

TRIO

HARBY, THORNEY & WIGSLEY NEWSLETTER



Join us in THORNEY for a
Christmas Mingle & Jingle
Wednesday 17 December

**PLAYPARK OPEN FROM 5:PM & FINISHING WITH
THE 100 CLUB DRAW AT 7:15PM**

**Come dressed sparkly & festive to join the torch lit
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**The Play Park will be lit with hundreds of fairy lights. Join
in a Christmas singalong every half hour ending with a
traditional carol from the Thorney Singers!**

Post letters to Santa at his Bus Shelter Postbox

Issue No. 256

December 2025

Editor: Jayne Rose T: 07976 732234 E: jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk

LAST DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEXT ISSUE 10th January 2026

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Harby Parish Council Update

Clerk

At the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 23rd October, retiring Clerk Caron Ballantyne was presented with a bouquet in thanks for all the work she had done for the Parish Council and the community of Harby.

On Sunday 2nd November members of the Parish Council carried out their annual 'walk about'. It was a beautiful autumn morning to walk around our village and it gave us the opportunity to highlight a few issues that needed reporting, including the condition of some roads and pavements.

For me, as the new Clerk to the Council, I found the morning hugely enjoyable and informative, having a guided tour around the village by those who know it best.

Parish Council Website

Since moving IT providers the Parish Council website has not been as accessible as the Council would like. For this reason, we are moving back to our original provider which will allow us to be far more reactive and the Councils information will be accessible to all.

It will take a little while for everything to be migrated however this means the website address, **HarbyParishCouncil.gov.uk** will remain the same.

If there is something you think would be useful for the Parish Council to include on the website, please do get in touch and we will give your ideas consideration.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 18th December at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room. Please see the website or the notice board nearer the time for the full agenda.

Yvonne Colverson, Harby Parish Clerk

Clerk@HarbyParishCouncil.gov.uk

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EST 2020

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NEWS from ALL SAINTS, HARBY

The two main services this autumn have been the Harvest Festival and the Service of Remembrance. At the Harvest Festival on 5th October, there was a good-sized congregation which sang some of the traditional hymns with particular gusto, since we were fortunate to have Christine playing the organ. The church was once again beautifully decorated, and thanks are due to all who carried that out. Following the service, we all moved to the village hall for the Harvest tea, which, thanks to caterer Zena, was both delicious and substantial! Two days later the church was very pleased to welcome pupils and staff from Queen Eleanor School, along with many parents, who gathered in the church for their own Harvest Festival celebration. We are so pleased that the school continues to come to the church on special occasions, and we're looking forward to the children's Christmas Play which will be taking place on 10th and 11th December at 2.30 pm. This is normally a 'standing room only' event! The annual Service of Remembrance, which took place on Sunday 9th November, was as usual marked by the laying of a wreath at the war memorial and the reading out of the names of the fallen. The two minutes' silence was not only observed by the congregation, but gratifyingly also by the children and adults on the sports field opposite the church. As usual, the entire collection from the service has been donated to the Royal British Legion. Other visitors to the church very recently have been two groups of bellringers and it's always good to hear the bells on these occasions. The next service will be one of Holy Communion on Sunday 7th December at 10.00 am, which will be taken by Rev. Alan Keeler. Then, on Sunday 21st December, at 3.00 pm, we will be holding our annual carol service. Christine will be again playing the organ so please do come along to enjoy singing Christmas carols and listening once more to the Christmas story. Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies after the service will be on offer as usual. There is still no indication of when a new vicar will be appointed to the benefice, so we continue to rely on 'retired' clergy coming to take a Holy Communion service once every three months, while we arrange the mostly monthly lay led service of Morning Worship.

British Legion Poppy collections in Harby
All Saints Church £160.00 The Bottle & Glass £67.60 Post Office @ Village Hall £15.15

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DATES & NEWS from St Helen's Church for PARISH OF THORNEY with WIGSLEY

Phase 2 building works in St Helen's Church mean there is no access into church until the new year at the earliest. Visitors to the graveyard are permissible to allow you to spend quiet time in reflection or to lay floral tributes for your loved ones. We continue to await the appointment of a new minister so in the interim we ask regular church goers to please check your copy of the Grapevine or the East Trent Churches/Collingham website: easttrentchurches.org.uk & follow the links for up-to-date news about local services that you may choose to attend. For more information about St Helens contact Anna Dennison, Church warden on 01522-702748.

All the following events are outdoors in the Play Park, weather permitting.

Wednesday 10th December – **Christmassy Coffee Morning 11-12noon** + Mobile Library van from 11.15-11.45am

Wednesday 17th December – **Community Christmas Mingle & Jingle Event - 5pm to 7.15pm - ALL WELCOME**

WELCOME 2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Sunday 4th January – **Christingle Service at 3pm** - children & families especially welcome

Wednesday 7th January – **Books & Banter 11-12 noon** + Mobile Library van from 11.15-11.45am

Sunday 18th January – **Morning Worship at 10.30am** - Lay led with refreshments afterwards

Wednesday 4th February – **Books & Banter 11-12 noon** + Mobile Library van from 11.15-11.45a

Sunday 15th February – **Morning Worship at 10.30am** - Lay led with refreshments afterwards

MORE NEWS FROM THORNEY

AN UPDATE FROM ST HELENS & THE COMMUNITY HUB

Church will remain closed until at least the new year while our contractors ARC complete the internal building work. The graveyard is open but you are asked to be mindful of the contractors particularly as you enter/exit via the main gate as the health & safety of everyone remains a top priority. For those wishing to put fresh floral tributes on a grave, please be aware the water butt has been removed so there is no running water available. You will need to bring your own water container. Similarly, the bin by the old shed has gone & so you are kindly asked to take any old flowers/plastic wrappers home with you for disposal. Your help is much appreciated in keeping our churchyard neat & tidy.

The Phase 2 building works began in St Helen's Church on October 12th & the first two weeks saw removal of all the pews from the nave, flooring lifted & wooden joists removed either side of the aisle. We were able to accept donations for some of the pews that were successfully collected & for sawn timber flooring which a good number



of residents gave small donations for to use in their log burners. A big thank you to Paul Johnson who took most of the old water pipes from under the flooring to the scrap yard, raising an extra £153-30 for the chair fund. He also delivered a good number of the sawn timber builder's bags to several older residents who would have struggled to transport a bag back to their homes without his help. The remainder of the pews or part pews were collected by the talented wood workers from the Men in Sheds at Collingham, who are making artefacts for us eg. small tea light holders, bowls etc for anyone who would like a memento from church. If you haven't already contacted Anna Dennison (annardennison@aol.com) to place an order please do so. Some items will be ready for Christmas but more will be available into the new year. All monies raised from the sale of these artefacts will go towards the purchase of new chairs for the church. By the time you read this we hope the underfloor pipework for the air source heat pumps will be installed & the limecrete floor will have dried sufficiently to install the new flooring. It is a big project & it is great to see the progress being made.

UNIQUE THORNEY GREETING CARDS

Following a big clear out in church in readiness for the building work to commence, all the old Village Hall records were discovered. These are proving to be a wonderful record of our recent village history & many of you who lived in the Thorney during the 1980's to 2001 when the hall closed, will remember all the events that were put on at that time including the annual pantomime, dances, youth & toddler group to name just a few & which served our community so well. We are hoping to recapture some of that enthusiasm when the church is able to reopen again providing a much longed for warm comfortable space for hire & regular events for community use. Back in the early 1980's one of our residents John Chapman produced pen & ink drawings of five buildings of significance in the village. His pictures were turned into a tea towel to raise funds for the Village Hall. Well, nothing much changes & once his original drawings were discovered, John has kindly given his permission for us to use his pictures to create a set of greeting cards, blank inside for your own special message. A pack of A5 size cards, one of each design costs £11 including envelopes. If you prefer to have 5 cards of the same design or a mix up of cards of your choice, the cost will also be £11 for five cards. Cards can also be bought singly for £2.50 each. To order, please contact Clare Welfare (email: cwelfare@polkerris.plus.com or WhatsApp/text: 07957-997-334.) Thorney residents watch out for an order form through your letterbox. Payment by bank transfer can be arranged on request. All funds raised will go to the Community Hub project & we are grateful of your support- thank you

THE COMMUNITY HARVEST FESTIVAL...

...was a big success on Oct 5th. Our procession up to church following Tim Ryan's tractor up West Rd & Main Street was enhanced by a singalong of harvest songs led by Martin Cooper's accompaniment on the guitar. A thoughtful short reflection in church led by church warden Anna, about "sharing what we have" was understood by the children & appreciated by the adults as well. A tasty harvest tea was then enjoyed by everyone & the Harvest Hamper raffle was won by Simon & Jill Hardy along with several other prizes. With donations for refreshments, a total of £212 was raised for church funds. Thank you everyone who also generously donated tinned/packet food & simple toiletries to the Collingham Food Pantry & thanks to everyone who helped in any way. It was good to see so many people supporting this event.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY November 9th

With no access to church we held our breath & thankfully managed to hold our Service on the roadside between the church gates & the Play Park with no rain. The scene had been set with a beautiful display on our Play Park fence of around 400 knitted or crocheted poppies that had been produced by our own Knit & Natter group over the last couple of months. Thanks to Dawn Collins for guiding our efforts & also teaching several of us to crochet so we could contribute to the display. Church warden Anna led the Service including all



the traditional elements we know & love. The Thorney Singers contributed a moving performance of the song made famous by the Military Wives Choir entitled "We will remember them" & thanks go to several of our ex-service personnel for their contributions to the Service which made the occasion very special for everyone. It was a great turnout so thank you to everyone who showed your respect by attending.

"MINGLE & JINGLE" COMMUNITY EVENT on Wednesday, December 17th - from 5pm-7.15pm

We are disappointed that we have had to cancel our Carols by Candlelight Service in church this year as the building work will not be completed in time. Instead join us for a one off festive & magical event in the Play Park which will be all a-glow with hundreds of fairy lights! Join the torch lit procession from 5.30pm from Edgeways, West Rd or if you prefer just meet us in the park from 5.00pm onwards. Last chance to post your letter to Santa in our Christmas post box too! There will be singing of favourite Christmas songs & carols helped along by the Thorney Singers, whilst you can enjoy some warming homemade festive tasty treats & refreshments. The event will end with the Christmas 100 Club Draw at 7.15pm. Save the date, see you there & don't forget to dress sparkly & festive! Everyone invited from nearby villages to join us – A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU.

All profits from the community events will go to the Thorney Community Hub at St Helen's. Thorney Residents watch out for flyers for updates about events. Check out our Facebook Group by searching for: **Thorney Village at Thorney Notts.**



Harby Pavilion & Playing Fields – Community News

The Harby Pavilion Committee would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you to everyone who attended our recent fashion show**. Your support helped us raise **over £346**, and we hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did. Events like these make a real difference to the upkeep of this much used facility.

Our **next community event will be a New Year's Eve Party**, and we'd be delighted to see as many of you there as possible. Keep an eye on our **Facebook page** and the **posters around the village** for full details as they are released.

We will also be holding our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tues 16th Dec. at 7.00pm, in the Pavilion**. It would be wonderful to welcome a strong turnout. The Pavilion and Playing Fields are a **valuable and well-used community asset**, and we are always grateful for extra hands and new ideas. Please come along, hear what we've been doing and see how you might be able to help us keep everything running smoothly.

Looking ahead to spring, both **Soccer Tots** and our popular **car boot sales** will be returning. The first car boot of the season will once again run **alongside a farmers' market**, so keep watching for further announcements.

Finally, the committee would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the village a **very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**. Thank you for your continued support

Paul Nolan, Chairman

Harby History Group

– Louise Herrick 07415 137348 - email: harbyhistory@outlook.com

In September, guest speaker Richard Pullen gave a talk about ‘Lawrence of Lincolnshire’ the enigmatic T E Lawrence (of Arabia) and his Lincolnshire connections. Thomas Edward Lawrence was born in 1888, one of five brothers, read History at Oxford University and worked as an archaeologist in Egypt 1913-14, albeit a cover for a spying mission observing the Turkish army building the Hejaz Railway. In August 1914, Lawrence joined the army working in a map office in Cairo, but after two of his brothers were killed in France in 1917, determined to fight the enemy and champion the Arab cause. After meeting Prince Faisal of Mecca, the ‘Arab Irregulars’ were formed and ambushed numerous supply trains on the Hejaz Railway. His white silk robes depicted in the 1961 film were a gift from Prince Faisal and had been his wedding robes. After the war, Lawrence shunned fame, adopted the pseudonym of John Hume Ross and enlisted in the RAF as an Aircraftsman. In 1922 he wrote his most famous work ‘The Seven Pillars of Wisdom’ whilst stationed at RAF Cranwell and revenue from the book funded the purchase of the first of eight Brough Superior SS 100 motorcycles. An exposé by the Daily Express in 1923 revealed the true identity of Aircraftsman 352087 Ross, and Lawrence left the RAF to join the Tank Corps under another pseudonym of T E Shaw. Whilst stationed at Bovington in Dorset, he helped found the RAF Marine Craft Section, fast launches used to rescue aircrews downed in the Channel, before leaving the RAF in 1935. Just two months later Lawrence was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident near his home in Dorset and died on 19th May 1935. The inquest heard conflicting evidence and conspiracy theories circulated speculating that he had been assassinated. Winston Churchill and Henry Williamson were two of the pall bearers at his funeral before burial in Wareham, Dorset. (Thanks to Richard Croft for this report.)

In October, guest speaker, Colin Shields, gave a presentation on historic graffiti at Lincoln Cathedral. It is only guesswork why some were there, but generally they are accepted as a thank you to God or a prayer to help someone or a mark to show a pilgrimage. A lot of these would have taken a great deal of time to carve into the stone or woodwork so it probably wasn’t considered as vandalism like it would today. The first marks we saw were taper marks in the woodwork. These were scorch marks to make sure that the cathedral wouldn’t catch fire and burn down as “lightening doesn’t strike twice”. The most common marks were crosses and a stylised W which was actually 2 Vs intertwined to represent the virgin Mary. Colin had brought an example to show us which had been made by stonemason, Rachael Wragg, who was our guest speaker back in October 2023. He showed us the best way to view carved graffiti with a torch. There was a carving with the name of a clergyman who had been based there. His name has been found carved into various churches in the country, each being a place where he had worked. Pentagrams were popular as it was thought that evil spirits would find them interesting and be attracted to them. They would then be captured in the middle of these 5-pointed stars and not be able to harm anyone. The Cathedral has a lot of graffiti of ships, probably to wish a safe journey to someone, and also footprint graffiti, most likely to mark a pilgrimage to Lincoln. There were 2 faces that Colin showed us. One was of a woman wearing the pointed hat with a veil that was popular for a short time in England. The other, of a man, is affectionately known as “Bishop Big Nose” by the cathedral staff. With a musical score etching, Colin played us a recording of the notes so we could hear what had been marked on the wall.

Meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month in the village hall lounge and unless specified start at 7:30pm. £2 entry. Everyone is welcome. Please phone or email me if you want more information or even just a bit of encouragement to attend. New members welcome on a regular or casual basis.

HARBY HISTORY GROUP CALENDAR FOR 2026	
28 January – Fighting for Football - Women v. Misogyny. <i>Returning guest speaker Elaine Johnson.</i>	24 June – History Walk of Boultham Park. <i>Trip. 6.30pm start. £4 per person. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.</i>
25 February – King Arthur. <i>Returning guest speaker Erik Grigg.</i>	30 September – Rhyme and Reason 3. <i>Returning guest speaker Sam Millard.</i>
25 March – Richard III or Mary Magdalen. <i>Topic TBC. Member speaker Harold Paine.</i>	28 October – International Bomber Command Centre. <i>Guest speaker Dave Gilbert.</i>
29 April – The Development of the English Knight. <i>Returning guest speaker Nigel Amos.</i>	25 November – RAF Ground Personnel. <i>Returning guest speaker Dan Ellin.</i>
27 May – Holme Church. <i>Trip. Guided by Nigel Priestley of Collingham History Society. 7pm start. Cash donations to the church.</i>	

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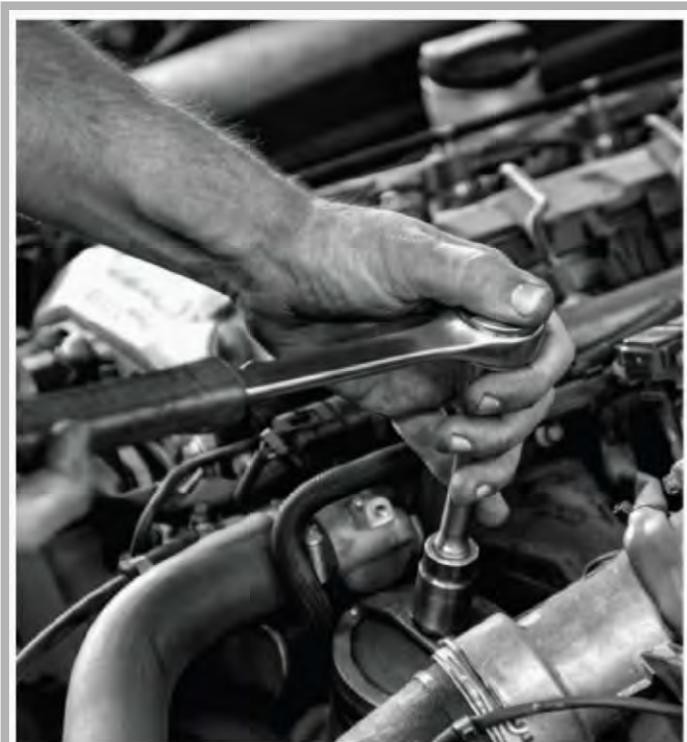
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WIGSLEY, HARBY & THORNEY GOING GREEN

A big thank you to all of you who took part in the **Great Autumn Community Clear Up on Sunday October 12th**. We were delighted to be able to share out the litter picking kit between our three villages that we now own. You may recall we were lucky enough to get a grant from N&SDC & with a top up from our own funds we managed to buy 8 hoops plus 8 litter pickers for each of our three villages. This means working in pairs is much easier! It also means



one of us doesn't have to go down to Newark to collect the kit from N&SDC on the Friday before the event & then return it on the Monday afterwards which is a big plus. It was good to see our friends in Wigsley taking part again & special thanks to Lynda Burton who coordinated distribution & collection of the kit on the day. The three sets of kit are now held by Lynda Burton for Wigsley, Jayne Rose for Harby & Clare Welfare for Thorney. Dates for the Spring & Autumn Community Clear Ups will be agreed for 2026 so watch this space.



Find us on
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UPDATE FROM THE AGM ON NOV 11TH
We went ahead with the AGM despite only five people being able to attend. It was good to reflect on our activities this year, some of which were better supported than others. The Walk with Herbalist, Hannah Sylvester around Harby at 6pm in June was a particular highlight. Similarly, the "Swop/Repurpose old fabric & wool" session in an evening last February was great fun- who will ever forget how to make a bag out of an old T-shirt. Sally's amazing cat basket made entirely from old socks has achieved legendary status in several villages! The overall view of those present was we liked the format of an annual programme of events. An annual trip out somewhere local, some practical sessions as well as our biannual litter picks seems the way forward. If you have ideas or suggestions for future activities you'd be interested in, can you let our Secretary Jayne Rose know by emailing her on: jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk . Similarly, if you'd like to be added to the WH&T Going Green mailing list please contact Jayne with your email address & that way you can be kept up to date with all our plans & activities for 2026

CAN YOU HELP US?
This year has been a bit of a struggle as three out of six of our regular group members have all been coping with long term medical issues which has understandably restricted the amount of time they have been able to commit to the group. Our motivation to continue promoting a greener lifestyle remains strong & small changes in our habits really can make a positive difference. Not everyone will be interested in every event or trip we organise but we really do value your input. Up until now our group usually meets maybe three times a year of an evening for about an hour to discuss & plan activities. We did this to give full time workers the chance to join in. As this hasn't really happened, we are considering meeting on a weekday or weekend instead. Any feedback on this suggestion would be much appreciated to: jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk

A BIT MORE ABOUT THE WH&T GOING GREEN GROUP
We are a collaboration between residents of Wigsley, Harby & Thorney. The group formed to increase awareness of & promote green issues & encourage our joint community to engage in green projects & discussion leading to a greener lifestyle. We are an inclusive group who would welcome your participation. Keep an eye on the village Facebook groups/ pages & your Community Noticeboard for update information. For more information click on the QR code to go straight to our website.



www.whtgoinggreen.org



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Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER 2025

- Sun. 7th – All Saints Church Harby, Holy Communion 10am
Wed. 10th – **Mobile Library: Harby** Station Road 9.50-10.00, Queen Eleanor Primary School 10.00-10.40, Millfield Close 10.45-11.00. **Wigsley** – Post Box 11.05-11.15.
Thorney - Church 11.15-12.45
Tue. 16th – Playing Fields AGM 7.00pm at the Pavilion
Wed. 17th – Thorney Mingle & Jingle, Play Park 5pm
Thur. 18th – Harby Parish Council Meeting, Harby Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sun. 21st – Thorney Play Park, Morning Worship 10.30am
– All Saints Church Harby, Carol Service 3pm
Wed. 31st – New Years Eve Party, Harby Village Hall 7pm – 1am

JANUARY 2026

- Sun. 4th – Thorney Play Park, Christingle Service 3pm
Wed. 7th – **Mobile Library: Harby** Station Road 9.50-10.00, Queen Eleanor Primary School 10.00-10.40, Millfield Close 10.45-11.00. **Wigsley** – Post Box 11.05-11.15.
Thorney - Church 11.15-12.45
Sun. 18th – Thorney Play Park, Morning Worship 10.30am
Wed. 28th – Harby History Group, Harby Village Hall Lounge 7.30pm

Harby Art Group, Harby Village Hall, every Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm

Table Tennis, Harby Village Hall, most Thursdays 6.30pm-8.30pm

Please contact Jayne Rose if you would like your future events to be included
Tel. 07976 732234 or e-mail: jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk



TH&W Voluntary Car Scheme

FESTIVE GREETINGS TO YOU!

From Dec 20th 2025 to January 5th 2026 inclusive the Car Scheme will be closed.

This is to give our voluntary drivers time to enjoy the festive season with their families & friends. Bookings for January 5th & beyond may be made during this time by leaving a message for the Co-ordinator on 07717-17-88-00 after which normal service resumes. Thank you for your support of the Car Scheme this year & if we don't see you before Christmas, we hope to see you in the new year!

..... and a NEW YEAR RESOLUTION PERHAPS.....

The Car Scheme currently completes about 200 local trips each year for residents of Thorney, Harby & Wigsley. The area we cover is to Lincoln, Newark & up to Gainsborough. To maintain the level of service being requested we need to recruit more drivers especially from Thorney & Wigsley. Our service is offered from 8am up to 10pm daily so if you could just offer a small amount of time for daytime driving or evenings/weekends it would be a big help. It's easy to become a volunteer if you enjoy driving. You will be expected to use your own car & will receive a rate of 45p per mile which a passenger will pay you on completion of a trip. The amount of work is not onerous but if you are asked to drive & it's not convenient you simply say no if you're not free that day! Potential volunteers need a clean driving license (but 3 points may be acceptable) plus a roadworthy car comprehensively insured with at least 2 years qualified driving experience. It is important you speak to your car insurer to tell them you will be driving for a Voluntary "not for profit" Car Scheme & this will be noted on your policy at no extra cost to you. So being a volunteer will cost you nothing other than your time plus it gives a lot of personal satisfaction as well as getting to know more people in your local community, so please consider giving it a try.

For more details contact TH&W Coordinator Clare on 07717-17-88-00 or email: thwvcs@gmail.com

Harby Village Hall



If you would like to hold an event for your group, have a family celebration or would like to book a small room for a meeting, please contact our Booking Clerk **Jayne Rose** on **07976 732234** or jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk

Hiring Charges per hour: Hall only – £11, Lounge only – £5.50, Whole building – £16.50, Preparation time – £5.

There may be an additional charge for events at which alcohol will be consumed.

Our regular groups:

Art Group - Wednesday 1pm – 3pm

History Group - last Wednesday of most months 7.30pm

Table Tennis – Thursday 6.30pm – 8.30pm

The **Post Office** operates on Monday & Thursday afternoons 1pm – 3pm

Village Clubs & Organisations Contact List

HARBY

Parish Council	Yvonne Colverson	01522 275211
Playing Field	Paul Nolan	01522 703463
Village Hall	Jayne Rose	07976 732234
Queen Eleanor School	Mrs S Wright	01522 703428
Newsletter	Jayne Rose	07976 732234
Bellringers	Jayne Rose	07976 732234
History Group	Louise Herrick	07415 137348
Heating Oil Syndicate	David Rose	01522 703510

C of E East Trent Admin	Christine Hasman	01636 679105
T H & W Car Scheme	Clare Welfare	07717 178800
Nottinghamshire Police	PC Gareth Nicholls	07525 226394
	Non-Emergencies	101
HARBY CLP	Jayne Rose	07976 732234

WIGSLEY

wigsleyparishcouncil@gmail.com

THORNEY

CLP	Anna Dennison	702748
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Happy 90th Birthday George

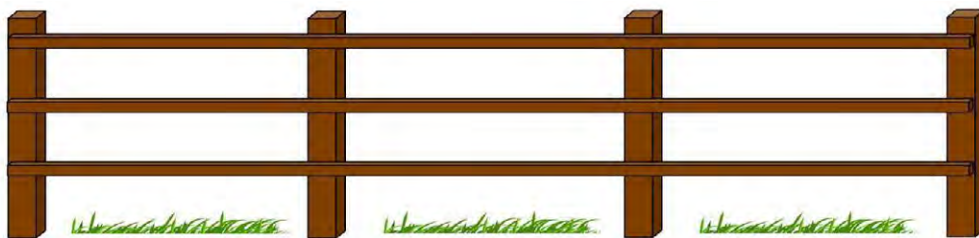


George wishes to express his appreciation to everybody that's wished him happy birthday, and to his many visitors who made his 90th very special.

Carole and Ray would also like to mention Ellie's Cakes and Bakes for the wonderful cupcakes.



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