

THE BASTON VOICE

———— Making Our Community Heard ————



Artwork by Noel Vicary

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———— Edition 167 PDF - December 2023 ————

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Tennis ad hoc court hire via the village shop
annual membership/access via BPFMC

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07834 310 594

Editor's Welcome



Have you had your first seasonal mince pie yet?

For me, that is often the starting shot for Christmas festivities, with frosty mornings around the corner and the last-minute panic on present-wrapping (or even shopping!). But it's also a time to check the calendars (and not just the Advent ones!) and spend time with loved-ones, old and new, friends and family, playing games, recounting stories and sometimes reminiscing.

After all the activity throughout the year, this is a time to relax and share, perhaps joining in with some of the traditional carols and services locally. In this bumper edition of 'The Baston Voice' we have included a pull-out middle section that highlights all the Advent services here and specific Christmas services at the other two villages either side of Baston, to ensure that you all have the chance to rejoice with others in our church

over this Christmas period. I hope you find time to join in with the celebrations.

However, for some, Christmas can be a lonely time too, either because of difficulty in travelling, ill health or in particular if it falls at a time when a loved-one has been lost. And then in countries further afield, we still have conflicts and the relentless fighting, a desperate never-ending tragedy. Look out for those that may need comfort at this time of year, care for others, and send a prayer for those stranded in war and suffering. Sometimes we are truly luckier than we realise.

Wishing you all a peaceful Advent and hope for the New Year ahead. Merry Christmas.

Nick, Editor

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION IS 16TH JANUARY 2024

Please keep the length of your submissions to between 100 and 200 words.
All comments / content to baston.voice@outlook.com

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 The Dutch Barn - Offices and Conferences

Vicar's View

Since I last wrote my sister and I have been on a walk, not just any walk, we went on a pilgrimage. We followed St Augustine's route from Rochester to Ramsgate. We had walked part of the route previously and wanted to finish the leg from Canterbury to Ramsgate.

I find there is something special about walking from bed to bed carrying everything on my back. The choices I need to make are few, life becomes simple. My sister and I are close, when we started the trip we had the drive down to Canterbury and we talked all the way there. We chatted a lot when we started walking, but as we began to get some miles under our belt we became quieter and eventually silent as we walked and thought.

We visited churches, the first being St Martin's in Canterbury, recognised as the oldest church building in Britain still in use as a church, and the oldest existing parish church in the English-speaking world. It is a special place and pausing to pray there felt a privilege.

Walking means that I notice things that I might miss when I am driving or even walking the dogs. As we walk without talking we can hear the place we are walking through - the flow of water, the wind, birdsong. It may be tiring, but it is so satisfying and I feel any stress fading away as I focus on the silence, the creation and the rhythm of my steps which begin to feel prayerful.

This time was a gift, because my sister and I shared experiences, but also it allowed me to focus on prayer, to reflect on where I am as a child of God and also to prepare for all the busy-ness that comes with Advent and Christmas. I hope that each of you will have time to reflect on the importance of this special time of year and perhaps come along and join with friends and neighbours in some of our festive services.

Carolyn



Baston Church & Group Services

DECEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY

Sunday 3rd	10am	Morning Service
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service (NO BCP Communion)
Sunday 10th		
	10am	Morning Service
Sunday 17th	10am	Holy Communion
Saturday 23rd	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday 24th	4.00pm	Living Crib
	11.30pm	Group Midnight Communion Baston
	10.00am	Family Eucharist in Langtoft and Thurlby
	10.00am	Group Holy Communion, Baston

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 31st		
	10.00am	Morning Service
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Service
Sunday 21st	10.00am	Group Holy Communion, Thurlby
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Holy Communion

Church News

Soup lunches were held on 5th October and 2nd November. Lindsey Eassom ran a super Crafternoon on 7th October where we made paper pumpkins and other harvest-themed crafts. The Harvest Auction on 10th October raised £778, shared between the church and Lincolnshire Rural Support Network. Thank you to the White Horse for hosting, to all helpers and to those who came and bid. Autumnal colours decorated the church for Harvest Festival on 15 October when all three Ness Group congregations gathered in Baston to thank God for "all good gifts around us". A special All Souls' Group service was held on 5th November in Thurlby and Remembrance was observed in all three churches on 12th November. By the time you read this, Jo Richardson's Christmas wreath-making workshops will have taken place (25th November) with profits going to the church maintenance fund. With the need for relief in Ukraine continuing, the Group collected items which Richard Astle and his team have recently delivered. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

FUTURE EVENTS IN CHURCH - As you walk round the village during December, look out for decorated windows. There will hopefully be a new one added each day to a life-sized Advent Calendar with the final one in church on Christmas Eve. We have a Christmas-themed Crafternoon in church on Sunday 3rd December 1 – 3 pm with seasonal refreshments available to all. Come along to an Advent Carol Service that evening with mulled wine/mince pies to follow. December's soup lunch is on Thursday 7th (with Chris's Christmas Pudding on the dessert menu!) 12 noon to 1.30 pm and January's on the 4th. There continues to be a Warm Space for all on Monday afternoons in church 2 – 4 pm, with conversation, refreshments and games. Meetings of the new Stitch in Time group continue on Thursday evenings 7 – 9 pm and Saturday afternoons 2 – 4pm. Contact Kat and Dave Hallows for details. *Maryon Avery*

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS - The Church Floodlighting was switched on for the Millennium on 1st January 2000 partly with a grant from the National Lottery. We agreed to keep the lights on for 25 years so the last year for entry into the Memorial Book is 2024. We still have dates available so if you wish to sponsor one, the cost is £20 with forms in Church. *Eileen Mort*

From The Registers

September, October and November 2023
Baptism - 10 September - We welcome **Jacob Oliver Martin Ayliff** into the family of the church

Funeral 7 November - We offer our prayerful sympathy to the family and friends of **Betty Skeath**

100+ Club Winners

September Winners		October Winners	
£50	no. 96	£50	no. 340
£25	no. 329	£20	no. 3
£20	no. 90	£15	no. 93
£15	no. 120		

The 100+ Club is a fundraising draw for the village church with total funds split 50/50 between the church and prizes. Annual subscription is £12 per number with a draw every month. Subscriptions are usually renewed in October but you can join throughout the year.

For privacy no names or addresses are published. To check your number contact Diane Savage (see Contacts). All winners cheques will be delivered to you. There was a lower take up at renewal this year which unfortunately means fewer prizes.

Our Village

Baston Organisations

FROM OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS - We are very aware of the concerns raised regarding the quarry application at Thetford Farm. It is not a 'done deal' and all applications are judged on individual merit. The matter will be decided upon by the elected politicians who form the Planning Committee at Lincolnshire County Council. They must work within the framework of the law and cannot block things without reason. However, as with many things there is an element of judgement involved. The District Council have no say over the final decision as they do not determine sand and gravel (mineral) applications. (SKDC have their own Planning Department and Committee that follow similar processes, but their remit is different and covers most property applications.) It is important that we all have faith in the democratic process and voice our concerns through the appropriate channels. Whatever the outcome of planning decisions it is important that it is fair, and people have had the opportunity to have their views heard. Baston is a wonderful village, and we hope that the strong sense of community is retained. On the entirely separate matter of bins, we appreciate that finding space for another bin may be challenging but this scheme is expected to increase recycling rates. If you do have any bin concerns, please call: 01476 406544. Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year. *Cllr Vanessa Smith and Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew*

BPFMC - MALICIOUS WATER WASTAGE Having spent the past six months carefully monitoring and controlling our utilities' usage and analysing monthly gas, electricity and water readings, BPFMC had managed to bring down the utilities bills to an acceptable level and arranged favourable tariffs going forward. However, sometime in the past 2-3 weeks, a malicious individual has accessed the water tap used to irrigate the cricket pitch and deliberately left it turned on fully; it was only discovered when the end-Oct water meter readings were taken. Consequently, our water consumption for October has been over 50x times that of each of the previous five months. This will result in an increase to our 6-monthly water bill of over £600 and effectively wipes out any residual funds we had available for next year's improvements. A Police Report has been submitted and CCTV is being analysed to see if the perpetrator can be identified.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS URGENTLY REQUIRED BPFMC urgently requires additional Committee members to help support and manage the daily and long-term requirements for the Barn, Children's play area, sports fields and tennis courts. The continued functioning of BPFMC relies solely on volunteers and without additional help, the future of our Village facilities cannot be guaranteed or assured. We all have an interest in seeing that the Barn and its surrounding fields continue to remain available for Baston families and their children to use and enjoy. To do this, I ask that if you are able to provide 2-3 hours of your time per month to assist with Committee business, it will lessen the burden on current Committee members and establish a robust management framework to assure the long-term availability of the Barn, Children's play area and sports fields. Please contact me if you are able to offer your support or find out what is involved in being a BPFMC Committee Member. *Martin Wynne Chair*

BASTON PARISH COUNCIL - You may have noticed the shiny new Baston notice board, erected by parish councillors, is a much sturdier notice board. The second phase of speed indicators is complete with two more posts in place on the south side of the village on the A15 and also at the top of Greatford Rd. Indicators will be installed as soon as possible. Interestingly, I have some statistics from the speed indicator opposite the hairdressers. During the month of Sept: • 28,866 vehicle movements were recorded • 94.52% (27,283 vehicles) travelled below 30mph • 4.54% (1,311) between 31mph and 35mph and remainder between 36mph and 65mph. The outstanding winner (sadly) is 11.03am Sunday 10th Sept recorded at a staggering 73mph. Someone will be knocking on your door to have a word. These speed indicators are doing the job and the two new ones can only help. The Cemex/Thetford quarry application has so far received 299 private objections and also objections from Baston PC, Deeping St. James PC, Greatford PC, Langtoft PC, Thurby PC and a strong objection from Lincs Wildlife Trust. Many thanks to everyone! Unfortunately, Welland & Deeping Drainage Board, South Kesteven Environmental Health and Lincolnshire Police didn't feel the need to say very much at all! *David Plant, Chair*

Our Village

Baston Events

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECT & SHRED - Sunday 7th January 2024

Baston Events are continuing with one of our village seasonal traditions. We will collect and shred your finished real Christmas trees and save you the hassle and mess of trying to get rid of them. Trees for collection need to be left on your drive by 9.30am on Sunday 7th January with a minimum donation please of £3 per tree; all proceeds go towards Baston Events' fund-raising. Please text your name & address to 0795 791 7774 to ensure collection. Many Thanks, *Nick Rickett, Treasurer, Baston Events*

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2023

A big thank you to all the volunteers who managed a door- to- door collection which covered the whole village, also to the schools, pubs and local businesses who agreed to display static collection boxes, and finally to those of you who gave so generously to the Appeal. The total raised in Baston this year is £1,557.44. This figure will also be publicised in the Parish Council noticeboard and on the Baston Community Facebook page. *Steph' Balderson*

BASTON FIREWORKS

A big thank you to all involved in helping put on another 'abba-solutely' spectacular show. It is too early to have a final figure, but profits are likely to be on par with last year – despite the poor prior weather we had a total sell-out crowd for the main show of just over 3,750 spectators. Thank you for all the volunteers who helped in set-up, marshalling, clear-down & tidying on the Monday, and also Dhruv with the village shop team in selling the tickets. Thank you. Special thanks to this year's committee members, Simon Pitchford, Adrian Clarke, Nick Rickett, Ben & Gem Broadhurst, Phil Amos, Jill Groutage, Niamh Addy and, as consultants, Kieran Hancock & Andrew Winham. The show could not be put on without all their efforts – an event which ultimately benefits the village through raised funds, as well as the community and organisations enhanced by working together. Final figures will be confirmed in the next issue of 'The Voice'. Thanks again. *Nick Rickett*

HUNT AND HAUNT

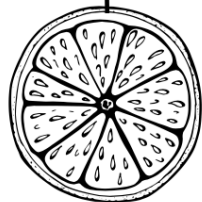
We had a record 302 spooky participants take part in this year's Hunt. Starting from The White Horse, quiz sheets were given out along with maps to follow to the locations of the scary games. Games played, sweets eaten, it was back to The White Horse who kindly provided hotdogs for all taking part. The quiz was won by Kera Chloe Digby, the adult pumpkin competition was won by Steph Musson, the children's by Archie Manna, with a special mention to Elouise Evans' pumpkin polar bear. We raised an incredible £900 for Don't Lose Hope (kindly rounded up by Baston Events). A massive thank you to the houses that hosted games, all the helpers, The White Horse, and most of all, all that took part! I look forward to seeing you all next year. *Amanda Sanderson*

BASTON BEATS 2024

Following the huge success of Baston Beats 2023, the Baston Events team are already planning Baston Beats 2024!!! With more great bands, guest ales and barbeque, we can't wait for another great weekend of music and fun. Kindly hosted by The White Horse once again, the new date for your diaries is the 8-9th June 2024. See you there! *Niamh and Chrissy*

Hunt and Haunt 2023





SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

4pm - CHRISTINGLE
St Firmin's Thurlby

A joyful celebration that brings families & communities together. sharing the light of Jesus & spread a message of hope.

6pm - ADVENT CAROLS
St John the Baptist Baston

Come along and celebrate the beginning of Advent by singing beautiful and traditional Advent carols, encouraging us to begin our journey to Bethlehem. Mince pies & mulled wine will sustain us on the way!

TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER

7pm - St Firmin's Thurlby

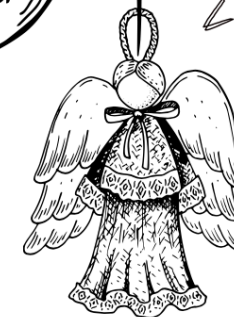
THURSDAY 21st

7pm - St Michael's Langtoft

SATURDAY 23rd

7pm - St John the Baptist Baston

In the cosy candlelight we sing the traditional carols & hear the telling of the first Christmas



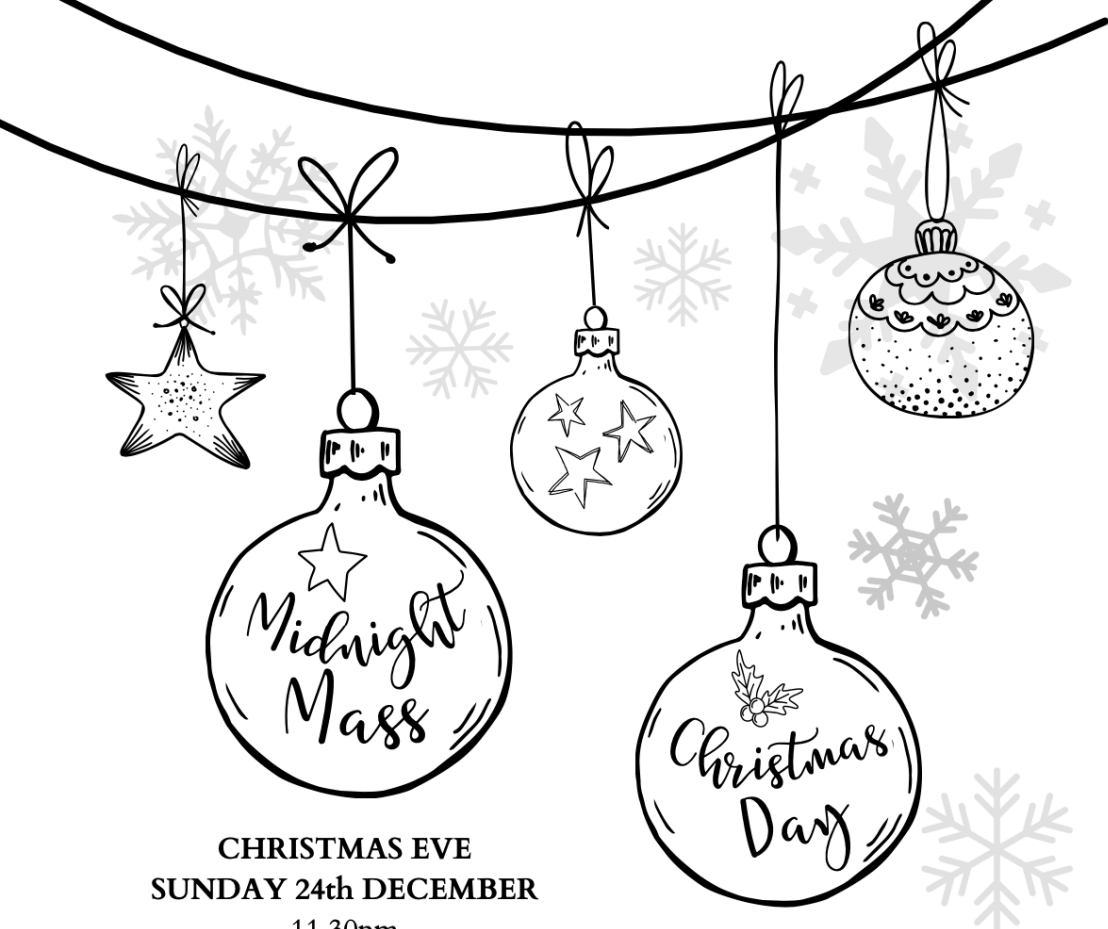
CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

3pm - St Michael's Langtoft

4pm - St John the Baptist Baston

5pm - St Firmin's Thurlby

Anything goes in this telling of the Nativity. All ages welcome, grab your tea towels, halos & wings. Dress up and join in the telling of the birth of Jesus, with words & carols. Nativity costumes preferred but not necessary. *(who doesn't love a Christmas Lobster!)* We can't wait to see you!



**CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER**

11.30pm
MIDNIGHT HOLY
COMMUNION

St John the Baptist Baston

As Christmas Eve draws to a close, we celebrate the birth of our Saviour with a communion service that has a special atmosphere which captures the mystery of Christmas as we leave in the first few moments of Christmas Day.

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER

10am
CHRISTMAS FAMILY
EUCCHARIST

St Firmin's Thurlby &
St Michael's Langtoft

Come along & share in our Christmas Day celebrations in a joyful & friendly service!



Baston Fireworks 2023



Our Village

School's News

KIRKSTONE HOUSE SCHOOL

Kirkstone House School November 2023

This term has already been very busy. As a whole school we were able to raise over £2000 for The Bobby Copping Foundation by cycling, walking, running and scootering from Land's End to John O'Groats. The Year 10 and 11 historians visited the West Deeping Archaeological site as part of their studies. Years 7, 8 and 9 will be heading off to the Leicester Space Centre before Christmas.



The whole school remembered the fallen soldiers on Friday 10th November in an informative but moving assembly. The Lower School were visited by The Kid's Country team who taught us all about apples. We are looking forward to welcoming them back for Breakfast week, where we will learn how our breakfast food goes from field to fork.

We are preparing lovely hampers for our Christmas Fair on November 24th and are hoping Father Christmas will make an appearance! At the time of writing rehearsals are underway for our production of 'A Christmas Carol' on 28th and 29th November. Lower school are planning and preparing for their Christingle Service in St John the Baptist Church on 1st December. Although the term is only six weeks, it is full of really exciting activities, trips and celebrations. One thing is sure ...Christmas will come around very quickly. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Learning all about apples with the Kid's Country Team

Our Village

Village Champion - Richard Hughes aka Tricky Dicky



How long have you lived in Baston & where did you move from previously:

We moved to the village (our 15th and final address) from RAF Wittering in 1992. My home town is Luton.

What are you involved with in the village:

I presently run the White Horse Prize Quiz, but will be retiring shortly. I also ran quizzes at a number of locations locally in pubs, churches and schools; I have done over 300 quizzes in total now. I also previously chaired CAMEO.

What was your previous job:

I served for 34 years in the Royal Air Force as an explosives and armaments specialist. I subsequently joined the Civil Service arm of the MOD, and finally worked as an advisor at Norwich & Peterborough Building Society. Not currently seeking employment!

Favourite village memory:

Too many to specify but I particularly liked the village events, especially Baston in the Blitz, and will forever remember our Golden Wedding Anniversary party with 50 guests at the Black Horse. Just grateful for how friendly this village is.

Favourite film/TV series:

I am a bit of a film buff; I like film noire, things like Chinatown and LA Confidential, but The Lord of the Rings trilogy would also feature. For TV, I really liked the old style comedians, but drama will certainly get watched, as will sport.

Quote/motto:

It is better to remain quiet and be regarded as a fool than to open your mouth and leave no doubt!

Tea or coffee:

Tea early doors, either later. Ale later still.

Local Business Focus

BASTON POST OFFICE & STORES

The Baston Village shop, taken over by Mihir and family in July, provides many essential services for the village, from fresh fruit and vegetables to coffees, groceries, a full Post Office service, as well as dry cleaning, and even booking the BPFMC tennis courts!

They have an excellent selection of ready meals, locally sourced meat, as well as the National lottery, and a superb array of wines, beers, and spirits.

The shop is open Monday to Saturday from 6am to 7pm, and 7am to 4pm on Sunday. The Post Office is open from Monday to Friday 9am to 5:30pm, and 9am to 12:30pm on Saturday.

Support the village and shop locally!

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Clubs

BASTON GARDEN SOCIETY

Although this group was initially started by the village allotment group (hence BAGS – Baston Allotment & Garden Society), this is an organisation that is open to all villagers free of charge. Through our group association we are able to offer significant discounts on garden seeds (up to 50% of retail prices), for flowers as well as vegetables. Membership is not solely for allotment holders - all gardens apply, whether large, small or even a windowsill! If you'd like more information or a catalogue to browse through on a cold winter's night planning on abundant produce and delightful flowers in the warm sunshine, then please contact me. *Nick Rickett, BAGS Chair*

BASTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

In October Baston WI Ladies celebrated their 58th birthday anniversary being entertained by Bourne Tuneless Choir, who presented them with a selection of songs for audience participation. This was their second visit which was equally as popular as the first with members going home on a feel-good factor. Maryon Avery, Margaret Wilson and Elizabeth Stacey took part in the Make Bake and Show event in Ropsley, reaping some very positive results between them.

The following month Bill Shaw, from The Boundary Fish and Chip shop, came to speak to members. He gave us the early history of the business and reflected on the differences that Covid had made to the retailer and customer. It was easy to understand then why our fish and chips' prices have escalated. Bill followed this by telling us about his upbringing in an amusing fashion – very enjoyable. Members will enjoy an inhouse Christmas meal in December, provided by an outside caterer. The first WI meeting in 2024 will be in The Barn on the 10th January at 7.30pm with a talk by Market Deeping Foodbank. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. For more information contact bastonwi@gmail.com or ring 07903 643356. *Steph' Balderson*

SCOUTS

1st Thurlby Scout Group continues to provide children across the Ness group villages with a range of excellent experiences to help them make new friends, have amazing adventures, and learn new skills. After the summer recess, our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts came back together for a day of sailing and rowing at the White Water Activity Centre near Stamford. All sections have exciting and engaging programs to look forward to through the Autumn term and have already enjoyed a taster day with Bourne Rugby Club where the children were introduced to the sport and got to enjoy some skill zone activities, assault courses and games of tag rugby. Our Beavers are also looking forward to a camp at the Shacklewell Campsite in Rutland.

Giving children these wonderful experiences is only possible due to the wonderful team of volunteers we are blessed with. Through the summer we have welcomed three new recruits to our leader team. If you would also like to get involved and help out, please contact Karen Thomas on karen.thomas@stamfordbournescouts.org.uk

STOP PRESS - SPEND A PENNY

On my long walk (see Vicar's View), we became aware of where any facilities might be and as we approached each church on the route I would say to my sister, we can go in there and we can use the loos while we are there ... except none of the churches we visited had any toilets! and that is why I am excited about the project that we have in St John's: We are applying for a faculty for the old and rather unsightly boiler house to be turned into an accessible toilet. This obviously comes at a cost and we are in the process of raising funds to ensure that the church will be a place that can serve our community in comfort and with flexibility. If you can contribute any sum, large or small, there are forms on the table at the back of the church giving details of how to do this. With thanks. *Carolyn, Vicar*

Sport News

SOCIAL TENNIS

August and September saw the launch of the Baston Social Tennis. It was great to see the courts fully used on the Wednesday evenings (Sunday mornings inevitably a little slower!) – usually with an ultra-competitive senior game and a fun packed junior court - honours shared on noise levels generated! Whilst nothing formal was organised, it was much appreciated that some of the “senior” attendees came and helped the juniors get games going (thanks especially to Claire and Toby Rickett!). Also good to see the biggest of the Juniors holding their own on the “Senior” court (keep going Alfie!). We are very grateful to Baston Events and BPFMC for their support in getting this season off the ground and the interest generated. There's definitely a feeling that it's something to be followed up for 2024, so watch this space for how we will roll this out for the coming season. *Jack Wilder (jackwilder.2012@gmail.com)*

Music News

Traditional Music and Song

Thursday 21st December: Jackie Oates & John Spiers - John Spiers is one of the leading melodeon players of his generation. Well known for his partnership with Jon Boden he was also a member of Bellowhead. Jackie Oates is an English folk singer and fiddle player. She was a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards in 2003 and was a nominee for the Horizon Award in 2008, going on to win that Award in 2009. Jackie and John are making a very welcome return to The Barn and will be performing their Christmas themed show.

Thursday 25th January: Mossie Christian & Megan Pilgrim - Mossie Christian and Megan Pilgrim are young performers who hail from Lincolnshire and East Anglia. They perform mainly English songs and tunes supported by a variety of instruments including fiddle, Anglo Concertina, One Row Melodeon and occasional saxophone! Mossie's solo debut album 'Come Noble and Heroes' has been receiving fabulous reviews and he is also in demand as a workshop leader and dance caller. Megan released her debut EP in 2018 and regularly performs in folk clubs and festivals nationwide whilst studying on the Newcastle University Folk & Traditional Music degree course. Mossie and Megan are becoming one of the most popular acts on the UK festival and concert circuit.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND SONG REVIEW

The Rosie Hood Band, 26th October - It was lovely to see Rosie again, she last appeared at Baston as part of The Dovetail Trio in October 2016 – seven years ago!!! Rosie was accompanied by Nicola Beazley (fiddle), Robyn Wallace (melodeon) and Rosie Butler-Hall (fiddle). What a band! Immediately we were struck by the richness of the sound the three 'at the back' make. The fiddles provide such a variety of tone, from a wall of sound, through quasi-baroque and chamber music, the next minute they sound like a string quartet. Add to the mix Robyn's melodeon and we certainly have a lushness that really catches the ear. The majority of the music played was from their brand-new album 'A Seed of Gold'. This was an exceptional night, thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Shadows on The Wall by Toby Wood - 'Shadows on the Wall' is a compilation of Toby Wood's reviews and photographs of concerts at The Barn over the last 20 years. There are over 100 pages of information and pictures of great musical nights in Baston since 2004. The book has been sponsored by Traditional Music & Song at The Barn, but all proceeds are going to Dementia Support, South Lincs. A minimum donation of £5 will enable you to catch up on your reading and also support a worthy local charity. Copies can be bought from Alan or Maggie at 10 Manor Drive or at one of the Barn concerts.

Nature Watch

The Baston, Langtoft, and Thurlby Naturehood group had a successful wildlife photo competition, with 126 entries, and various prizes awarded for different sections. Winning entries can be found on the group website. In Baston, bird and bat boxes have now been purchased from Don't Lose Hope, ready for volunteers to finish off and put on trees (hopefully December). Some people may be interested to lend a hand with sapling planting (2000 trees to plant) at Lower Braceborough Wood, on 2nd and 3rd December (10am-3pm). Hot food and drink will be provided. Please contact Richard Boulderstone on Richard.Boulderstone@gmail.com or call 07482 324470 for more information.



A reminder, as part of the Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby Naturehood group, we now have a website up and running: <https://naturehoodsk.uk> Please take a look! The idea is to have regular (ish) news items displayed. *Simon Pitchford*. If you have any queries, please see contacts page.

Past Times - A school in time

400 years ago Baston had a 'Dame' school in 1664, as Utting, Hammond MA, clerk, our vicar, admitted to exercise the office of Schoolmaster and instructor of boys in the parish church of Baston, 12 May 1666. Source: Church Register at Lincoln). The National Elementary Education Act of 1870 made provision to School Boards for children from ages 5 to 14. The Act required that every child should be taught in a reasonable building led by a qualified head teacher. Baston C of E Primary School was built by public subscription in 1863. Founded in School Lane (John James Rosby, master), it expanded in 1875 at a cost of £150, for 133 children.

Yet how many of the pupils taught at Baston Church of England Primary School between 1887 and 2006 have wondered about education being a joyous thing? Three registers recorded their 2979 names from that first entry in January 1887, including 42 evacuees from 'war-torn' Hull and the welcome expansion during the 1990s with the children of 'incomers'. Hopefully more pupils' names are available for the bi-centennial in 2087? Two handwritten logs from 1900 to 1964 recorded daily activities; attendance, illnesses, (school often closing for weeks from epidemics of measles, flu or chickenpox); up to 4 teachers; teaching practices, hard punishments (oh yes; the cane!), health checks, exam successes, school inspections, frequent vicar and bishop visits, bleak weather, church parades. Pupil numbers reached 107 with daily attendances of 90 plus. School treats and milk introduced in the late 1930s at a halfpenny a bottle (one third of a pint, or 193 ml). School outings to Hunstanton and Skegness were well remembered. Pupils left school at 14 and worked on the farms, local factories. You were encouraged to write with the right hand. Ascension Day and Armistice day, were honoured. 13 March 1991, after lunch, the original School building in School Lane was severely damaged by fire – but lessons continued until the new School off Main Street, was opened on 19 April 1993 with over 80 pupils. *Peter Rayner – Village historian/contributor*

Regular Events

WEEKLY

Mondays	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Church (Baston)	Warm Welcome gathering
Mondays	6.00pm - 7.00pm	The Barn	Pilates session
Tuesdays	10.00am - 11.00am	The Barn	Tai Chi at The Barn
Tuesdays(term-time)	from 5.00pm	The Barn	Wildcats Theatre School
Tuesdays	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Lawrence Park, Thurlby	Explorer Unit (Scouts)
Wednesdays	11.00am - 12 noon	The Barn	Pilates session
Thursdays	9.45 - 10.45am	Mayfield Gdns Community Centre	Chair Based Exercise class
Thursdays	6.45pm - 8.15pm	Langtoft Church	Ness Group Choir practice
Thursdays	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Church (Baston)	Stitch in Time / Embroidery
Fridays	6.15pm - 7.15pm	Lawrence Park, Thurlby	Beavers
Fridays	6.45pm - 9.15pm	Lawrence Park, Thurlby	Cubs
Fridays	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Lawrence Park, Thurlby	Scouts
Saturdays	10.30am - 12 noon	Church (Baston)	Bell Ringing
Saturdays	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Church (Baston)	Stitch in Time / Embroidery

MONTHLY

1st Tuesday	7.30pm start	The Barn	Women's Institute (WI) meeting
1st Thursday	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
1st Thursday	8.00pm start	The Barn	BPFMC meeting
1st Sunday	2.00pm start	Denshire Court footpath	Baston Dog Walkers
2nd Wednesday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Mayfield Gdns Community Centre	Cameo
2nd Thursday	7.15pm start - no meetings Jan & Aug	The Barn	Parish Council meeting
3rd Tuesday	11.00 - 11.45am	Main Street StyleHse	Library Bus
4th Tuesday	12.30pm for 1.00pm start	The Black Horse	Ladies for Cancer Research UK (booking req)
4th Thursday	8.00pm start - no performances July & Aug	The Barn	Traditional Music & Song
Sunday, fortnightly	8.00pm start	The White Horse	Quiz Night (free entry)
Last Friday	7.00pm for 7.30 start	The Barn	Cash Bingo

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Events Specifically for December / January

Sat 2nd Dec	10.00am - 3.00pm	Braceborough Wood	Sapling planting
Sun 3rd Dec	10.00am - 3.00pm	Braceborough Wood	Sapling planting
Sun 3rd Dec	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Church (Baston)	Crafternoon (for children)
Sun 3rd Dec	8.00pm start	The White Horse	Quiz night
Thurs 7th Dec	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
Sun 17th Dec	8.00pm start	The White Horse	Christmas Quiz Night
Thurs 21st Dec	8.00pm	The Barn	Traditional Music & Song
Mon 1st Jan	2.00pm start	Denshire Court footpath	Baston Dog Walkers
Thurs 4th Jan	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
Sun 7th Jan	from 9.30am	Xmas tree Collect & Shred	Baston Events
Sun 14th Jan	8.00pm start	The White Horse	Quiz Night
Thurs 25th Jan	8.00pm	The Barn	Traditional Music & Song
Sun 28th Jan	8.00pm start	The White Horse	Quiz Night

Coming Soon in February

Thurs 1st Feb	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
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And Finally...

Our village is generally tidy and litter-free, in part due to the efforts of Carl Adams, Baston's litter-collector paid for by the Parish Council. Thank you, Carl. There are other community 'wombles' who use the village bins that others have missed, and even the occasional 'poo-bag fairy' depositing abandoned bags (disgusting!). But ultimately, litter is all of our responsibility, for our village and our planet – you still own an empty can or packet until properly put away. So have a care please, bin it – and value your environment. *Nick Rickett, Editor*

For anyone that's interested in reading on the go, paperless or would like to share our village newsletter with friends and family, try scanning this QR code from your phone. It'll take you direct to the Ness Group webpage that holds both this and all previous editions as online, downloadable PDFs.



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