



OSGATHORPE WINTER BEAUTY

Osgathorpe Village

Voice

February 2021

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News and Views

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Osgathorpe children come together to help others - the 17 Metres of Christmas

As more and more people in our local area struggled to feed their families this Christmas, the children of Osgathorpe



made a difference by donating their favourite Christmas treats to give to local food banks.

Christmas is one of those few special times when we look forward to tucking into a selection box or opening the big tin of chocolate at breakfast! So, we set the children a challenge: to donate 10 metres of treats to reach the top of the Osgathorpe Church tower! In just 2 days, the children gave an incredible 150 treats including 57 selection packs, 21 tubes of sweets, 15 Chocolate Santas, 14 chocolate

bars as well as other sweets, crisps and candy canes, reaching a huge total of 17 metres- the same length as two double decker buses! All the treats were bagged up and donated to both Shepshed and Coalville food banks in time for Christmas. Thank you to Osgathorpe PC and all the children who contributed and helped to bring a bit of Christmas magic to another child this Christmas. Thanks to Emma Bishop, Sara Mace and Leslie Queripel for organising this splendid effort.

Stepping out from Osgathorpe

In these peculiar times people are walking more than usual, but if you are fed-up with doing the same old walks, 'Walking in Leicestershire'

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/leics is the website for you! Its author, John Harris, has highlighted hundreds of walks to download and print, free. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. With walks from half a mile to 12 miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So check out the website and get walking!

Thanks from the PC!

The Parish Council wishes to thank the following for their recent voluntary work for the village:

- *Brian Sills* and *Pam Marshall* for clearing the path in Main Street up the hill from the Storey Arms: the leaves were getting thick and slippery.
- *Alex Atkins* for removing the Remembrance Poppies, placed around the village in November by Jim Elson.
- *Liz Burrows* for her continuing work in keeping the area around the Osgathorpe stone neat and tidy and in blossom
- All the litter pickers who have done such a wonderful job around the village
- And apologies to anyone we've missed!

A lot of litter

There seems to have been an increase in the amount of litter thrown into the highways and byways recently. Several people in the village already serve as voluntary litter pickers, doing a brilliant job keeping our village tidy. Unfortunately there will not be the Annual Parish Council Village Litter Pick this March due to Covid, although you can still do your bit by

contacting

lan.webster@nwleicestershire.gov.uk giving your name and address. Ian will provide you with a litter picker and some white bags to put the litter in. **You can leave up to four white bags out with your black bin for collection.** If you put dirty plastics in your red bins they will not be collected.



There has been an increase in fly tipping, particularly along Stordon Lane and Church Lane. If

you see any rubbish tipped on the roadside, please report it on the NWLDC website at www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/report.

Purchasing the Storey Arms for the Village

Unfortunately, there was no progress made on purchasing the Storey Arms for the village in 2020. More information on this and the group set up to buy the pub can be found on the Osgathorpe Community Pub group website: <https://www.thestoreyarms.co.uk>

Community Library upgrade



You may have noticed, or not, that there have been four gold painted crowns added to the Community Library. Roy Knowles who renovated it agreed to do this free of charge. We think you will agree, it does add the finishing touch to a village historical landmark.

Local Covid Testing Centre

Leicestershire County Council has now opened a Covid rapid test centre at Swannington Village Hall. Rapid testing is only for those with no symptoms and not already isolating, key workers, anyone who lives or works in the county who cannot currently work from home. Anyone eligible can book a test at

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/rapid-asymptomatic-testing>

Osgathorpe Support Group

The Osgathorpe Support Group has been running on WhatsApp since the start of

Lockdown 1, with 44 current members. The original objective was to have a mechanism for people to provide, and ask for, Covid-related help. Fortunately, the need for help in Osgathorpe has been nothing like some of us feared, and this group has therefore evolved to provide a channel for other village information e.g. lost pets, flooding on Ashby Road and the sewer blockage on Church Lane. If you would like to be added to the OSG please contact Nick Sydenham on 07711 314294.

Neighbourhood Watch News

Kevin Legg, who leads the Osgathorpe Neighbourhood Watch scheme, reports there has been an overall reduction in reported crime in 2020. For example, regarding 'Burglary' and 'Crime damage & Arson', 6 and 3 cases, respectively, in 2019 were down to 0 and 1 cases, respectively, in 2020.

[Neighbourhood Link](#) is a community messaging system for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Its aim is to keep residents informed and up to date with news on all sorts of information on policing matters that affect you.

The Future of Oil

A small group of neighbours around the Church Lane area buy their oil together so as to get a better price per litre. This normally happens every few months and there is no obligation to place an order every time. If you are interested in joining the group or want more details, then please drop Kevin Legg an email at k.legg@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

Reverse Advent Calendar



A message from Steph Smith, the secretary of Shepshed Foodbank,

following our phenomenal Reverse Advent Calendar just before Christmas (over 75 boxes and bags were donated from Osgathorpe residents):

"On behalf of us all at Shepshed Foodbank, I should like to thank everyone in Osgathorpe who supported us at Christmas. The boxes of food and beautifully wrapped hampers were absolutely fantastic and were very much appreciated. In fact, some clients burst into tears when they saw them. This year we gave out 65 Christmas parcels and already our numbers are increasing. Your continued support means such a lot. Thank you."

However, there remains an urgent need for local food donations. You can donate at any time by leaving non-perishable food in the Osgathorpe Church porch and it will be collected every two weeks.

Church Services

Current government guidelines allow religious services, however Revd Laurretta Wilson and Revd Louise Corke have decided that services in our benefice will remain on-line for the moment. These are: Morning Prayer - every weekday on Facebook at 8.30am

- Communion Service - every Sunday on Facebook at 10.30am
- Evening Prayer - every Thursday evening on Zoom at 8.30pm

Facebook services are streamed live on the 'Kegworth and Hathern Benefice' Facebook group. To attend the Thursday evening Zoom service, please contact Laurretta (01509 678966, ljwilson33@btinternet.com) or Louise (01530 588868, words.th@talktalk.net) for meeting details.

Annual General Meeting

The Parochial Church Council's AGM will be held over Zoom and scheduled for some time in March. More details will be posted to Facebook and the usual channels once a date is confirmed.

Thought for the Day

'Hope has two beautiful daughters, Anger & Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.' - *St Augustine*