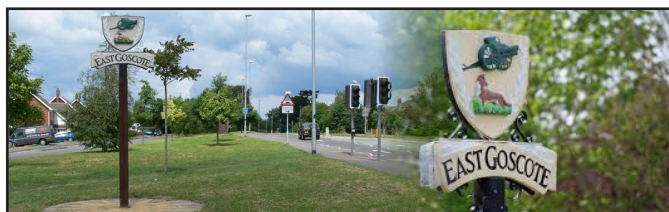
- Timebanking Article
- Village Hall and Let's Get Moving Campaign
- Goscote Services
- Broomfield Primary School Update
- Guided Walk and Hedgehog Street Project
- Borough Councillors Round Up
- County Councillor's Report
- Scouts, Beavers and Cubs, and Summer Fete Advert
- Brownies
- St Hilda's Church News
- Parish Council Annual Reports
- Articles from the Archives
- Letters to the Editor
- Greener Goscote Page

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.

Get in touch with the editorial team if you think you can help.



ABOUT LONG FURROW

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

Please note that all photographs that appear in Long Furrow are copyright and cannot be used without the owner's permission.

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 Anonymous items will not be published unless details of the writer are made known confidentially to the editor of Long Furrow.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.

AND THANK YOU

To our sponsors, our contributors, our helpers and our advertisers. Without you, Long Furrow simply would not happen.



EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

DOG CONCERNS

The Parish Council receives a lot of complaints about dog fouling and concerns with dogs off leads.

These can be reported directly to Charnwood Borough Council by calling **01509 634564** or by using the QR Code below.



FAB Plumbing

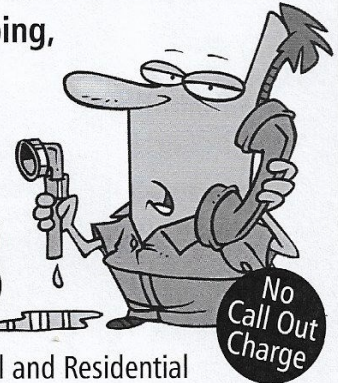
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It won't cost you anything extra.



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2. Start shopping

Visit retailers then shop online as normal

3. Raise donations

Your cause receives Free donation

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/eastgoscotec/>

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TIME4LEICESTERSHIRE COMES TO CHARNWOOD

Time4Leicestershire is a free skills exchange initiative where members can sign up to share their skills and knowledge, and can request skills they would like in return.

'Timebanking' differs from volunteering as it allows people to swap skills at a time that suits them, with no minimum commitment needed. For every hour of time somebody gives, they receive an hour's time credit to bank and give to another Timebank member in exchange for supporting them with another skill.

Exchanged skills can be anything from mowing a lawn, learning to cook or trying a new sport. People do not necessarily have to meet in person to benefit from the scheme either; they can also help each other online. These can include helping someone with their CV or digitally editing photographs. A skill that one person takes for granted may be invaluable when passed on to someone else.

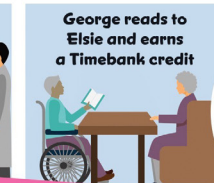
Timebanking initiatives such as this one benefit local communities and residents by providing a safe and positive environment in which to meet new people who can help out by sharing their skills or help to develop a person's skills that may not have previously been available. Leicestershire County Council's Time4Leicestershire timebanking initiative is part of a national network of timebanks, some of which have been operating for over 10 years. The initiative aims to alleviate social isolation, improve individual mental and physical wellbeing, improve skills and encourage community cohesion and resilience.

There will be regular timebank drop-in sessions on the first Wednesday of every month in East Goscote library from 10am-12pm, where you can come and chat to the timebank outreach worker about how timebanking works, get support using the platform, meet other timebank members, or take part in a skills taster.

Upcoming dates for timebank drop-in sessions are Weds 1st May 10am-12pm, Weds 5th June 10am-12pm, Weds 3rd July 10am-12pm.

To find out more about Charnwood Timebank, and to register to get involved, visit www.time4leicestershire.org.uk or email: time4leicestershire@gov.uk

Swap skills, not money



Give one hour, get one hour

www.time4leicestershire.org.uk
time4leicestershire@leics.gov.uk



EAST GOSCOTE VILLAGE HALL



East Goscote Village Hall has joined Active Together in their Let's Get Moving Campaign, which aims to bring about positive Physical and Mental Wellbeing for residents in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

KEEP FUN, KEEP FIT

Join East Goscote Village Hall's Social Table Tennis Club.

Tuesdays: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

£3.00 per person

Includes tea and coffee.

Beginners Welcome



BINGO AFTERNOONS

Join us for Bingo: 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

23rd May, 27th June

From £3 per person which includes 3 games of bingo and tea or coffee.

Prizes dependent on the number of people playing.

For more information, please contact us:
<https://eastgoscotepc.org.uk/village-hall/>

0116 260 2202

egadmin@talktalk.net

Friendly and Experienced Car Dealer Right on your Doorstep

If you have lived in East Goscote for a time you will certainly have driven past and be aware of Goscote Services over the years. Settled parishioners may know the garage as 'the Renault Garage' as in the past the garage was a Renault Dealership.

You may not be aware however that their service department have been servicing and repairing vehicles for the local community for over 50 years. Alan and his team offer all manner of repair work including MOT and general servicing, vehicle diagnostics, brake, clutch, gearbox and timing belt replacements plus the regular bulb and key battery change which catch us all out! They have a spacious relaxing reception area with tea and coffee facilities available for customers that wish to wait, also on hand they offer courtesy cars free of charge for those who require the use of a vehicle whilst their own is with them for repair.

Goscote Services, now as an independent dealer also have over 30 cars in stock with a variety of makes and models and specialise in selling quality pre loved vehicles with low ownership, excellent service history and desirable optional extras. All vehicles for sale are fully prepared in our own workshop and leave with an MOT, a service if required and a minimum of 6 months parts & labour warranty.

Master Technician Paul, Workshop Controller Alan and General Manager Danny were all born on the village and have over 80 years of motor trade experience between them. Danny who recently took over at the garage said:

" I have lived on the village for a number of years and grew up around this area, I have been a part of this community for many years working at the local pub, playing for the local football, pool and darts teams as well as working for this company for 20 years. At Goscote Services we aim to look after and service all manner of vehicles for local people of East Goscote and the surrounding villages. For those who may have mobility issues or prefer for their car to be filled up for them, we also offer a tended fuel service here. We sell quality vehicles to both new and existing customers, local and more recently nationwide as we offer part exchange, a variety of finance options and also buy cars from customers with same day payments."

So if your vehicle requires a service or repair work then give them a call on 0116 2605690 for a quote and to book. If you are looking to either sell your existing car or fancy a new one call 0116 2607120 or visit www.goscoteservices.co.uk or their Facebook page for the current showroom cars for sale.



BROOMFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Below is a snapshot of the exciting work, events and activities that take place at Broomfield.

A small school with a big heart.



National recognition of the hard work we put in as a school in partnership with our families around attendance.



Water safety is one of our local safeguarding priorities so it was great to have a representative from the RNLI come and give workshops to our children.



We have taken part in a wide variety of competitions including basketball, football and new age kurling!



Year 5 sewing a water bottle holder by repurposing material linked to their battle of Britain unit.



Comparing numbers using numicon.

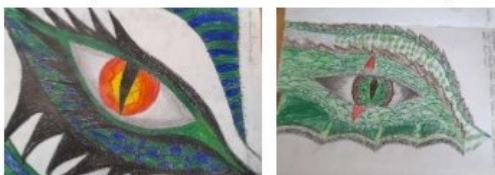


We now offer guitar lessons as well as piano lessons following an assembly by Joel.



Young Voices - Birmingham!

Year 6 dragon eye art



Some of our children met John Brooks a premier league referee and they learnt more about VAR.





The whole of the process of selling the house from initial quote to completion was dealt with in a professional and efficient way. Paul was always available when I rang him and Paula kept us updated on a weekly basis once an offer had been made. I feel that HomeMove were there to take a lot of the stresses away.

J Pyne - Google Review

📍 College Road, Syston
£260,000

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 OFF ROAD PARKING

📍 Gregory Close, Thurmaston
£350,000

🛏️ 4 🚿 2 GARAGE & DRIVE

📍 Barkby Road, Queniborough
£525,000

🛏️ 5 🚿 3 OPEN PLAN

📍 Goodes Avenue, Syston
£300,000

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 OPEN VIEWS

📍 Tinkers Dell, East Goscote
£230,000

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 NO CHAIN

📍 The Ringway, Queniborough
£340,000

🛏️ 3 🚿 1 KITCHEN /DINER

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e: Paul@homemoveEA.co.uk

w: HomemoveEA.co.uk



* If you have already instructed an agent on a sole basis, please check the T&C's in order to avoid the potential of having to pay two agency fees.

Borough Councillors Round-up – Laurie Needham, Sandra Woodward & Chris O’Neill



Many of you will be aware that Merchants Common was sold by Jelson in early March. It did not reach its asking price at Auction, but a private sale has since been agreed. There is still uncertainty around who has bought the site, and we have been working with local residents, tenants, business owners and East Goscote Parish Council to get more information around what could happen to this area in the future.

The listing stated that there may be scope for ‘planning subject to permissions’, which led many to worry that the site was in immediate danger of being replaced by housing development. This is very unlikely. Charnwood have said that although they can’t prejudge any application that may come forward, the area and its amenity value are important factors in their development plan and the loss of these amenities would likely create additional traffic pressures, which is not desirable. East Goscote Parish Council are seeking to have the area designated as a Community Asset but can’t move forward with this until they know who has bought the site. Jelson have also put the houses they own on Broomfield up for sale, which again, is deeply concerning for the people who currently live here.

Frustratingly, this land is privately owned, and the Council have no powers or say over its sale. That said, we will explore every option to preserve the site and help tenants and business owners where we can.

Lots of people have been asking why nothing is happening with the Redrow site. Work was expected to

begin in the Autumn of last year. There have been no updates on the public planning portal and Redrow’s webpage for the development simply says they are ‘experiencing substantial delays with the planning process’.

The site is at the ‘Reserved Matters’ stage. This is where more detail is agreed around the layout of the site, the number, type and size of the houses and things like landscaping. The delay is likely due to Redrow & the planning service trying to find agreement on these matters. In any case, it seems very unlikely that works will commence any time soon.

The budget for the coming financial year was approved at the end of February. The Charnwood element of Council Tax has increased by 3% or £4.21 per year for a band D property. Charnwood receive 7% of the total Council tax bill, the majority going to the County Council and services like Police and Fire Services.

This year Charnwood has not had to make use of reserves or cut services.

There has been no increase in the Brown Bin charges for this year.

Charnwood have also created a 100k Community Grants pot to support our communities with the cost of Living and other projects.

There are elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner taking place on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

The deadline to register to vote or for a new postal vote is 16th April. People voting at a polling station will need to have photo ID and should take care to check that they have a form of photo I.D from the approved list which can be found at

https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/voter_id_faqs or by calling 01509 634546. If people do not have a form of photo I.D they can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate [Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a ‘Voter Authority Certificate’\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – the deadline for this is 5pm on 24th April 2024.

Get in touch

Laurie Needham: cllr.laurie.needham@charnwood.gov.uk 07807 399879

Sandra Woodward: cllr.sandra.woodward@charnwood.gov.uk 07823 889088

Chris O’Neill: cllr.chris.o’neill@charnwood.gov.uk 07855 812620

Utilising funds from the Reaching People Environment Grant, East Goscote Parish Council is pleased to be able to offer the following.

SPRINGTIME NATURE WALK: A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

A guided walk with Local Ecologist Dr Helen O'Brien, connecting some of the East Goscote NatureSpot Wild Places and the newly approved Local Wildlife Site. Helen will also be explaining and demonstrating some of the free flora and fauna identification apps during the walk.

Saturday 25th May

Start Time: 10.30 a.m.

Venue: East Goscote Sports Pavilion

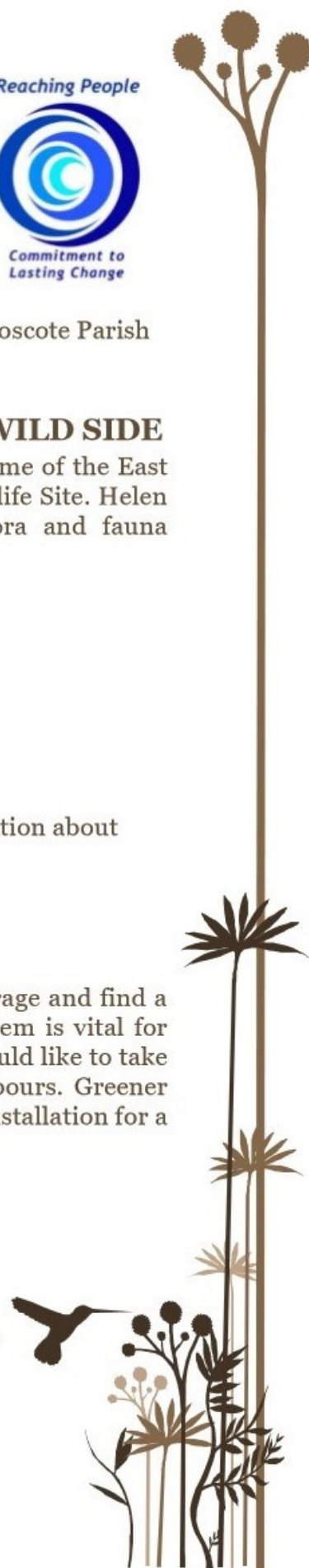
Visit https://www.naturespot.org.uk/East_Goscote for more information about East Goscote's Wild Places.

HEDGEHOG STREET PROJECT

Hedgehogs need a much bigger territory than you might think to forage and find a mate, so making gardens hedgehog friendly and interconnecting them is vital for them to thrive. Householders can apply for a free template if they would like to take part in this project. We advise you to discuss this with you neighbours. Greener Goscote can offer advice with location and may be able to help with installation for a small donation if you can't manage this yourselves.

Visit www.hedgehogstreet.org for more information.

If you are interested in getting involved with either of these, please get in touch with the Parish Council on 0116 2602202 or egadmin@talktalk.net.



County Councillor Update - James Poland

This is the first of what I hope will be a series of regular articles in the Long Furrow, keeping everyone updated about my work and that of the County Council. I'm grateful to the Long Furrow magazine for giving me the opportunity to do this. I have always believed one of the most important aspects of my role as a Councillor is supporting residents who need my help and to that end if you need my assistance in any way please do get in touch. My contact details are below.

£238m investment announced in Leicestershire's transport network

Extra Government money to boost local transport has been welcomed by Leicestershire County Council. Announced in February, £238 million has been awarded to Leicestershire from the Government's Local Transport Fund which is available over a seven-year period from 2025/26. This money has been made available through the Network North funding (the money re-directed from HS2) and is in addition to the £7.63m previously announced for bus services in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Whilst the details of the Network North funding have yet to be confirmed, it is understood it will be used for new projects in Leicestershire (rather than back funding projects already underway). This investment is deeply welcome for our county and I look forward to the benefits will bring.

East Goscote Shops

At the time of writing (in the middle of March) I have just heard that the Merchants Common in East Goscote (which includes the shops, car park and pub) have been sold and I am in the process of finding out who the new owners are and what their intentions for the site might be. I wrote to the Head of Planning at Charnwood Borough Council to ask if there were any restrictions on new owners making significant changes to the site who has told me there are policies in place to protect the community facilities. It should be stressed though that at this point there is no suggestion that there is any threat to the shops in the village.

Bridging the gap crucial as budget challenges continue

Significant investment to cover growing costs and service demand, wide-ranging savings and a Council Tax increase all feature in the County Council's budget, as councils across the country face unprecedented challenges. Leicestershire County Council's budget, passed in February, invests £129m more to meet growing demand, mainly in social care, and an extra £113m to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase.

The budget balances the books next year using £6m of reserves – the first time this has been required - and forecast a budget gap of £83m by 2028 after planned savings. A three per cent Council Tax increase for core services - and a two per cent increase in the adult social care precept – generating in total £18m more for front line services – has come into place from April. The budget includes the extra £5m Government funding for Leicestershire announced in January. Leicestershire remains a well-run council and has saved £262m since 2010 - but spiralling costs and service demands mean this is still the toughest budget the Council has ever faced.



The four-year budget includes:

- **A £6m budget shortfall next year** – rising to £33m in 2026, £60m in 2027 and £83m in 2028
 - **£127m more mainly to support vulnerable people** – to pay for more home and residential care, and support people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs
 - **An extra £113m** - to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase
- Major redesigns of services to manage future demand, including:**
- Special educational needs and disabilities - a new approach balancing growing demand for support with getting children the right help
 - Working with Barnardo's to run children's homes locally
 - Boosting 'supported living' - over 100 new placements created since 2020, enabling people with learning and physical disabilities and mental health needs to learn life skills and live independently
 - Rolling out 'care technology' - over 2,600 pieces of equipment, including falls detectors and GPS location trackers, installed over last year, benefiting over 1,000 people
 - **£39m of savings** – including redesigning services, reducing the cost of back-office support services by maximising digital technology and smarter procurement
 - **An extra £400k to help the council do more to tackle flooding** - after 500 homes flooded across the county in the wake of Storm Henk in the New Year
 - **£2.7m money to maintain roads and fix potholes** - including £2.2m of Government 'Network North' money
- A £445m four-year capital pot** – including £18m to improve bridges, roll out flood alleviation projects and improve road surfaces

If you need my help with anything please do get in touch.

James Poland CC
Tel: 07764 966677
Email: james.poland@leics.gov.uk
Facebook: Cllr James Poland

EAST GOSCOTE SCOUT GROUPS

SCOUTS

This spring term the scouts have been up to many indoor activities to make use of the cold and dark evenings. The scouts' first night away this year was at another successful sleepover at the hall with almost full attendance! This event was planned and run by our young leaders, and they provided an exciting programme where we played some wide games, went head-to-head with a bridge building challenge using lollipop sticks, enjoyed some great food and settled down for the night with a funny movie. So far this years' Monday evenings have been full of adventure and exciting activities too, we had night hike, BBQ and celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes and chocolate painting. Our new patrol leaders and assistants have also had some valuable leadership practice too with a ready steady cook night where some tasty and nutritious stir fries were created. We have also refreshed our first aid skills ready for the new year and in preparation for our camps this year. Our May camp is fast approaching but with the mornings getting warmer we are more than ready for it. Master at arms badge practice is coming to a close and there has been some amazing progress made across the board so we can expect some more badges to be handed out soon! With the winter months quickly coming to an end we cannot wait to get back outside and get stuck in with more exciting outdoor adventures.

cubs

Here we go, this is what the Cubs have been up to. We started the term doing our Local Knowledge badge, this includes exploring and finding out the history of East Goscote. The Cubs found out some interesting facts, they also discovered the meaning of the Leicestershire Coat of Arms. We have also done emergency aid, where they learnt to dress cuts, treat burns, help someone with asthma and do the recovery position, great skills for them all to know. Doing backwoods cook was great fun. Making bread in the embers, cooking dampers and making hot drinks all without using tradition utensils. Ending the term with a rifle shooting session, this was the first time for some and others brushed up their skills. We are now looking forward to the lighter nights so we can get outside and be more adventurous and not to mention camp.

BEAVERS

So last time we reported we were doing some indoor kayaking, well we had a fantastic time, the Beavers thoroughly enjoyed it and we would definitely do this activity again, once they got the hang of it they were paddling up and down the pool, the instructors got them doing some fun activities too like 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' whilst

trying to balance and not fall in!

We started our year with our Book Readers badge, they had to design their own bookmark and book cover and also invent a super hero character, it was great to see what they came up with.

We did some cooking and combined Valentine's Day and pancake day by making some love heart pancakes, so cute, although the pancakes did not really last very long as the Beavers soon ate their culinary delights, it was a very yummy evening. We are currently doing our Skills Challenge badge, Wren bought in some very strange looking trumpets, all the Beavers had a go at trying them out, some very, should we say interesting, sounds were heard! We did an alphabet exercise class and thought about all the things we do in everyday life where we exercise. We did an experiment with eggs and fizzy drinks to see how it would affect our teeth, they looked like some form of alien if you ask me, the beavers loved it as Wren splattered the eggs in front of them.

We are really excited as we are just planning our summer camp with the Cubs, we can't wait.

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch.



@EastGoscoteScoutGroup



@EGoscoteScouts



www.eastgoscotescouts.org.uk

EAST GOSCOTE BROWNIES

Brownies

We have had another busy term. We have continued with our Innovate badge which has seen some amazing designs by the girls. A bed that turns into a trampoline was a particularly good idea.

We made valentine biscuits and held a promise ceremony. For Mothers day the Brownies, made sandwiches and put together afternoon tea boxes for their Mum' which where very well received.

The last week before the Easter holidays we made woven baskets and gave out little eggs to put in them.

We are all looking forward to pack holiday in May and fingers crossed for sunnier weather.

Brown Owl





Is your little one looking for an adventure?

East Goscote Beavers have spaces available for boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years old.

Explore, play, learn new skills - all whilst having fun!

Make new friends

Learn about themselves and the world

Develop confidence

Explore new places

Help others in the community and beyond

Achieve badges

Indoor and outdoor activities

Wednesdays
5:45pm until 7pm

@ East Goscote Scout Hut,
LE7 3SU



Interested? Scan the QR code for our website

Queries: johanne.draycott@eastgoscotescouts.org.uk



Want A New Challenge?

East Goscote Scout Group are looking for a new adult volunteer - Clerk to the Trustees. The role involves:

Taking accurate and accessible minutes of meetings

Maintaining accurate admin records

General admin support

Working with Chair to set meeting agendas and arrange logistics

Ensuring safety and security of records

Distributing agendas, minutes and supporting documentation

One monthly meeting for around two hours

Previous experience is not needed. Training provided



Interested? Scan the QR code for our website

Queries: chair@eastgoscotescouts.org.uk



Want A New Challenge?

East Goscote Cub Scouts are looking for a new adult volunteer:

Help the young people to grow and develop their skills and knowledge

Get involved with days out, camps and expeditions

Help to plan and lead activities

Weekly or the occasional activity - all help is welcomed

Make sure everyone's safe, supported, included and having fun

Celebrate young people's achievements - big and small!

Previous experience is not needed. Training provided



Interested? Scan the QR code for our website

Queries: gsl@eastgoscotescouts.org.uk

Scouts
East Goscote

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR
SUMMER FETE

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024
AT JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS, EAST GOSCOTE, LE7 3SU
1 - 4PM

FREE ENTRY

Activities include:
BBQ, Refreshments, Raffle, Archery, Air Rifle Shooting, Craft and Plant Stalls, Tombola, Bouncy Castles, Ice Cream

A fun filled afternoon for all the family!

EST 1987



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ST HILDA'S CHURCH NEWS

LITTLE FISHES

St Hilda's Church Stay and Play Toddler Group, Little Fishes, meets on a Monday afternoon at 1.30pm to 3.00pm in the church hall (term time). We have lots of toys for babies & toddlers and we break for a snack and a some singing. Parents and carers enjoy a cuppa and time together while the children play. Come along and bring your little ones for just £1 per family.

This year has seen two Messy Church events at St Hilda's Church.

- Our February Half Term Messy Church looked at putting on the full Armour of God (Ephesians 6). We made a shield of faith, a sword of the Spirit, a helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, a mobile for the shoes of the Gospel of peace and other Armour related crafts. Over 25 adults and children enjoyed making and wearing the items before hearing an explanation for each item over refreshments.
- At our Easter, Holy Week Messy Church event we had lots of all things Easter crafts. Among other things, children loved making Easter gardens, a Holy week wreath, Easter baskets, chocolate nests, calvary plates and using potato mashers to paint an egg on an Easter card. We had hot cross buns and biscuits with our drinks and everyone went home with chocolate eggs and a booklet of the Easter story

Mandy Green
Children & Families Worker at St Hilda's Church



TEA TIMERS

We have had a busy start to the new year. It began with a New Year Party, which was very well attended and folk had a great time.

We have had a Mothering Sunday quiz, and at the time of writing this we are having an Easter Bonnet Parade. We also had 'soup and a roll' lunch throughout Lent.

We are open every Tuesday afternoon 2-4pm We offer a rumicub table but also have other games available but if you just want to pop and join us for a drink and a chat you are more than welcome. Contact Tricia or Jessie for more info or just call in.

Tricia Marsland



EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a very productive year for East Goscote Parish Council.

Council and Staff:

This year we have had one new Councillor join the Council, Mr Richard Peberdy. In May 2023 five Councillors did not apply to be re-elected: Councillors D Westerveld, V Oakes and R Axon ended their term of office. I would like to thank them for their service and efforts. Cllr N Shivers and D Cannon returned to offer their help once again and continue to be excellent contributors. At present we have eight Councillors and two vacancies. I'd like to use this opportunity to highlight the excellent work of the Council's staff. Our new admin assistant has been promoted to Deputy Clerk and increased her hours. Charlotte Turlington is working very hard to support our Clerk and is currently building up her knowledge. She is currently undertaking the CILCA qualification which she hopes to successfully obtain during 2024. Liz Pizer, our Clerk, has worked for the village for over 30 years and has now reduced her hours. Liz ensures the legal duties of the council are fulfilled, as well as providing admin support and staff supervision. Her work is vital in enabling the Council to perform its function and getting things done for our village. Charlie Cadle continues in the Caretaker's role and provides exemplary work around the village. He is assisted by Paul Harper who helps when needed. A heartfelt thank you to all Staff and Councillors this year.

Planning Applications:

During the year 16 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council. Redrow Homes have not yet started building on the Melton Road site and the application is still at the Reserved Matters stage. We have had no update on when works may begin.

Remembrance Sunday:

Cllrs Shivers and Cllr Needham attended the Remembrance service on behalf of the Council. The council marked the event with poppies on the lampposts.

Village Facilities:

The Tennis Court continues to be popular. During the winter the court gets closed for protection, this year we are having the court professionally cleaned and a new binder coat and acrylic paint is being applied to the court. We have changed the membership this year so that all members now join on an annual basis at a cost of £10 per year (resident rate) which is excellent value.

We have had a new gate fitted to the Jubilee playing fields and new safety surfacing to the single cradle swing. Our play areas will have their annual professional inspection in April.

Vandalism:

The cost of vandalism for March 23 – March 24 amounted to £220 mainly on damaged safety surfacing, which is extremely low compared to other years.

Dog Fouling:

This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that thousands of poo bags are sold and there being a plentiful supply of bins

around the Village.

The library continues to distribute dog bags at £1 per pack of 50 and any profit from the sale of the bags is retained by the library towards its upkeep.

Allowing your dog to foul without clearing up afterwards is totally unacceptable behaviour and we need YOUR help to catch those people responsible for spoiling our streets and green spaces. If you know an environmental offender, call 01509 634564 or email:

cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk.

The council has installed information signs to deter dog fouling and encourage people to behave responsibly and ensure their dogs were under control when using the playing fields. During 2023 the Parish Council invested in a Dog Warden for a period of 6 months to patrol outside the school and along Weavers Wynd and also the Jubilee Playing Fields. He gave out dog bags and spoke with dog owners.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Cllr Harris has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. More NW volunteers are required around the village.

Snow Warden Scheme:

East Goscote Parish Council is registered with the County Council Snow Warden Scheme. This means that they supply salt and pay the Parish Council to clear snow and ice around the village where it is considered dangerous.

Tree Work:

A new tree warden has been appointed - Mr Richard Peberdy, who is currently learning the role and undergoing training on various aspects of tree care.

Merchants Common:

The shops/ residential area and small warehouse units were offered for sale by Auction on 14th February. Despite not selling at auction the area has since been sold. We have tried to establish who the new owners are, however, Jelsons are withholding the information at present. We do know that businesses will not be affected as the leases are being transferred to the new owners.

Website:

Our website is available to our residents and has a wealth of information. It is very user friendly and is easy to navigate. Unfortunately, we could not continue with the phone app due to a software issue. The number of visits to our website over the last 12 months was 202,898.

Greener Goscote:

A group of local residents regularly volunteer to undertake projects such as litter picks and maintaining the recycling centre behind Merchants Common. They help add to our green and colourful village with the planting of trees, wildflowers and other plants which encourage and support wildlife. This year they have maintained the wildflower verge alongside the brook, the planters at the top of the pavilion driveway and replanted some of the Queens Green Canopy trees along with having a great input into the reaching people events. Thank you to these volunteers for their time and hard work.

East Goscote Library:

The Chair of the library has sent the following report on behalf of the Community Library:

The support from the residents of East Goscote continues but we still need more customers. We continue to have the support of East Goscote PC as well as St Hilda's Church. Sales of various items have continued and brought in valuable income. Jigsaws are proving popular.

We continue to struggle with the size of our energy bills. Various changes have been made to try to energy save but this has not worked as the unit cost has risen.

There are now regular visits from Bizzy Bees and Broomfield School. There was a good response for the Summer Reading Scheme.

We have 22 volunteers including a gardener, who work to a DIY manual rota system. Four new volunteers have been recruited and we have lost two due to them moving away. We have never failed to open due to volunteer shortage during the past twelve months. Unfortunately, Liz Pizer, the treasurer for the Trustees, has resigned but Charlotte Turlington has taken on the role.

The Coffee Mornings continue to contribute extra income. The Santa evenings continue to be successful. Santa has a new suit which has been loaned to other organisations.

Our finances are stable although there are only a few bookings and events. Use of the standard library services is stable, but footfall has dropped to 90 per week. The sale of poo bags continue to be a useful fund-raiser although the wholesale price has increased, and we may have to look at passing the cost to our customers.

The Romp and Rhyme sessions for youngsters have restarted and parents are able to bring their children to the playgroup sessions.

Long Furrow:

This long-standing magazine continues to be published quarterly. After several years preparing the Long Furrow, John Malpus has stood down and Charlotte Turlington has replaced him as the Editor. John wishes to thank Charlotte, Gareth, Ian and David for the work that they put into ensuring the Long Furrow is issued on time. Gareth Roberts continues to design the magazine with help from the Editor. Volunteer distributors are always needed so please get in touch with the delivery coordinator, using the contact details provided in the Long Furrow magazine. The Council continue to support the publication.

Police Beat Surgeries:

These are being held at the Community Library on the First Wednesday of the month between 11am and 12 noon.

Christmas Event:

A very successful event was held in December 2023 for people aged over 65 living in the village. It was very positive, and we received great feedback from those who attended. Thank you to all who helped to organise and gave time on the day.

Reaching People Fund:

We were successful in obtaining a grant of £2,000 from the Reaching People Fund thanks to the hard work of Cllr Cannon. This was spent obtaining the services of a qualified ecologist to carry out a UK Hab ecological survey of our village. Our Wildlife audit has now been completed and is available on our website. We are working through the recommendations and trying to obtain funds where possible. Along with the audit, the fund also provided for 3 guided walks around the village. These were well

supported and the final walk "Walk on the Wildside" is being held on 25th May. We also held a "Hibernator event" where residents were shown how to create homes for hibernators for their gardens. Finally, the fund has provided some wildflower seeds and templates to promote a Hedgehog Highway in the village – these will be distributed over the summer. Another outcome of the report was to designate the "dog walk" as a Local Wildlife Site (UK priority habitat) due to its rarity, species richness and plant diversity. We are installing an interpretation board for residents to learn about the area.

Electric car club survey:

In response to a resident enquiry, the Council has investigated the installation of electric charging points and considered establishing an electric car club in conjunction with local not-for-profit organisation Green Fox Community Energy Co-operative. Through funding secured by Green Fox, a car club allows users to access an electric vehicle without owning one, with fast charging points installed in the village. To gain residents views on this the Council created a survey in November 2023, however after only receiving 4 responses agreed not to pursue this idea.

Resilience Project and Community Response Plan:

The resilience group/office staff prepared an advisory leaflet which was distributed to all households that could be affected by local flooding of the Queniborough Brook.

The group have met on several occasions and have updated our community response plan. A tabletop exercise is being held in May to see if the plan is effective and efficient.

Review of our Mowing Contract:

Over the winter months the Parish Council reviewed the mowing contract following recommendations from the wildlife audit and in favour of enhancing wildlife within our village. It was agreed that we would trial two areas for a reduced cut (from 15 cuts to 7 cuts per year). These are at the rear of the Meadows and the north area of Lilac Way.

Bluebells have been planted at the Meadows and more seeding will be carried out in the Autumn. We will monitor the trial at Lilac Way.

Next Year's Projects Include:

For next year we hope to continue with the high standard that the village is managed. We are replacing the post and rail fencing at Lilac Way, looking into the possibility of a new Council vehicle, updating some of our play equipment and hope, once again, to hold a Christmas event for our elderly.

Thank You's:

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, our current County Councillor, Mr Poland, and our MP, Mr Argar for their help and support during the past year. In addition, I would like to thank our staff for their service and expertise during the year.

Chair (Laurie Needham)



EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Looking at our expenditure last year, wages and admin make up most of the expenses, now having four hard working members of staff.

The amount in Open Spaces is the cost of maintaining the green areas, the mowing contract, and maintaining the play areas. This year we replaced the playing field gate, repaired some of our play area gates, and replaced the safety surfacing under the cradle swing at the mound. We also purchased new seats for our rocking horse on the village green play area.

The free 2p which is an amount of £9.93 per electorate may be spent on things which are in the interests of, or will directly benefit the area of its inhabitants, or part of it, or some of them. This we have spent on items like subs and donations, production of our village magazine, the Christmas lights celebrations, and the Christmas elderly event.

On the income side of things, it is made up of our precept and pitch rents, we did receive a grant from the Reaching people fund of £2,000 for a wildlife audit of our village.

Financial matters within the village influence every household via the community charge; this is where we notice any increase at a personal level.

The Parish Council budget for 2024/25 is £93,750.00 however, using our reserves; we can reduce our level of requirement to £72,000.00.

The Parish requirement for a band D property in the village of East Goscote for 2024/25 is £76.99.

Our projects for 2024/25 include refurbishing our tennis court which is 8 years old, replacing some of the worn safety surfacing under the play equipment and holding another Christmas event for the elderly of our village. We are also saving towards a new vehicle for our caretakers and a new pavilion roof.

<u>INCOME</u>	2023	2024	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	2023	2024
BALANCE BF	£58,508.64	£59,298.58	ADMIN/STAFF	£46,354.32	£46,368.28
VAT REFUND	£5798.33	£3168.64	OPEN SPACES:	£14,070.79	£15,301.37
PRECEPT:	£63,000.00	£66,900	V.H.M.C.:	£992.46	£1498.02
INTEREST:	£451.77	£942.04	FREE 2P:	£8905.04	£4048.70
PITCH RENTS:	£2039.00	£2825.00	VAT:	£3815.91	£3341.50
MISC INC:	£4992.25	£3887.30	COUNCIL VAN:	£1532.89	£1145.13
DOG BAGS/TENNIS	£80.00	£95.00	GRANT		£1796.92
PETTY CASH:	£100.00	£100.00	TOTAL:	£75,671.41	£73,499.92
TOTAL:	£76,461.35	£77,917.98	CURR ACC:		£ 3,752.65
+ Unpaid Bills	£5,071.20	£ 3,074.60	DEP ACC:		£ 63,000.01
			CASH:		£ 38.58

TOTAL	£140,291.16	TOTAL	£140,291.16
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YOUR COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2024/25 EXPLAINED

The Mound Play Area
Lilac Way Green Play Area
Village Green Play Area
5 x Football Pitches
Sports Pavilion
Tennis Court
Fitness Equipment



Council Office
Staff/Admin
Subs & Donations
Village Insurance

Village Hall
Community Library



Parish Website
Long Furrow Magazine
Christmas Events

Council Van
Community Mowing
Community Dog Bins
Community Recycling Centre
Waste Removal
Bus Shelters



£76.99

per Band D household per year

YOUR COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT EXPLAINED

The primary source of income for most Parish Councils comes from the Precept, part of the Council Tax. We hope to explain the contribution you make to the Parish Council through your Council tax and how it is spent.

WHAT IS A PRECEPT?

The Parish Council receives a small proportion of the local Council Tax. It does not receive any direct funding from Central Government. The funding collected pays for the running of the Council and the services it provides.

HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

The Parish Council makes an estimate of income and expenditure for the next financial year, including some for future planned projects and/or unexpected events. It is then calculated as an amount per Council Tax Band D Property and added to the Council Tax Bill of all the dwellings within the Parish area.

HOW IS IT RAISED?

Charnwood Borough Council collects your Council Tax on behalf of the Borough Council, County Council, Police, Fire, and the precepts for any Parish/Town Councils in their district. It is important to note that East Goscote Parish Council's precept is just a small percentage of your overall Council Tax Bill.

HOW MUCH IS IT?

This year, there is an increase in the precept charge to East Goscote residents. From April 2024, the cost per average household (Band D property) has increased from £71.80 to £76.99 per annum. Our total budget for 2024/2025 amounts to £93,750.00 however using some of our reserves we can reduce our requirement to £72,000.00. This figure is divided by the Council Tax Base (935.2) to arrive at £76.99 per Band D property.

HOW IS IT SPENT?

Your precept is spent on maintaining the provision of all facilities and services the Parish Council offers as shown in the graphic. A large proportion of the precept is spent on the four members of staff and the administration of all our facilities.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

During the year (2024/25) we are replacing the fence at Lilac Way (March 24) upgrading the safety surfacing on some of the play areas, refurbishing the tennis court, and we are also saving towards a new van for our caretakers and a new pavilion roof.

We hope to continue to maintain our village to the highest standards, whilst keeping costs as low as possible.

Jane Green and Claire Wheeler have been working together for over twenty years having 50 years combined experience working in our local community on legal matters for a recently retired independent Syston High Street Solicitor and are experienced Will and Lasting Power of Attorney advisors.

We understand that some people find it uncomfortable talking about these things, so we provide local home visits to make you feel at ease and offer explanations in plain English. We appreciate that not everyone has a computer or is confident using one and so to keep things as straight forward as possible for those people we use good old-fashioned Post.

We don't all need an overly complicated Will, but perhaps it's worth taking a minute to give it some thought, so as to try to avoid family fallouts and possibly costly litigation!



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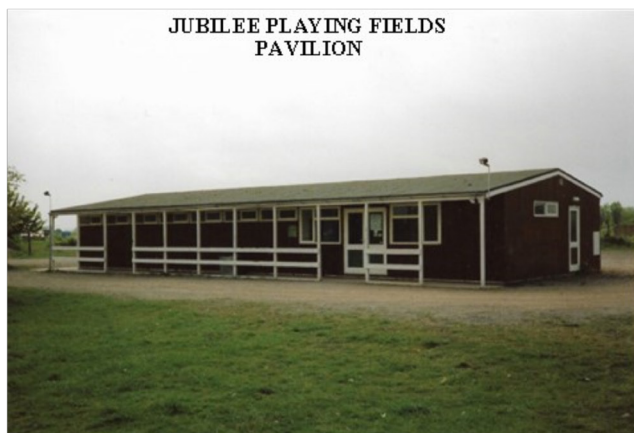
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info@wheelerandgreenllp.co.uk



Articles from the Archives



JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS
PAVILION

The village pavilion was opened in May 1981. Due to several vandalism incidents, the Parish Council eventually decided to brick up the frontage. This reduced the risk of vandalism and also provided more storage space.



Thank you to John Malpus for submitting this.

Letters to the Editor...

With reference to the new development at Queniborough

I was on the Planning Committee when this came up for discussion, and I did vote against it although it got passed by a majority vote.

Everything that had been written down in evidence for this development was accepted by the committee which included Education, Health, and several more. The Health Service getting a sizeable chunk of the 106 monies, but the planning inspectorate decided that the health contribution would not be given.

The article in the Long Furrow's last issue states to add insult to injury is very misleading. If you wish to see the true facts, then visit Charnwood's website. A solicitor sits with this committee, so I'm sure she will give the true facts.

Sue Gerrard

THE GREENER GOSCOTE PAGE

Spring 2024 (No. 75)

THE BIG GREEN JIGSAW

Struggling to find a metaphor to describe our varied work, it suddenly occurred to me that we are assembling the pieces of a big green jigsaw. Many of the pieces are already in place, a given from the forward thinking of the developers and planners back in the day - the open spaces, maturing trees and active travel routes to school and the hub.

Into this we are adding new pieces reflecting modern understanding of the importance of nature and its positive impact on our health and wellbeing. Recently some really important pieces have been added with our help:

- Reaching People/LRCF Funding paying for:
- Dr Helen O'Brien's Wildlife Audit of the village
- And three guided nature walks building a legacy
- And designation of "The Dog Walk" area as a Local Wildlife Site and NatureSpot Wild Place
- And planning the Hedgehog Streets project
- And recommending tweaks to the mowing contract
- And managing The Meadows Garden for nature

Well worth a look is the Wildlife and Nature Page on the Parish Council website www.eastgoscotepc.org.uk/wildlife-in-east-goscote/ which brings a lot of this jigsaw together. And see elsewhere in this edition for more details.

Why not join us and help to slot new green pieces of the jigsaw in place?



Take a Walk on the Wild Side
With Dr Helen O'Brien



ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER ...

- Saturday May 25th 10:30 am meet at the Pavilion for A Walk on the Wild Side with Dr Helen.
- Make your garden hedgehog friendly. Check out www.hedgehogstreet.org for loads of ideas. Apply to EGPC for a hedgehog template so the hogs know which way to go. If you need advice on location contact Greener Goscote and we may also be able to help making a hole in your fence.
- Join our Facebook group for info on projects.

Contact Us: Greener Goscote exists to promote real environmental sustainability in our village. For free advice on composting, recycling, biodiversity and climate change and for information on Greener Goscote contact David on 07873852372, or email greenergoscote@outlook.com or find us, and maybe join us, on Facebook?

Useful Links: www.lesswaste.org.uk
www.completewasters.co.uk
www.recyclenow.com
www.lovefoodhatewaste.com www.leics.gov.uk
www.charnwood.gov.uk www.keepbritaintidy.org
www.hubbub.org.uk
WasteNot Leicestershire and
Real Refills on Facebook



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 Tel: 0116 481 0520

BRAIN TEASERS

A: If it takes 6 men to dig 6 holes, how long does it take one man to dig half a hole?

B: A man walked around town all day long but only moved two feet. How is this possible?

C: What phrase does MEREREPEAT illustrate?

D: What five letter word becomes shorter with two letters added to it?

E: A cowboy rides into town on Friday, stays for three days, and then leaves on Friday. How did he do it?

Thank you to John Malpus for submitting these -
 Answers on the back page.

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Anti-Social Behaviour		01509 634533	Highways		0116 305 0001
ATC Plt Officer	Andy Gaunt	07425 171549	Leicestershire County Council		0116 305 4556
Beavers	Johanne Draycott	07981 101644	Library		0116 305 3510
Beedles Golf Club		0116 260 6759	Mountsorrel Tip		0116 305 000
Bizzy Bees	Rachel Laverty	07908 781652	Messy Church		0116 286 7925
Borough Councillor	Laurie Needham	07807 399879	MP Edward Argar		0116 2693789
Borough Councillor	Sandra Woodward	07823 889088	National Grid (Gas)		0800 111 999
Borough Councillor	Chris O'Neill	07855 812620	Neighbourhood Watch		0116 260 2202
Brownies	Rosemary Fraser	07981 812955	NHS Advice		111
Broomfield School		0116 260 6704	Pharmacy		0116 260 6734
Charnwood Borough Council		01509 634560	Plough Pub		0116 264 0444
Charnwood Recycling and Waste		01509 634563	Police Non-Emergency		101
Charnwood WI	Sharon Astill	07849 888752	Rainbows	Alex Riley	07894 055128
Children's Social Care		0116 305 0005	Real Refills		07823 889088
Citizens Advice Bureau (Legal Advice)		111 444	Scout Group/Hut		0116 260 5457
County Councillor	James Poland	07764 966677	Scouts	Dawn Manning	07843 122313
Cubs	Jayne Disney	0116 260 8786	Severn Trent (Water)		0800 783 4444
Crime Stoppers		0800 555 111	St Hilda's Booking	Tricia Marsland	0116 260 9088
Daisy Chain	Natalie Palfreyman	0116 260 7923	St Hilda's Vicar	Rev Ros Harper	07851 573236
East Goscote PC	Liz Pizer	0116 260 2202	Syston Bowling Club		0116 269 2105
East Goscote Stores and Off-Licence		0116 260 6236	Syston Catholic Ch	Anthony Pateman	0116 260 8476
EG Utd FC Academy		07486 531608	Syston Methodist Ch	Daniel Yovan	0116 260 3296
EG Utd FC Girls Teams		07486 531608	Syston Model Rly	John Malpus	0116 260 9789
EG Utd FC U 11 Boys	Jon Day	07794 973216	Syston Volunteer Bu.	Mark	0116 260 7888
Environment Agency		0800 80 70 60	Village Faults / Emergencies		07739 553380
Floodline		0345 988 1188	Village Hall Bookings		0116 260 2202
Fly Tipping and Dog Concerns		01509 634564	Western Power (Electricity)		0800 056 8090
Fire Service Non-Emergency		0116 287 2241	Wreake Runners	Dave Palmer	07710 448253
FOBs	Nicola Drage	07813 132715	Wreake Valley Lions	Mrs C Grimes	0116 260 8412
Friendship Club	Marie Pole	0116 260 2287	Wreake Valley Rotary	John Squire	0116 259 2788
Greener Goscote	David Cannon	07873 852372	Wreake Valley Youth Club	Carol Baxter	0116 260 8858

If you are a member of an organisation which is providing a service to the community, please contact us with up to date details

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

If you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Situated to the side of the Village Hall, our office hours are:

Monday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday 9.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Telephone: 0116 260 2202

(answerphone available)

Email: clerk@eastgoscote.org.uk

We would love to hear from you.

Would you like to advertise in the Long Furrow Magazine? Our current rates are:

Full Page	£80
Half Page	£40
Quarter Page	£20

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