

# Orston Bulletin

February 2024



## Making Our Roads Safer Petition An Update

As mentioned in the January Bulletin our liaison contact at County Hall wrote to the NCC Head of Highways asking for a site visit. This took place on Wednesday 3rd January. Those present were Via East Midlands representatives Laura Trusler, Senior District Manager (Rushcliffe) and Jim Freeman, Orston Parish Councillors Gerry McMahon, Angela Probert and Harry Batchford, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Bob Clarke and Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan.

Each of the locations highlighted in the petition were visited and the rationale behind our concerns discussed together with our suggested actions to improve safety at these approaches and junctions. It was felt that the meeting was very positive but of course this can only be judged on the eventual outcomes.

Since the petition was presented you may have noticed that some new signage has already been actioned. This is on the approach to Smite Bridge and also on both sides of the station bridge.

Via East Midlands has promised to respond in full to the Orston Parish Council before the PC meeting at the end of January after the submission of its report to Nottinghamshire County Council (too late for this bulletin edition). NCC has until 22 February to provide a response which will be formally published on the NCC website. This will include whether the Council intend to take formal steps to alleviate the issues we have raised.

Full details of actions resulting from the petition will be included in the next Bulletin.

## Regular Activities

### Every Tuesday

Core Strength Pilates, 5:15 and 6:30pm – Village Hall

Orston Badminton Club, 8:00pm – Village Hall

### Every Other Tuesday

Orston Walkers, 9:30am – Village Hall Car Park

### Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

Orston & Thoroton WI, 7:30pm – Village Hall

### Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Orston Garden Club, 7:30pm – Village Hall

### Every Last Wednesday

Parish Council Meeting, 7:00pm, Village Hall

### Every Thursday

Core Strength Pilates, 9:30am – Village Hall

Orston Village Choir, 7:00pm – Thomas Cranmer Centre. Aslockton (Term time only)

Bridge, 7:30pm - Durham Ox, phone Patrick 07979075741

### Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday

Coffee Morning, 10:00am – Village Hall

### Every Last Sunday

Quiz Night, 7:00pm - Durham Ox

## Orston Garden Club

The first meeting of 2024 was held on what had been a bitterly cold day and even colder evening so it was rather apt that we listened to Jeanette Merilion talking about “Brightening up the Shade”. The suggestions made varied from shade created by large trees to small shady patches in the garden and everything in between.

It was lovely to see so many members and visitors on such a cold evening. We were also given a list of all the plants she mentioned so our ageing memories could refer back!

We are doing something a little different this month. On February 21st at 7.30pm we are hosting a Quiz

Evening on all things garden related. Thanks to Sarah Algar for putting it together.

Everyone is welcome to join us and test their gardening knowledge. Teams of 4-6 or just come along and join in, meet new friends and have a catch up with old.

Tea and cake will be provided.

Happy Gardening  
Anne Hounslow  
07968779696



A fun, warm and friendly place for all under 5s and their grown-ups

# Tot Spot

Spring Term 2024  
Every 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday at 10am  
Thomas Cranmer Centre, Aslockton  
4th and 18th January  
1st and 29th Feb  
7th and 21st March  
Only £1

families@cranmergroup.org.uk - Or find us on Facebook - Aslockton Tot Spot

For inclusion in the March edition please email John Hart at [bulletin@orstonparish.co.uk](mailto:bulletin@orstonparish.co.uk) by Friday 23th February

# Orston Walkers

**Tuesday 6th February**  
**Bunny & Gotham**

This is a circular walk with magnificent views over South Notts countryside, following nice wide tracks.

No hills, no stiles. Starts and finishes at The Church of St Mary the Virgin in Bunny (known locally as The Cathedral of the Wolds).

Distance roughly 6 miles. Will take about 3 hours, depending on the number of coffee stops! Good food at The Rancliffe Arms, Bunny for those able to stay on for refreshments after the walk. Meet as usual in Orston Village Hall Car Park for 09:30 start.

**Tuesday 20th February**

Details of the route to be confirmed.

As with any walks at this time of year, arrangements are subject to change depending on what the weather is like.

Please contact Pauline for latest details on any walk or to be added to our email circulation list (paulinefaz@live.com or 07811 001197)



## ORSTON & THOROTON W.I.

**WEDNESDAY 7 February 2024**

7.30pm, meet at  
THE VILLAGE HALL, ORSTON

Open Meeting (All members, friends and visitors welcome)

**Chris Thompson**  
**'For the love of walking'**  
(Notts guided walks and the Robin Hood Way)



Visitors - £5 (incl raffle and refreshments)  
Further details: Anne Johnson 07419 336 940



## Orston Millennium Green News



### SAVE THE DATES!

Our fabulous **Easter Eggstravaganza** will take place on the Green on Easter Sunday 31st March (times and details to follow) – there will be games, activities and races for the children and bacon baps and hot drinks for all!

**Roll on the Summer** Our annual village Summer Fun Weekend (with camping) will be held on the Friday and Saturday 19th and 20th July on the Green – double the fun this year to make up for last year and the howling wind and rain!!

**A**t the January meeting the Trustees discussed, amongst other things, the issue of the 'gappy' hedge along Smite Lane. Hedges are so important to wildlife for shelter, nesting and food - hawthorn alone supports around 149 different species of invertebrates! The hedge has become old and leggy with large gaps at the base. The trustees have attempted to fill the gaps with new 'whips' kindly donated by The Woodland Trust. The success rate wasn't great as there is so much competition for light and water from the existing plants. Plus dogs, deer and other wildlife will use the gaps and potentially damage the young plants. Our preferred solution would be to 'lay' the hedge.

Laying a hedge involves cutting back all side-shoots and then 'pleaching' the main trunk so that it is held on by little more than its bark. The trunk is then laid down and woven into hazel stakes to create an impenetrable barrier. This laying encourages strong, fresh new growth which will be much healthier and will flower and fruit much more prolifically. This 'stockproof' barrier will also deter excited escape-artist dogs from wandering onto Smite Lane.

The process is exciting, time consuming and quite expensive - it will need professional guidance. We will be seeking funding from Rushcliffe Borough Council's Biodiversity Grant and fund-raising at events. We are currently investigating providers, so watch this space!

### SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MILLENNIUM GREEN

The Trustees receive invaluable support from people in the village, including the wonderful Grafters, but would always welcome more!

Three things you might like to think about:

- Helping maintain and improve the Green by coming along to one of our regular hands-on maintenance sessions. Next one: Sunday 4th February, 10am - 12 noon. No experience necessary, good exercise and good company. All tools and guidance provided. Contact Steve for more information (07779 029961)
- Joining the Friends of the Millennium Green and helping us to maintain and improve this valuable green space by making a regular monthly or annual donation to the Green. Details from any of the Trustees, or forms from our Treasurer Pauline (email paulinefaz@live.com)
- Becoming a Trustee and helping ensure the Green continues to provide a well-maintained space for the enjoyment of the whole village and makes a positive contribution to the local environment. Please speak to any Trustee if interested.

Trustees: Fiona Gullis, Paul Brandon, Pauline Fazackerley, Steve Grace, Andrew and Anne Hounslow

# St. Mary's Church News

## Church Services

### Sunday 4th February

9am Holy Communion, **Whatton**  
10:30 bacon cobs and coffee for 11am  
Café Church Service, **Aslockton**

### Sunday 11th February

9am Holy Communion, **Thoroton**  
11:00 Family Service and Cranmer  
Kids, **Aslockton**

### Sunday 18th February

9am Holy Communion, **Orston (VH)**  
11:00 Family Service and Cranmer  
Kids, **Aslockton**

### Sunday 25th February

9am Holy Communion, **Hawksworth**  
11:00 Family Service and Cranmer  
Kids, **Aslockton**

### Sunday 3rd March

9am Holy Communion, **Whatton**  
10:30 bacon cobs and coffee for 11am  
Café Church, **Aslockton**

## Food Hub

We continue to collect food and household items for the members of our community who need the Cranmer Food hub.

Items we're especially short of are:  
*Tinned sweetcorn, tinned potatoes, tinned carrots, corned beef, jam, biscuits & snacks, sugar, instant coffee, cooking sauces, washing up liquid, laundry products, household cleaning products, shampoo & conditioner, shower gel, clingfilm & foil*

Please leave donations in the church porch, or contact Jules on 07846 902453

We also accept financial donations by paying money into 'Parochial St Thomas Aslockton Projects Account', sort code 60-02-41 account no. 69236240, adding the reference 'food hub' to your gift.

Thank you so much for your continuing generosity, we're very grateful.

## Contact Us

General Enquiries:  
**support@cranmergroup.org.uk** or  
07526 603766

Rev Tim Chambers: 01949 850523 or  
**vicar@cranmergroup.org.uk**

Children and Families:  
**families@cranmergroup.org.uk** or  
01949 850523

For other information:  
**www.cranmergroup.org.uk**

## Pastoral Care

If there's anything that you would like to talk about with someone from the church, please feel free to contact Julian - 07846 902453 or 01949 851598 or Jean Smeeton 01949 850906.

## Orston Sustainability Hub

### What happens to plastic packaging?

**THE BIG  
PLASTIC  
COUNT  
11-17 MARCH**

We have mentioned plastics in previous Bulletins, but one initiative we have not yet featured is coming up in March: **The Big Plastic Count** (<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>).

To quote their website: *"For one week in March, thousands of schools, households, community groups and businesses will be coming together to count their plastic waste. And we want you to join them"*.

In 2022, nearly a quarter of a million people took part, which revealed that **almost two billion pieces of plastic packaging were being thrown away each week**.

### There are three stages to the Count:

1. **REGISTER** (to receive a free pack, by post/digitally)
2. **GET COUNTING** (keep track of how much plastic you throw away from 11-17 March and log it on their website)
3. **KNOW YOUR PLASTIC** (more info about what this all means and what next).

Schools can also download a special Teacher's pack, with extra resources (see website).

### Recycling plastic: Reminder

It's sadly not straightforward, and many of us are guilty of "Wish-

cycling" (<https://www.coop.co.uk/blog/the-problem-with-wish-cycling-and-how-to-avoid-it>). If in doubt, a good source of info is: <https://www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item>.

- In Rushcliffe, cleaned plastic bottles (such as shampoo, cleaning fluids and drinks), yoghurt pots and margarine tubs can go in the blue bin. (NB the Rushcliffe website does not, however, provide 100% clear guidance on some types of plastic.)
- Tetra Paks need to be taken to a Council Recycling Centre, plus some supermarket car parks have collection bins (e.g. Lidl in Bingham and Waitrose in Newark).
- Flexible/soft plastic, such as cleaned food packaging, plastic bags, film etc. can increasingly be dropped off inside many supermarkets (e.g. the Coop in Bingham/Bottesford, Lidl, Marks & Spencer, Morrisons, and Sainsbury's in Grantham or Melton Mowbray).
- Plastic medicine blister packs can be recycled at Superdrug stores (but only where there's a pharmacy on site, e.g. in Grantham).

### Want to know more?

Check out our **NEW Orston Sustainability Instagram** account: <https://www.instagram.com/orstonsustainability>  
Join the conversation on the **Orston Sustainability Hub Facebook** group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/orstonsustainabilityhub>. Or contact Fiona Winfield or Julian Humpheson.



# Neighbourhood Watch

## The "Hi Mum" scam

A widespread messaging scam is targeting parents via WhatsApp and text messages. Scammers are pretending to be children in need of financial help. An Orston resident has reported that both he and his wife received this scam on WhatsApp. A friend of mine nearly fell for this scam last month. Again this was via WhatsApp.

### What Is "The 'Hi Mum' Scam"?

- Potential victims are contacted by a scammer posing as a family member or a friend. This is usually done via a messaging service like WhatsApp.
- The scammer will claim that they have lost or damaged their phone (this explains why they're contacting from a different number).
- After a few messages have been exchanged in order to build a rapport, the scammer will ask for personal information. This is usually for money to *urgently* help pay a bill, a contractor or to replace their phone.
- These requests continue the ruse of a lost or broken phone, with the justification that the funds are needed because they can't access their online banking temporarily.

### How do they access your account?

The 'end game' for the scammers is what is called an "authorised push payment (APP) scam" (also known as a bank transfer scam). It occurs when you, knowingly or unwittingly, transfer money from your own bank account to one belonging to a scammer. For example, a scammer pretends to be your child saying that they need money for a new phone, car repair or emergency bill.

A child telling you they've lost or broken their phone and are in need of financial support is understandably a situation where parents might react without a second thought. The fraudsters will ask you for money by pointing out an imaginary difficult financial situation they're in and playing on the close relationship you have to the person they're impersonating.

The bank details they give will probably not match those of your loved one and it's likely the scammer will tell you

it's because they can't access their bank account.

### What does the scam look like?

There are many variations but the one sent to the Orston residents is a typical example –

"Let me know if you get this x  
Hi Mum, my phone's broken. Texting from my work phone, but it's on 0% battery. Message me on my new number 0746 3086 299 urgent x"

Another example:

'Hi mum I'm texting you off a friends phone I've smashed mine and their phones about to die, can you WhatsApp my new number please, 07593295452'

### What to do

- The scammer will deliberately emphasise the urgency of the situation so *don't panic* and don't rush to respond. Stop and think
- Ask for some kind of verification. If they can't prove who they are then don't respond
- Call your son, daughter or friend who is apparently messaging. They'll probably answer their phone on the usual number and confirm it's a scam.

### Reporting scam text/WhatsApp messages

- If you receive a suspicious text message you can report it by forwarding it to 7726 before blocking the number.
- If you're concerned you've given money to a possible scam, contact your bank straight away and report the scam to Action Fraud.
- You can report scam messages on WhatsApp by opening up the WhatsApp chat with the unknown number and selecting Block and Report.

Reporting fraud is vitally important to help stop criminals, and to prevent others from falling victim.

Email [bobc488@gmail.com](mailto:bobc488@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the NHW Contact Group

## Orston Golf Society News

**W**e have some exciting events planned for 2024.

On Thursday 21st March we are holding a Social Dinner at the Durham Ox to present the prize to Bob Clarke, the Champion of Orston Durham Ox Knockout 2023, and to enjoy the company of neighbours. If you would like to come, please let Tony Benton 851011 or myself know.

The Knockout for 2024 will be drawn at the end of March and so we are calling for anyone interested to let Foz (Andrew Foster) know on 07725 829834 asap. The only requirement is that you live or have lived in Orston. Foz has kindly agreed to organise the event this year.

Finally our Spring Open will be played at the Nottinghamshire on Friday

March 29th. Its always a brilliant day with stiff competition and fabulous prizes. All abilities are welcome – so please let me know if you would like to play.

Patrick Newton  
07979 075741

