THE BASTON VOICE

Making Our Community Heard



Artwork by Jo-Anne Richardson Run by volunteers - Supported by advertisers - Delivered for FREE

Edition 168 - February 2024

Contacts Page

Church

Vicar	Rev. Carolyn Bailey
01778 703 093, ness.rector@gmail.com	n
Church Warden	Janet Low
07790 969 438, janetlow1@sky.com	
Deputy: Dave Hallows davehallows@	outlook.com
PCC Chair	Nick Rickett
nickorickett@hotmail.com	
100+ Club & Thurs/Lent lunches	6
Diane Savage 01778 560 847,	
bastontardis1994@btinternet.com	

Clubs & Groups

	•
Baston Events/Fireworks	Nick Rickett
07957 917 774, nickorickett@hotr	nail.com
Baston Dog Walkers	Matt & Louise Lee
loopilili@googlemail.com	
Odd'Uns Support Group	Rev. Carolyn Bailey
01778 703 093, ness.rector@gma	il.com
Ladies for Cancer Research	UK Anthea Rampling
01780 765 952, arampling82@gm	ail.com,
Cameo	Rosa Coia
07816 952 050, mummada@yaho	o.co.uk
Stitch in Time/Embroidery (Group
07718 813 596	Kat Hallows
kathleenhallows@hotmail.co.uk	
Tai Chi - 07929 963 724	Caroline Glynn
Chair-based Exercise	Yvonne Kohter
07894 504 195, yvonne.kohter@h	otmail.co.uk
Pilates at The Barn	Marian Rolls
07951 528 853	
Cash Bingo (BPFMC)	Magi Lloyd / Janet Low
07956 634 920, mlloyd525@hotm	ail.com
Garden Society (BAGS) nick	orickett@hotmail.com
Girl Guiding/Rainbows	
Bourne or Mkt Deeping, www.girlg	guiding.org.uk
Thurlby Scouts	Chris Mayhew
beavers@stamfordbournescouts.c	org.uk
Women's Institute (WI)	Steph' Balderson (Chair)
01778 560 507, bastonwi@gmail.	
Baston Naturehood	Simon Pitchford
07780 777 964, simon.pitchford@	kcl.ac.uk

Schools

Baston Primary School	Reception
01778 560 430, enquiries@baston.lincs.sch.u	ık
PTA Chair	Emma Bush
bastonschoolpta@outlook.com	
Kirkstone House	Reception
info@kirkstonehouseschool.co.uk	

Organisations

-	
BPFMC Chair	Martin Wynne
chair@bpfmc.org, www.bpfmc	c.org
BPFMC booking clerk	(The Barn/Field)
07837 538 201	Amanda Sanderson
Parish Council Chair	David Plant
chrisamber20@gmail.com	
Parish Council Clerk	Wendy Gray
parishclerkbaston@gmail.con	า
District Councillors	
Rosemary Trollope-Bellew,	01778 560 634
cllrr.trollopebellew@southkes	teven.gov.uk
Vanessa Smith,	07474 874 895
vanessa.smith@southkesteve	n.gov.uk
County Councillor	Ashley Baxter
cllra.baxter@lincolnshire.gov.	uk
Local MP	Gareth Davies
gareth.davies.mp@parliament	
Police Community Office	er (PCSO) various
Lincolnshire Police website	101
Baston Charities	Claire Rickett (Secretary)
bastoncharities@gmail.com	
Voluntary Medical Supp	1 0
07858 373 912, Deepings Prac	
01733 207 113, British Red Cr	OSS
(for Peterborough Hospital)	
Repair cafe (Thurlby)	Stu Brett
thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.con	า

Music & Arts

Bell Ringing	Joyce Langley
01778 560900 (info), jdelialangley@b	tinternet.com
Ness Group Choir	Debbie Howard
01778 349 576, debbiejanehoward195	2@gmail.com
Traditional Music & Song	Alan & Maggie Wood
07526 742 289, a.wood571@btintern	et.com
www.bastontradmusic.org	
Wildcats Theatre School	Caz Dolby
01780 762 000, admin@wildcats-uk.	com

Sports

Cricket Club	Dave Conlon
conlon.arsenal	Photmail.co.uk
Golf Society	Julian Pegg
julianpegg42@gma	il.com
Tennis	ad hoc court hire via the village shop
	annual membership/access via BPFMC
Tennis Social	Jack Wilder
07834 310 594	

Editor's Welcome

Welcome to 2024 - the front cover depicts our village church door decorated for the 'Advent Windows' displays held around the village in December. It was fitting that the 24th window should be the church, with all the welcoming services and celebrations inside, but it is also appropriate now to herald our new year of '24. The 'Advent Windows' were a great community success, with many taking part – we have tried to capture as many as possible in this edition's centre-spread photos.

Leading up to Christmas there were also some comments about whether there should be a village Christmas tree, which has been tried before but is fraught with costly bureaucracy. What heartens me though, is that there were actually numerous external displays, with some amazing and fantastic lights, throughout the village, whichever way you entered. It was delightful & warming to see individuals' efforts share the joy of the season by their own volition, lifting the soul and enhancing that bond of community.

www.blackhorse-baston.co.uk



Likewise, we are now seeing more community involvement at the start of this year and new ideas for other village events.

There are new volunteers on Baston Events, there's support for the fortnightly White Horse quiz (see '& finally') and plans have started for an Easter trail event (see Church news), with other events in the pipeline too. The Cricket Club is starting afresh under new captaincy (see Sports page), with the call for more talent and financial support. And talking of support, there's the summary of Baston Events' donations in 2023, giving back to the village (see Our Village page) – and the request for tenders for this year.

There's much to look forward to, but it's all the better when more get involved - and better still for the community as a whole. Happy New Year.

N-de -

Nick, Editor

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION IS 19TH MARCH 2024 Please keep the length of your submissions to between 100 and 200 words. All comments / content to baston.voice@outlook.com Editorial Team: Nick Rickett (Editor), Maryon Avery (Sub-editor), Emily Birchenall (Publishing), Ben Broadhurst & Simon Pitchford (Reporters), Toby Rickett (London Correspondent) Articles may have been edited and do not express the views of the editorial team. Correct at point of going to press. Previous Editions available on nessgroup.org			
Black Horse	OFFICE & CONFERENCE FACILITY		
HOTEL • RESTAURANT • BAR	THE THE DUTCH		
Weddings & Receptions	BARN		
Function Room for hire	OTTOEL 01778 560 004		
Telephone 01778 561202	sian.diacond@frsfarming.co.uk		

F The Dutch Barn - Offices and Conferences

Vicar's View

As we have now begun the new year, the air is filled with the promise of fresh beginnings and untapped opportunities. This year may be new and exciting, or it could be more of the same. However it turns out though, it is useful to reflect on the challenges we faced recently. The flooding has been a stark reminder of the unpredictable nature of life, but it has also unveiled the strength that lies within our community. Adversity unites us as neighbours and fosters a spirit of resilience, turning our attention towards shared goals. It is this unity and sense of belonging that will be our greatest asset as we confront the challenges and seize the opportunities that the new year brings.

As we look forward to the coming months, let us not fall into the trap of setting ourselves up for failure with unrealistic resolutions. Instead, let's focus on sustainable and achievable goals that contribute to our personal growth and the well-being of our village.

Having a young puppy at home keeps me very aware of the dangers of setting myself up with unrealistic expectations. Just getting through the day with no puddles, nothing of value chewed or buried in the garden and only hoovering twice is about where my expectations land!



It is essential to approach the new year with a sense of realism and pragmatism. Let's focus on small, incremental changes that can collectively make a significant difference. Whether it's organizing regular community events, supporting local businesses especially those who have struggled with the economic climate, as well of course the floods, or participating in some sort of volunteering, every effort contributes to the greater good.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us also take a moment to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us, the open spaces and big skies and the unique character that defines our village. Taking the time to savour these moments not only enhances our well-being but also deepens our connection to the place we call home!

Carolyn

ers

From The Registers

Funerals in December - We offer our prayerful sympathy to the family and friends ofPaul Maltby 20th DecService in church followed by burialFrank Allum 28th DecService at Peterborough Crematorium

100+ Club Winners

Nove	mber Winners	Dece	mber Winn
£50	no. 35	£50	no. 241
£20	no. 140	£20	no. 22
£15	no. 247	£15	no. 188

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.

Contact Diane Savage (see "Contacts") for details or to check your number. The more people who sign up, the bigger the prize fund! All winners cheques are delivered to you.

Baston Church & Group Services

		▲
Sun 4th Feb	10am	Morning Service
Sun 11th Feb	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	Morning Service
Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb	7.30pm	Holy Communion with Ashing Langtoft
Sun18th Feb	10am	Group Holy Communion Baston
Thur 22nd Feb	10am	Mid-Week Communion
Sun 25th Feb	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 3rd Mar	10am	Morning Service
Sunday 10th Mar	8am	BCP Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday, 10th Mar	10am	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 17th Mar	10am	Group Holy Communion Langtoft
Palm Sunday, 24th Mar	10am	Holy Communion
HOLY WEEK		
Mon 25th Mar	6pm	Evening Prayer - Baston
Tue 26th Mar	6pm	Taizé- Langtoft
Wed 27th Mar	6pm	Lent Course - Vicarage
Thur 28th Mar	6pm	Holy Communion with stripping of altar Thurlby
Good Friday, 29th Mar	10am	Family Service with Easter Gardens Baston
	10am	Music & Reflection Langtoft
Easter Sunday, 31st Mar	10am	Group Holy Communion Thurlby

Church News

Soup lunches were held on 7 December and 4 January. Thank you to Baston C of E School Choir for entertaining us so well in December. The children also did an excellent job helping take orders and serve. Our "Customers" enjoy having the children around, as do we "Regulars".

However, a serious problem has recently arisen with an area of the church floor which means we shall not be able to serve lunch on 1 February. Please keep an eye on the church noticeboard and Facebook for updates regarding dates for the rest of this season. *Diane Savage (edited)*

Toilet Extension. The Church Council would like to thank those who have made contributions towards the cost of this work - £7,500 to date. If you haven't yet contributed and would like to, there are forms on the table at the back of the church giving details of how to do this. *Eileen Mort*

Future events in church

The church floor problem (see Lunches above) means that, for Health and Safety reasons, we are unable to run the hoped-for pancake party this year. We'll try again in 2025! Watch this space.

At the Mothering Sunday service on 10 March at 10am come and find out how you can get involved in a village-wide effort to grow sunflowers.

Make a shoe-box sized Easter garden to bring along to church on Good Friday, 10am 29 March. After the service there will be refreshments with hot cross buns, and small chocolate eggs.

Then there are plans to have an Easter trail round the village and church over Easter weekend, starting from The White Horse. Keep an eye on Facebook for details or email me. Averycandm@gmail.com *Maryon Avery*

Baston Organisations

FROM OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (SKDC)

What a difficult start to the new year it has been for so many, particularly those residents of Greatford and Tallington who seem to have borne the brunt of our recent wet weather. Although SKDC is not the main flood authority (that is Lincolnshire County Council) SKDC have been very proactive in coordinating rescue services and organising skips and street cleaning teams. Vanessa and Rosemary have been busy visiting both villages and our hearts go out to everyone who has been affected. Certainly, lessons need to be learnt and we hope that the Environment Agency, LCC and central government come together to take measures to reduce the chance of further such flooding.

Two major meetings have already taken place at SKDC this year. First, SKDC has expressed several reservations regarding the plans for Lincolnshire Devolution with Mayoral control, and encouraged members of the public to engage with the public consultation. Secondly, the council voted to give a one-off grant of £850,000 to a Community Group to help with the reopening of Deeping Leisure Centre. We wish them all the very best.

Finally, you may have noticed some tags on your recycling. Initially, these are for information purposes only, but from 5th February any grey bin which contains non-recyclable items, as listed in the SKDC information leaflet, will not be collected. It is worth noting that shredded paper and plastic bags are not suitable for kerbside recycling. They should either go into the black bin or recycled elsewhere. Paper and card should be disposed of via the purple lidded bin from this date.

Cllr Vanessa Smith and Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew (contact details inside cover)

.....

BPFMC

NEW TODDLER SWING SEATS

BPFMC would like to thank Baston Events for their generous donation of £223 which enabled the old and worn-out Toddler Swing Seats to be replaced with new, updated items. The swing seats were the items originally fitted when the swings and other play equipment were installed, and they were beyond economical repair. The new swing seats are an updated design and are less susceptible to environmental degradation.

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 forthcoming, 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 the 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. Without your additional help, the long-term viability of the Barn and Playing Fields cannot be assured. Please contact me if you are able to offer your support or would like to find out what is involved in been a BPFMC Committee Member.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - The BPFMC Annual General Meeting will be held in the Barn at 8pm on Thursday 4th April. This is an opportunity to hear what BPFMC has been doing throughout the year, its performance and achievements and plans for the future. All Villagers are welcome to attend and we hope for a better attendance than seen over the past years. Thank you.

Martin Wynne, Chairman BPFMC

Baston Organisations

PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council have now installed and activated the TWO new speed indicators in the village. Now we have four indicators and the active speed camera on the A15 is working (and issuing tickets). Hopefully this will reduce speeding through the village. A big thankyou to ClIrs Paul and Phil for their help on this. Downloaded speed information has been posted on notice boards and Baston web site for the month of November.

We have had a good coverage from the press on these, Stamford Mercury, Lincsonline etc and I have had interest and requests from other parishes enquiring how we did this and where we bought them.

Due to the retirement of a Parish Councillor, we have a vacancy. If anyone is interested please email: parishclerkbaston@gmail.com. You will need to have lived in the village over two years and not have a criminal record. Being a councillor will involve you in the decisions affecting the village.

There is no Council meeting in January, the next will be Thursday 15th February at the Barn. All 2024 council meeting dates are on the notice boards close to the playing fields.

David Plant

Baston Events

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECT & SHRED

We had another successful day, and despite four trees going astray we collected 57, raising £305 through everyone's generous donations – thank you. As well as the Baston Events volunteers, special thanks to Steve Flaherty for help with the trailer-towing, Fen Tiger Pest Control (07889 163 331) for the loan of the trailer and also Willow Tree Services (www.willow-tree-services.co.uk) for operating the shredder.

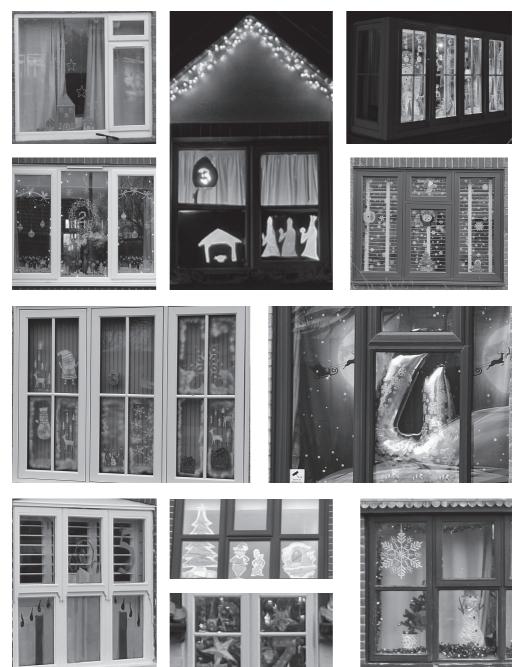
BASTON FIREWORKS

We now have the final figures from last November's show and I am delighted to confirm that it made a profit of just over £8,900 towards Baston Events funds (2022 profit £8,350). Once again, many thanks to the small committee and all the volunteers for the event. We are lucky enough to have provisionally secured this year's show for Sunday 3rd November – so put the date in your diary – and contact Baston Events if you would like to be involved in helping on the committee.

BASTON EVENTS - ANNUAL REVIEW & DONATION TENDERS

2023 was another good year for events, with the revival of the village fete/park picnic on the Coronation weekend and the new 'Baston Beats' weekend. Overall, the events made a profit of just over £11,900, but more significantly we have donated just over £22,000 throughout this year; in particular to Baston Primary School PTA (£10.5K), Baston church (£6.8K), BPFMC (£1,488) & Don't Lose Hope (£2,983). Baston Events ultimately raises money for causes within, or associated with, the village. If you would like to request a donation, please contact Nick Rickett by email with further details; tenders should be submitted by 15th March 2024. Baston Events currently has funds of circa £59,300, although part of this has to be retained as a contingency for future event planning. The annual account summary is available on request.

Advent Windows



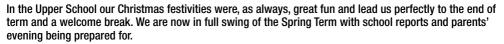


Schools' News

KIRKSTONE HOUSE SCHOOL

Kirkstone House School January 2024

There was lots of news to share in the Lower School about all the fun and excitement that everyone had over the festive period. We are now fully engaged with our new topics of The Ancient Greeks and Sound and are working hard in all our other subjects too! We are very excited to have the 'Kids Farming' team coming back to school, where we will be planting potatoes.



Our Year 11's are busy revising for their GCSE Mock Examinations and are looking at options post KHS. We are starting our auditions for A Midsummer Night's Dream ahead of the performances on Tuesday 19th March and Wednesday 20th March.

Friday 15th March Headteacher Easter Coffee Morning 9:15am. Jane Ramsay, Lower School Lead

BASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope your Christmas break was filled with joy. At Baston CE Primary School, we're thrilled to kick off the new term with exciting updates on our students' activities.

Reception have been enjoying amazing outdoor lessons, exploring our school grounds and engaging in thrilling searching games. Their enthusiasm sets a positive tone for the school. Year 3 had a tasty morning making and tasting healthy tarts, promoting teamwork and a love for nutritious eating. Year 5 and 6 are gearing up for the Young Voices trip, where they'll perform with thousands of children for a night to remember. Their dedication promises an unforgettable musical experience. All year groups are working hard across all subjects, with a special focus on writing. Students are exploring new stories, showcasing their creativity, and enhancing their literacy skills.

As we embark on this term, the commitment of our teachers and support from parents and the community are vital in creating an environment for our students to thrive. Here's to another term of growth, achievement, and joy at Baston CE Primary School. Thank you for your continued support. *Lucy Tyler* (*Edited*)





Village Champion - Janet Low

How long have you lived in Baston & where did you move from previously: 30 years, after moving from Leicester

What are you involved with in the village: at present churchwarden and bingo coordinator for the BPFMC.

What was your previous job:

My previous jobs were sales administrator for a truck company / then market research secretary / then administrator for Heritage Railway Magazine. I am now the Ness Group Administrator for Baston,



Langtoft and Thurlby churches.

Favourite village memory: Watching Key stage 1 in Baston School nativity plays

Favourite film/TV series: Sister Act.

Quote/motto: What you see is what you get (that is me!)

Tea or coffee: Coffee

Local Business Focus

"Seatercise" is a combination of weight loss, cardio and strength training moves that are easy on the joints for a high/medium intensity workout for all ages from teenagers to elderly. All exercises can be performed at a pace that best suits the individual and there are plenty of alternative/adaptable moves that can be practised so everyone is always moving.

Each session allows the opportunity for participants to improve their physical and mental wellbeing by getting out of the house on a regular basis to meet up with like-minded souls for a chat, some company and that all important full-body workout all at the same time! You'd be surprised how much movement you can gain whilst seated but you have to give it a go to really see what can be achieved!

Start the New Year by getting in some extra movement and feeling good for doing it! Classes are reasonably

priced at £5.50 per hourly session and as well as my Thursday morning class in Baston Church 9.45 to 10.45 am, I also run classes in Market Deeping, Langtoft, Thurlby and Crowland which means I am never far from my home in Deeping St Nicholas!

Contact Yvonne on 07894 504195 to book your space.





BASTON POST OFFICE & STORES

Your local convenience shop

Mon - Sat 6.00am - 7.00pm Sundays 7.00am - 4.00pm

16 Main Street, Baston PE6 9PA

C 01778 560 314

CHAPEL MOTOR REPAIRS LTD

35-37 Main Street, Baston 01778 560 444 or Facebook

IMI trained and approved, MOTs, servicing, diagnostics & carbon cleaning Collections where possible

Clubs

CAMEO

A huge thank you to Reverend Carolyn Bailey for allowing our Group to meet in the Church at very short notice in January and also to Dave Hallows and Eileen Mort for their help in setting up in preparation for the Baston Primary School Year 6 children who did a wonderful job in entertaining us with their enthusiastic singing. Thanks also to Amy Forster, Rachel Porteus and Louise Kidder who accompanied the children. CAMEO is unfortunately unable to use the Mayfield Club any more but I will contact all our members before the next meeting. If anyone wants to join us, they're welcome to ring me.

Rosa Coia

BASTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

Outside caterers delivered our best Christmas meal ever in December. By contrast Market Deeping Food Bank made members aware of the parameters that they are obliged to work within as members of the Trussell Trust in January. Their vision is to end the need for Food Banks. Members donated many items for their warehouse in Deeping St James. We welcome a driving instructor, Stephen Brown, in February, with his talk "It's Hell on Wheels" and our final speaker of the WI year will be Jennifer Ichikawa who will be presenting The History of the Kimono. She will share her collection of kimonos with members and explains what is worn underneath.

In addition to our monthly meetings several members have enjoyed a day trip to Leeds combining retail therapy with a visit to M and S Archive. Two day trips are on offer during 2024, to the Poppy Factory and to Cadbury World as well as two lunches, with speakers. At the Lincolnshire WI Federation's forthcoming AGM Professor Sir Jonathan Nguyen- Van -Tam and stargazer Tom Kerss will speak to members.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. For more information see the contacts page.

Steph' Balderson

Sport News

BASTON CRICKET CLUB

Yes, it's still January but we are already looking forward to this year's Cricket season at Baston CC. Our net sessions have started on a Sunday morning at Witham Hall Prep school from 10 -12. Existing and new players are very welcome as we build towards the new season.

We are also looking for match day sponsors for all our home games. A donation of £50 to the club will ensure your business would receive publicity through our Instagram and Facebook pages while the funds received would be put to good use as we maintain our pitch throughout the season. We have 9 home games available to be sponsored and of course, we would gratefully accept private sponsorship as well as business. Many thanks for reading and do get in touch with one of us, see the contacts page, if you are interested in joining us or sponsoring one of our games. The club is desperately in need of funds so we will be holding several fundraisers through the year. Please keep your ear to the ground as we publicise these. Your support would be very welcome.

2024 Home Fixtures all Saturdays 1pm start unless stated. Come and support your team!

1st June Billingborough 2nd XI home 15th June Skegness 2nd XI home 22nd June Grantham 3rd XI home 6th July Castor & Ailsworth 2nd XI home 20th July Belton Park home 3rd August Orton Park 2nd XI home 17th August Moulton Harrox 2nd XI home 7th Sept Burghley Park 2nd XI home 14th Sept Newborough 2nd XI home

Dave Conlon (Club Captain), Andy Burrill (Edited)

Music News

Traditional Music and Song

Admission is £15 and you can bring your own drinks. We have the summer break during July and August, then more music from September onwards.

Thursday 22nd February: Sherburn, Bartley & Sanders

www.sherburnbartleysanders.com

Chris Sherburn (concertina) and Denny Bartley (guitar and vocals) have brought their unique sound to audiences across the globe since 1993. In 2016 they joined forces with Emily Bartley (fiddle and vocals) blending vocal harmonies and strings to their vibrant sound. Their soulful songs, exhilarating tunes, and quick-witted banter ensure that no two concerts are ever the same. One of the finest live acts on the folk scene. Witty, engaging and superb musicians. A very welcome return to The Barn

Thursday 28th March: Banter

www.banter.band

Simon Care on melodeon, Nina Zella on keyboards and vocals, Tim Walker (BBC Lincolnshire Radio presenter) on percussion and trumpet Mark Jolly on fiddle and bass. Traditional music and song, but they do like to stretch the limits! Currently in demand to perform at many of the UK's largest festivals including Glastonbury, Cambridge, Sidmouth and Whitby as well as internationally at European Festivals.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND SONG REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENT JACKIE OATES & JOHN SPIERS 21st December 2023

Jackie is a superb fiddler and a sweet singer. John is one of the country's most accomplished melodeon players and he brought some from his collection, including one festooned with Christmas lights. The first half started briskly with Ploughboy and soon we were transported round England with songs from Northamptonshire and Exmoor via the Lake District. In addition, John informed us about the word carol being connected to people dancing in a circle in France. Throughout, their playing was expert and subtle – Jackie and John appear effortless but they are consummate musicians on top of their game. Jackie and John opened the second set with Congleton Bear. Later we went to Sussex with The Trees Are All Bare and the delightfully-named My Shoes Are Made of Spanish. We were also treated to music recorded by Jackie with the Warwickshire-based Orchestra of the Swan -The Robin's Petition. If you haven't heard any of this, seek it out! There's plenty available, in particular to Earthcycle: a Four Seasons for the 21st Century. We gradually became more Christmassy, culminating with Nigel Eaton's The Halsway Carol and eventually we left feeling refreshed and ready for the Yuletide fray. And so Baston's 2023 merry year came to a close.

Toby Wood (edited)

Church News - footnote

Things are changing in the Ness Group. After over a decade of ministry in the Ness Group, Reverend Michael Howard is retiring. Michael has been a constant presence in the Group, guiding the parishes through the long vacancy after the retirement of Rev Janet Beadle, offering support after my arrival as well supervising and encouraging the training of lay ministers across the Deanery. He has ministered across the Group and has also taken on responsibilities across the Deanery as our Rural Dean.

I would like to thank Michael on behalf of the Ness Group and the village for all his love and care over the years.

Carolyn Bailey

Nature Watch

We shall have put up bird and bat boxes in Baston churchyard by the time this edition of Baston Voice is delivered. These have been built by volunteers at the 'Don't Lose Hope' charity, made possible by support from Baston Events. Our conservation of the churchyard now enters the second year. We have taken guidance from the charity 'Caring for God's acre' who have comprehensive material for encouraging wildlife in graveyards. We would like to encourage both wildflowers and other wildlife during the coming growing seasons, and therefore encourage a mosaic of different height plants. We have found a mixture naturally happens in our graveyard just outside the canopy edges of trees where plant growth is reduced. We have also found if we interfere too much during the growing season we can end up disturbing animals and insects (frogs, butterflies, moths), so have decided the major cut of the year is best around August / early September.

As part of the Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby Naturehood group, we now have a website up and running, please take a look! https://naturehoodsk.uk

Simon Pitchford.



Past Times

Past Times – water, water, everywhere/not a drop to drink...To misquote the 18th-century poet Samuel Coleridge in The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, but no action for Baston village this January. Even so, close-by neighbours and villages have suffered badly. Baston Parish is serviced by the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board since 1973.

They hold responsibility for ensuring the waterways and ditches in our parish are properly cared for. And a good job they do too! Working with naturalists and landowners to develop sound methods of dyke clearance that enhances the water routes and yet ensures sound drainage. In recent memory our village has not seen flooding, possibly never; not from the massive winter snows of 1947/8 and 1962, nor the sea incursions of 1952. River Glen flooding could affect Baston, but it has not in 2000 years according to sources. Draining the upland catchment areas of the East and West Glen it passes Fletland Mill, built in AD 1759 and the recently flooded 1990s Waterside Garden Centre. River flows are in a range of 0.06m and 0.74m. The highest was 1.48m on Sunday 22 July 2007 until this disastrous 2.08m 1-day flow on 3 January 2024, some 40% higher than 15 years ago!

The eel-friendly weir under the A15 Kate's Bridge crossing is followed by the old AD 1750 bridge set with a carved head on the west coping above a massive stone arch resting on Oolitic limestone rock. Flowing in a valley on our northern border, it opens to an ox-bow water catchment, then to a northerly-facing 'flood safety kink'. Embankments, on which the southern bank has the Macmillan Way cross-country path, stretch for 15 miles north-eastwards, adding the Bourne Eau; then to Surfleet, where it discharges into the Welland. Following the disastrous floods of 1947, the bank did break southwards, not reaching Baston. The efficiency of the river system was further improved by the installation of pumping stations, sumps and gravity drains, under the control of Internal Drainage boards allowing water to drain from the Fens into the two rivers.

Peter Rayner - village historian/contributor

WICKER WORLD

The areas only specialist Cane & Wicker Conservatory showroom.

We now stock Kettler garden furniture, available for next day delivery. Towngate East, Market Deeping, PE6 8LQ 01778 346268 www.wicker-world.co.uk



Regular Events

WEEKLY

V V has had 1 % has 1			
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 (excl 4th Thurs)	9.45 - 10.45am	Church (Baston)	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 & 3rd Thursday	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches (fortnightly)
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	The White Horse	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 reg)
4th Thursday	8.00pm start - no performances July & Aug	The Barn	Traditional Music & Song (bookir
Sunday, fortnightly	8.00pm start	The White Horse	Quiz Night (free entry)
Last Friday	7.00pm for 7.30 start	The Barn	Cash Bingo

T.R.CARLTON

Independent Family Funeral Directors Giving a complete 24-hour personal service by Caring and dedicated staff.

> PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST Telephone Bourne 01778 422 240

Back 2 Bear Basics

Louise Lee Early Years Specialist offering educational support for 3-7 year olds in your own home

back2bearbasics@gmail.com 01778 561 733 | 07871 305 714 +2-

ing

Events Specifically for February/ March

	L /		J '
Sun 11th Feb	8pm start	The White Horse	Quiz night
Tue 13th Feb	3pm - 4.30pm	The White Horse	Pancake Funtime
Thurs 15th Feb	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
Thurs 22nd Feb	8pm	The Barn	Traditional Music & Song
Sun 25th Feb	8pm	The White Horse	Quiz Night
Thurs 7th March	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
Sun 10th March	8pm	The White Horse	Quiz Night
Thurs 21st March	12 noon - 1.30pm	Church (Baston)	Church Lunches
Sun 24th March	8pm	The White Horse	Quiz Night
Thurs 28th March	8pm	The Barn	Traditional Music & Song
Sat 30th March	tbc	tbc	Easter trail event

Coming Soon in April

Thurs 4th April	8pm	The Barn	BPFMC AGM
Sun 7th April	8pm	The White Horse	Quiz Night

And Finally...

White Horse Quiz

When Dickie Richards dropped the bombshell – and the mic - it became a mission to find a replacement. Despite various posts on Facebook, no one local came forth and it was looking likely we may have to stop, although the Christmas Quiz of 2023 proved how popular the event was with a fantastic 22 teams (some had to be turned away due to lack of tables!). The exciting news is that existing quizzers have come together in unity and love for the quiz and will be taking it in turns to host. The local is an integral part of village community and I encourage you to get a team together and support when you can. It's fortnightly and we are done by 10pm so it is not too much of a late night. This year will see a league table with a meal for four to the winners at the end of November. Chase the Ace is back with a chance to win cash. £1 a head. The quiz is free to enter.

Please come and have a go. It is a great way to finish the weekend!!

Julian Pegg (Edited)

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, download-able PDFs.



Publication Printed by GRAYTONES PRINTERS Unit 17 King St. Industrial Estate, Langtoft, PE6 9NF Tel: 01778 560261 - Email: mail@graytones-printers.co.uk