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DECEMBER 2014

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WILDLIFE & GARDENING IN DECEMBER

The association of robins with Christmas dates from the 1860s, when Christmas greetings cards became fashionable. Postmen, at that time, wore red tunics and were known as Robins, and people would eagerly await the Robins' delivery of Christmas cards. Some greetings card artists were inspired by this to illustrate their cards with robin birds delivering letters in their beaks – rather than by Robin Postmen! The depiction of robins on Christmas cards continues to this day despite postmen no longer being called Robins, or wearing red uniforms!

There are several folklore stories about robins and how they acquired their red breasts. One describes how a robin flapped its wings to encourage a warming fire in the stable at the birth of baby Jesus, only to be caught by an ember, which made it glow bright red. On seeing this, Mary the mother of Jesus, declared that the red breast was a sign of the bird's kind heart, and that the bird and all its descendants would wear a red breast for evermore!

We now think that one of the reasons for the bright red breast is as a warning signal to other robins, in effect saying: 'keep out, this is my patch'. Male robins are notoriously territorial, and will chase off other males who venture into their part of the garden, or park or woodland.

Our resident robins are joined by paler continental robins during the winter months as these birds are escaping harsher conditions elsewhere in Europe. The resident British robin, hopping around an area which is being dug over or worked on, is familiar to gardeners, but the winter visitors are shy and not as trusting as the British ones. However, during the cold winter conditions, the robins concentrate on feeding rather than fighting and you can see several birds feeding together at a bird table.

Robins like a range of food including: spiders, insects, worms, berries and seeds, and like other garden birds during winter, they welcome seed mixtures put out in feeders and on bird-tables. They especially love mealworms and have been known to become hand-tame if fed with them! Happy Christmas! From **Donna and Tim**

Merry Christmas!

I'm feeling under attack from the Christmas adverts already, especially as I haven't even started on the Christmas present list yet this year. Here in the group we've got lots of Christmas services and events planned for all age groups, choir practices have started, and life this month is looking very busy for us all.

The first special services this season are the **Christingles**, at Uffington and Greatford (for days and times of these and all the December services, see the centre pages). If you've ever been to a Christingle, you'll know that it's a lovely service, especially for children (of all ages...). It's also a very important service for the Children's Society, as it supports their work both in prayer during the service, and by raising funds - if you'd like a money box to save some coins to bring to one of the services (or even to start saving now, and bring at Christmas), please ask me, and there are Gift Aid envelopes available too.

There are also lots of chances to sing **Christmas carols** this year, as ever. The group carol service is in Uffington as usual, and the Teesdales have kindly offered to host the choir practices at Copthill School again, on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 - it's not too late to join in. There will also be evening carol services at Tallington, Greatford and Braceborough, an afternoon service at Wilsthorpe, and, of course, carols at all the **Christmas services** themselves, with midnight masses this year at Barholm and West Deeping, and a service at each of the other churches on Christmas morning. Somewhere there should be a service with a day and a time to suit you.

There's so much to do getting ready for Christmas - I hope you don't all exhaust yourselves. And remember, as you're rushing round - the churches are there every day to provide you with a moment of peace. Why not drop in - with your shopping, as you come home from work, or on your way to collect the kids - for a few minutes peace, and a reminder that at the heart of all the activity is a quiet moment - the joy at the birth of a baby, and God's message of peace and goodwill to all people.

Hope to see you and celebrate with you during the Christmas season.

Carolyn Kennedy.

MUSIC AT THE MANOR FOR THORPE HALL APPEAL

THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER AT BRACEBOROUGH & WILSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Philip Drury was thanked for cleaning out the dyke at the back of properties in Braceborough. A Councillor reported that he had spoken to a planning consultant who had confirmed that the dyke is the responsibility of the landowner on the hedge side of the ditch not the landowner on the open side of the ditch. There are rare occasions when this is not the case and therefore if in doubt contact the local Drainage Board.

The request for 30mph speed signs from the Road Safety Partnership had been successful. Potholes at Wilsthorpe to be reported to LCC Highways.

Councillors discussed the draft precept figures for 2015/16. If any committee/organization within the two villages would like to apply for a grant please contact the clerk before the December meeting giving amount required and how the money would be spent.

SKDC are trying to improve broadband access connectivity at community venues. The Parish Council, after discussion with some members of the Village Hall Committee, decided not to proceed. Members felt that better access was required for the whole parish not just one property.

It was agreed that the Council would allow filming, photographs and audio recording of Parish Council meeting.

C.Cllr Martin Trollope-Bellew reported the following:- a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. Lincolnshire Police will have to make more savings in the next financial year. The second Library consultation had concluded, information should be available in the New Year. The permit parking plan in Stamford, supplied by SKDC, had been passed by Lincolnshire County Council it can be reviewed in twelve months' time. Lincolnshire has retained fire fighters therefore they will not be going on strike. It is expected that a planning application for the proposed closure of railway crossings in the area will be received in the New Year.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 8th December at 7.30pm at Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Village Hall. All Welcome.

For more information on the Parish Council please go to
<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/BraceboroughandWilsthorpe>

Rosemary Woolley, Clerk to the Council

To whom it may concern:

"A Handful of Harmonies" is a dynamic, community based ladies choir. Led by choir master, Andrew Clingo, and "born" in July 2011 we have grown in number to seven groups spread across South Lincolnshire and beyond.

We are seeking your help in the form of press coverage for a charity event we are hosting on 21st December 2014 to raise funds for the Thorpe Hall Appeal.

Every part of the event is relying on donations from community organisations and individuals and all proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Thorpe Hall Appeal.

The event will take place at The Manor in West Deeping. A fully furnished, heated marquee has been leant to us for the evening by one of our choir members, Suzy Grigson. There will be light refreshments, mince pies, a grand raffle, stalls and a bar.

A Handful of Harmonies and other local soloists and groups TBC will be providing an evening of festive musical entertainment. Tickets, which will include complimentary canapés on arrival, will be £10 for adults and £6 for children. Tickets are available from Deeping TV Services, 14 High St, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8EB (01778 343831) or by contacting Andrew Clingo on 01778 345857.

Suzanne Schultz, a long standing member of the choir, has agreed to be my press liaison officer for this event. Suzanne can be contacted on (01778) 421208 or (07798) 645620 or by e-mail at suzanne671@btinternet.com.

We really appreciate your help in the promotion of this our first Thorpe Hall fundraising event. **Andrew Clingo, Choir Director**

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WILSTHORPE

Holy Communion is at 10.30am on Sunday 7th December. Please do come along and join us, where you will be made most welcome.

Harvest Festival Update – This was held on Sunday 19th October – The dry goods were taken to Bourne Food Bank [a thank you card is in the church]. They were very grateful for our offerings of 41kg, which was twice the figure for last year, so again thank you to all who donated, it was very much appreciated.

Saturday 20th December – We will be decorating the church for Christmas. Any help would be greatly appreciated. The church will be open all day but if you require any further information please contact Susan at Corner Cottage [560720] or Rita at Wilsthorpe Cottage [560491]

Carol Service – Wednesday 24th December [Christmas Eve!] The Candle Light Carol Service and Dressing of the Crib will be at 3pm, followed by coffee, soft drinks, mulled wine and mince pies. Everybody is most welcome. Last years' service, which was so well attended and made even more special because the children had helped decorate the church and then take part in the service. A lovely way to start Christmas!

TRUESDALE WARD – DECEMBER 2014

Dear Resident

Kelham & I continue to work behind the scenes for residents of Tallington & surrounding areas in regards to a new bridge over the level crossing and a suitable road network. I have again supported Uffington Parish Council in its bid for a grant towards play equipment. Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the Truesdale Ward, so if you do see this happen please report to SKDC immediately and ask to speak to the Environmental Officer. 16 and 17 years olds can register to vote in advance to make sure that they don't miss out on their right to vote. They can register on-line, or request a form from SKDC Elections Team on 01476 40 60 80 or email elections@southkesteven.gov.uk. Alternatively visit our offices to complete a form in person. If you have any problems relating to the District Council, please do not hesitate to contact either Rosemary Woolley 01778 560634 or Kelham Cooke 07940 187 426. Finally we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

UFFINGTON

Church Flowers
7th/14th Dec – Cophill School

Uffington WI. The branch's November meeting was Members' Night, when the committee gets a rest and the members arrange events. This year they surpassed themselves by producing a world-class sporting champion – 18-year-old Bourne Academy student Kayleigh Adams from Deeping St James. Kayleigh was part of the British under 20s squad at the World Championship for Sprint Triathlon, held in Edmonton, Canada, in August, where she exceeded all expectations by coming ninth in the world in her age category, and the first British and European athlete to finish. Her achievement was all the more remarkable considering she had only taken up triathlon (popularly dubbed 'run, bike, swim') little more than a year previously, entering her first race in July 2013 at Woodhall Spa. Kayleigh, whose presentation was aided by her mother Clare Wookey, now goes through to next year's world championship in Chicago. She was introduced and thanked by Gillian Johns. Branch business included an invitation to send a delegate to next year's NFWI annual meeting in London, and notification that the Sleaford WI office is to move to a new site shortly. Tickets are available for the Spring Council meeting at Springfields, Spalding, on March 10th, at which the speaker will be antiques expert and TV personality Peter Hayes. Uffington WI is also invited to Deeping St James WI carol service at the Priory Church on December 1st. Plans are going ahead for the branch's 70th anniversary dinner in March and menus will be made available later. A competition to make the most number of words out of 'Guy Fawkes' was won by 1 Brenda Francis (83), 2 Jennifer Wilson (67), and 3 Sue Naden (64). The December meeting will feature mince pies, wine, the usual Christmas bran tub, and a Christmas card-making session. The competition will be for a home-made Christmas napkin ring.

Flying the Flag. Either the Union Jack or St George's Flag has been flown as follows:

Date	Event	Sponsor(s)
10 th Oct	Pete&Joan Hickman Golden Wedding	The Happy Couple
31 st Oct	Wedding of Joel Fairham and Kasia Dzickenowska	The Sheehans
9 th Nov	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	PCC
11 th Nov	ARMISTICE DAY	PCC

Mark your special date by sponsoring either the Union Jack or St George's flag, and make a £5 donation to Church funds. Contact David & Gail Genever or Graham Creedy (481084)

TALLINGTON
Church Flowers

7th/14th December - **Advent**
21st December - **Advent**
25th December - Mrs R Thurlby

St Lawrence's Church: The Tallington PCC would like to thank all those people who have looked after St Lawrence Church and Churchyard in every way during the year.

200 Club Winners in October: No 167 Mark and Steph Hughes £20; No 3 Helen Taylor £10.

Village Socials: The Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz which was held on 24 October was well attended and both the food and quiz were very much enjoyed. The children's Halloween Party which followed a week later was very well attended also not only by Village children but also their friends and parents. The Committee were delighted to see new faces at both events and hope very much that they will have the pleasure of seeing them all again. May I remind you all that if you have a new neighbour to please ring me (740445) so that I can arrange to have a 'Welcome to Tallington' information leaflet delivered to them

Mobile Library Service: The Mobile Library Service will be in Church Lane on two Mondays in December, the 1st and the 29th, from 11.15 to 11.45am. The review of the Library Service is still taking place and no doubt numbers will still be important.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

31st October Uffington Joel Robert Fairham and Katarzyna Dziekanowka

Funeral

3rd November Uffington Walter Potter (92)

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Usually, the readings for communion services are the NT and Gospel, and for Morning or Evening Prayer the Psalm, OT and NT.

	Psalm	OT	NT	Gospel
7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B	85:8-13	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
14th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	126	Isaiah 61:1-4 + 8-11	1 Thess. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8 + 19-28
21st December 4 th Sunday of Advent	89:1-8	2 Samuel 7:1-11 + 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
25th December Christmas Day			Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20
28th December Holy Innocents			1 Corinth. 1:26-29	Matthew 2:13-18
4th January Epiphany Sunday	72	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12

The readings for Christmas Day are also used for the midnight services on Christmas Eve. The colour for Advent is purple or blue and for Christmas and Epiphany white or gold.

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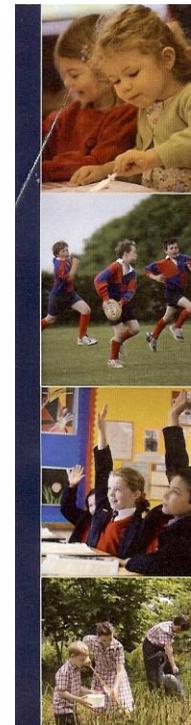
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Church Services: The services – which everyone is most welcome to attend – are:

14th December: Holy Communion at 9.00 am; and also on

14th December: Christingle Service at 3.00 pm;

24th December: Carols and Readings at 6.00 pm;

25th December: Holy Communion at 9.00 am.

There will be no service at Greatford on the 4th Sunday of the month. The commemoration of the fallen of Greatford at the Communion service on Remembrance Sunday was much appreciated, and those present hoped for something similar next year.

Are you aged between about 3 and 13? Would you like to play a really important part in this year's Carol Service in Greatford? YES? Well, come and join the Children's choir and perform *A Baby is Born in Bethlehem* in Church on Christmas Eve! You'll already know the tune and we'll have a practice the week before so that everyone knows the right actions and where to stand, so you won't need to worry on the night. You can even come as an Angel, a Sheep, a King, a Donkey or a Shepherd if you like. Ask your grown up to give Cazz a ring by 10th December (07711 950 860/561032) to tell her how much you'd like to join in - and start looking forward to Christmas in Church.

Church Cleaning: In addition to the normal cleaning rota, there will be the usual Big Christmas Clean in Church on Monday 22nd December at 11 am, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the pub. Please come and help - the more the merrier. For further details please contact Cazz Anders (561032). If you can spare a few hours in 2015 to help with the cleaning please contact Cazz.

Carlby & District WI: The meeting on November 11th was a Members' night and featured Leonard Priestly who entertained with amusing anecdotes. Members supplied a good spread. The next meeting will be in Carlby Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd December and will be the Members Christmas party. Members and visitors (from Carlby, Bourne, Thurlby, Wilsthorpe, Braceborough and Greatford) are always welcome. For further information please phone 01778 590180.

Bell ringing: No practice night in December, but a peal or quarter peal will be attempted on Christmas Eve – to finish shortly before the Carol Service.

Mobile Library: The van will call at Greatford opposite the phone box on **Mondays** 1st and 29th December and 26th January from 12:00 noon to 12:30 pm.

Flying the Flag: You can help to raise funds by having the Union Jack or the Flag of St George flown in honour of any special event. The Flags can be flown at the Village Hall in aid of Village Hall Funds or on the flagpole outside the Church in aid of Church Funds. Please contact Cyril Webb on 560437 in either case. The flag was flown on Saturday 1st November 2014 in recognition of Greg Anders achieving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award which included 2½ years of voluntary work at the church.

Dog Fouling: Please continue to be vigilant.

WEST DEEPING

St Andrew's Church. Carol Service, Sunday 21st December. This is an All Age service, we will start with refreshments and mince pies at 11am.

West Deeping Walkers. Sundays. 7 December led by Annie and Clary, 01778 346805. 21 December Local Walk. Meet outside the Village Hall at 1.45pm. Contact: Annie Newbigging, Tel. as above. Email: snewbigging@talktalk.net

Bible Studies. Tuesdays, 2 and 16 December. 2.45 for 3.00pm at Cromwell House followed by tea with our hosts Susanna and Ian. Contact: Allen Calvert 01778 344208.

Coffee Morning. Saturday 20 December. 10.30am-12noon. West Deeping Village Hall. Call in for a tea/coffee and a chat. Donations for St. Andrew's Church. Raffle, cake/produce stall; activities for children. All are welcome.

Children's Christmas Party. Monday 22 December, 2.30pm, West Deeping Village Hall. Games, entertainment and tea. All children and grandchildren welcome. For details call Elizabeth: 01778 344674.

Carpet Bowls Club. The group meets on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings in the Village Hall. See centre pages. Chairperson: June Thomas 01778 343434.

Rambling Readers. Friday 2 January 7.45pm. Our New Year meeting will be held at Marj's house in The Lane. If you are interested in reading a new book each month supplied by Lincolnshire Libraries please touch base with Elizabeth at 01778 344674. Or just come along for a taster session.

Classes - West Deeping Village Hall. Several classes are running at present. **Irish Dancers** will meet every Wednesday, 5.30-6.30pm, for boys and girls aged 4-16 years. £6 per class. Jenna Casey 07837 754712, jenna@thecaseyacademy.co.uk

Step Clog Classes - Fortnightly on Mondays 8-9.30pm, beginners, any age. Hard-soled shoes are required, not trainers, to hear the patterns of the steps. Call Laura 01733 267129, leave your name and contact number and she will get in touch with you.

Tiny Talk – sign language for babies. Thursday mornings 11am -12noon. For more details ask Hannah Davies M 07970 782790, or email hannahd@tinytalk.co.uk. If you want to know more or would like to attend a taster session contact the organizers.

West Deeping PC has been advised by Lincolnshire Highways that Little Meadow Bridge in West Deeping will be closed for repairs from December 1st to 12th.

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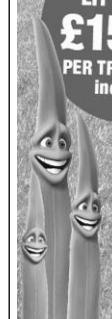
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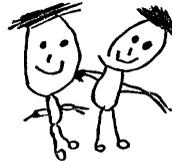
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BRACEBOROUGH

Clare's Cycle Ride. Many thanks, Clare, and congratulations for raising £122 towards the Lincs Old Churches Trust and St.Margaret's. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Holy Communion – Sunday 7th December at 9am, St Margaret's Church. Everyone welcome. Please come along.

Christmas Eve Carol Service – Wednesday 24th December @ 6pm. Please ensure you make a note for your diary for this year's Carol Service. To be held at 6pm in St.Margaret's with many of our traditional carols and readings. Drinks and nibbles in the village hall afterwards.

Christmas Morning Holy Communion – Thursday 25th December @ 9am. Please join us to celebrate the joys of Christmas morning.

Flying The Flag. The Union flag was flown on 9th November to celebrate the arrival of Eva Grace, born to Tash and James in faraway Perth, Australia. Congratulations Jeannie, you have a granddaughter! Mum and daughter both doing well, with young Eva weighing in at 7lb 6oz. Sponsor: Jeannie, extremely happy and very proud grandparent.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 24th January – Race Night – in village hall.

Saturday 22nd February – The Shannon Reilly Trio – village hall.

Have a great Christmas and New Year!

BARHOLM & STOWE

Barholm & Stowe held its bonfire celebrations at the Football Field on 5th November followed by food and drink in the barn at Banks Farmyard. Money was donated for fireworks with Matt & Emma matching the amount raised and as usual there was a spectacular display, thanks to Martin, John, Anthony and Chris. The request for donations of food was met with such a wide variety and amount, thanks to everyone who helped; it was really appreciated and went towards making it one of the most memorable events. The night was completed by some hardy souls taking part in the monthly quiz at the Pub. Again thank you to all and hope you have a Happy Christmas & New Year. **Rosemary.**

UFFINGTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS DECEMBER 2014

The best news we can report is we have raised some **£25,000** for the new roof. So just **3,000** ish to go!

Here are some events booked at **UVH** for your diary:

All in December
Mondays 1, 8, 15, 22 Yoga 9.30am

Most Wednesdays 7 -9 pm
Lace and Needlecraft

*Wednesday 3rd 7.30pm Women's Institute
Make a Christmas Card - guests welcome - £2.

*Christmas Party for Uffington Children 0- 12 years
Saturday 6 December 11am – 1pm

*Christmas Dinner Party - £21
Saturday 13th 7.30pm

***Must be booked in advance.**

Contact Vanessa Kimberley for details and Hall Hire: 01780 239463

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**CHURCH SERVICES AND DIARY DATES
FOR DECEMBER 2014 VOLUME 29 NUMBER 9**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1 st December	2 nd
	1.45pm TallVH Whist	2.15pm Uffington School Christingle in Church 2.45pm WD Bible Study @ Cromwell House
7 th	8 th	9 th
Advent 2 9am Braceborough HC 10.15am WDeeping MP 10.30am Wilsthorpe HC 10.30am Uffington HC 1.45pm WD Walkers 6pm Barholm ES	1.45pm TallVH Whist	
14 th	15 th	16 th
Advent 3 9am Greatford HC 10.15am WDeeping HC 10.30am Uffington MP 3pm Greatford Christingle 6pm Tallington Carol Service	1.45pm TallVH Whist	2.45pm WD Bible Study @ Cromwell House
21 st	22 nd	23 rd
Advent 4 9am Barholm HC 10.30am Uffington HC 11.00am WDeeping – refreshments before 11.30 Carol service 1.45pm WD Walkers 6pm Uffington Group Carol Service	1.45pm TallVH Whist 2.30pm WDVH Childrens Party	
28 th	29 th	30 th
Holy Innocents 10.30am Tallington Group Service HC	1.45pm TallVH Whist	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
2pm TallVH Bingo 2-4pm WDVH Bowls 7.30pm UffVH WI	8-10pm WDVH Bowls		
10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
2pm TallVH Welcome Club 2-4pm WDVH Bowls	8-10pm WDVH Bowls		
17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
2pm TallVH Welcome Club 2-4pm WDVH Bowls	8-10pm WDVH Bowls	7pm TallVH Christmas Party	10.30am WDVH St Andrews church Coffee Morning
24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
11.30pm Barholm HC 11.30pm WDeeping HC 3pm Wilsthorpe Carol Service 6pm Braceborough Carol Service 6pm Greatford Carol service	Christmas Day 9am Braceborough HC 9am Greatford HC 10.30am Tallington HC 10.30am Uffington HC 10.30am Wilsthorpe HC	Boxing Day	
31 st	1 st January	2 nd January	3 rd January
2pm TallVH Welcome Club	NEW YEARS DAY	7.45pm WD Rambling Readers @ Marj's House	