



# Fernwood

## fanfare

<http://www.fernwoodra.com>

News and Events brought to you by Fernwood Parish Council and Fernwood Residents' Association

Spring 2014

Welcome to the Spring edition of Fernwood Fanfare.

As I put the news and articles together for this new issue it really feels as though spring is here at last, and 'not before time' will be the cry all over the country. We do have our share of floods, but, in the East Midlands, we have been quite fortunate this winter, compared with other parts of the country. I hope the sunshine and flowers will continue for a long time.

I can't quite believe that three months have passed since the last issue when I was wishing you all a happy Christmas! Now we are into Lent, we've had Pancake Day, Mothering Sunday is round the corner, and Easter will be upon us in no time.

Your Fanfare is full of news yet again - in fact some things have had to be omitted because we ran out of space!

You will see that the Family Focus is back and we thank the Crossland family for sharing a little bit of themselves. There is information from quite a lot of the village groups and a full page article from Cllr Jim Gould on the development of Greater Fernwood, which I recommend you read. When the next Open Meeting comes around make your thoughts and feelings known.

If you have any news or articles for the next Fanfare, please email me - at the new email address [meril.popple@gmail.com](mailto:meril.popple@gmail.com)

Merilynne Popple



Newstead Abbey in March



Swan enjoying the peace at Newstead



Rutland Water in March



Hodsock Priory in May



Spalding in March

  
**LANCASTER GRANGE**  
BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE

Come and join us for coffee and a chat

Every First Thursday of the month

**10.00 am to 12 noon**

With refreshments and entertainment this is a chance to relax with friends or make new ones in the welcoming surroundings of Lancaster Grange



Everyone Welcome!

Lancaster Grange Care Home  
Cross Lane, Fernwood, Newark NG24 3NH  
Tel: 01636 594300  
[www.barchester.com](http://www.barchester.com)

### Free Walk and Talk Group

#### Aims

To offer the residents of Fernwood, a fun way to take on the 10,000 step challenge.

To create an opportunity for local residents to meet each other, form friendships and exercise at the same time.

#### All welcome

*Aim is to walk 10,000 steps per session around the village*

*Meet on/near basketball court  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays  
5.45pm onwards  
All weathers*

No booking – just turn up  
Sorry, no dogs  
Start date - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
Walk leader – Deb Watts



## London Road LIVING

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**Deadline for  
Summer Issue  
Saturday 08 June**

Send copy to the Editor:  
[meril.popple@gmail.com](mailto:meril.popple@gmail.com)  
17 Cameron Lane

# Fernwood Tennis Club

## Photos from the Fernwood Panto



## Great deals to get into tennis this Spring/Summer!



Over the Winter we have continued with our 6-9 year old class with great success. Our Mini Red Team (Under 8s) have competed in the Nottinghamshire Indoor League and players have progressed brilliantly.

We are offering new sessions for you this Spring/Summer to get you or your child enjoying the tennis facilities in Fernwood and learning the techniques and tactics that will allow you to enjoy tennis even more.

**Wednesday:** Club Night (free for all members and supervised by our Coach, Chris McGill)

5-6pm: Junior Club Night (5yrs plus)  
6.15 -7.15pm: Adult Club Night

This starts Wednesday April the 2nd and Membership prices are: £12/Juniors and £18/Adults

**Sundays:** 'Step into Tennis' sessions - great deals to get you into tennis!

9-10am: 5-8 year-olds  
11.15am: 12.15pm: Adult Beginners/Improvers

**Step 1:** Starts Sunday 27th April: £5 for 4 group lessons

**Step 2:** Starts Sunday 1st June: £11 for 4 group lessons (half price)

**Step 3:** Starts Sunday 29th June: Full price programme for 4 group lessons (£21.60) but chance to buy a racket at cost price.

All our sessions are run by Chris McGill who is a Lawn Tennis Association Level 4 Coach with over 8 years experience working as a full-time Tennis Coach. All equipment can be provided and players just need to wear some trainers.

To book a place or to join the club please contact Angela on 07967 594129 or email her: [ange@ontheballcoaching.com](mailto:ange@ontheballcoaching.com)

We are looking forward to meeting new players this Spring/Summer and helping you develop your game. Make 2014 the year to learn a new or develop a new skill and get fit while meeting some new people.



## FADS (Fernwood Amateur Dramatic Society)

### A very successful Panto!

After a very successful Pantomime in January we are rehearsing a new Murder Mystery Play which we hope to put on in the Village Hall sometime during the summer.

We have also been asked to put it on at Coddington in aid of their Church Roof Fund and at the Bridge Centre, Newark, to help with their funds.

In August/September we hope to begin rehearsals for the next Panto which will be "Jack and the Beanstalk".

Watch this space for updates.

## Fernwood Petanque Club

2014 has started very well for the club. We have played three competitions so far in the Nottinghamshire Petanque Association Winter Doubles Competition - and what an achievement the players have made.

The second match was against Bluebell (Retford) in January. 'Fernwood A', consisting of Mike Phelan, Linda Edwards and Ray Dickinson. The team did extremely well winning three games to secure them a place in the final.

'Fernwood B', consisting of John Rollins, Josie Pikett and Ron Rawson, played some hard fought matches and finished fourth in the Plate competition.

February saw Fernwood hosting their first ever competition. 'Fernwood A', consisting of Denise Proctor, Elaine Dickinson and Madu

Mistri played four tough matches, being beaten in the play off for third place 13-12 by just one centimetre in the final end.

'Fernwood B', consisting of Ron Rawson, Josie Pikett and Ken Brown, qualified for the Plate competition. Fernwood are one point behind Nottingham who are hosting the next competition.

Everything went well on the day and we had some very good comments regarding the petanque terrain, village green, village hall facilities along with the new Fernwood pop-up tent which proved an asset on a windy day.

Anyone interested in joining us please contact Elaine on 01636 640350 or John on 01636 673736.

Elaine Dickinson

## Lottery Bid

Fernwood Residents Association has been successful in a lottery bid.

£9226 has been awarded from the **Big Lottery Fund** for the provision of Teenage Shelter and Outdoor Exercise Equipment in Fernwood Village.

There is to be a cheque presentation and opening ceremony for the equipment on Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 12-00pm to 2-00pm.

Cllr Dennis Jones, Chairman of Newark & Sherwood District will make the presentation and officially 'open' the equipment on behalf of the **Big Lottery Fund**.

Invitations have been extended to Cllr Sue Saddington, Notts County Council, Cllr Ivor Walker, Newark & Sherwood District Council, Mr Jonathan Astle, Operations Manager, North Division OM, Mr John Dillon Divisional Managing Director, North Midlands Division David Wilson Homes and Cllr Jim Weale, Chairman Fernwood Parish Council.

## Useful Contacts

Local Police: Tel 101  
Emergencies: Tel 999  
Fernwood Village Hall:  
Tel 613024

Doctors:  
Balderton Primary  
Care Centre: Tel 705826  
Newark Hospital: Tel 681681  
Newark & Sherwood  
District Council: Tel 650000  
Fernwood Parish Council:  
clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk

## Maintenance Issues

For any maintenance issues regarding charges, payments etc contact:  
John Jeys  
OM site office  
at the rear  
of 112 Goldstraw Lane

He is now linked to the main computer at OM and should be able to answer any of your questions.

OM Property Management:  
omfernwood@fsmail.net  
Mob: 07738 738910

**Fernwood Residents' Association:**  
www.fernwoodra.com  
Email: jrproctor@talktalk.net

## Hedgehog Update

I am pleased to report that the second of the two hedgehogs, rescued on Rubys Avenue is now making good progress after undergoing extensive treatment for mange and ring worm.

You may remember that the male hedgehog, Hercules, sadly died, but Nell is proving to be real fighter.

Unfortunately, the treatment given to Nell has resulted in her losing all her underside fur and some of her prickles as can be seen in the photographs. However, you can also see the difference in her size. Having initially weighed in at 195g she is now a whacking great 575g. Whilst this is large enough to allow her to hibernate, the loss of fur means that she must be kept awake until it grows back. For that reason she is now kept in an artificially warmed cage but the chances of a full recovery and Nell being returned back into the wild are good.

On a more sombre note, it is estimated that if the present rate of decline in the hedgehog population continues they may become extinct by 2025 which is quite alarming. Fancy living in a world with no more Mrs. Tiggywinkle. So please take care when driving at night... and should you find an injured or sick hedgehog, then please rescue it and contact either Mrs Janet Peto on 07940714830 or call the RSPCA.



## Nordic Walking Comes to Fernwood



Deb Watts, former P.E. Teacher and Deputy Head, is a British Nordic Walking Instructor bringing Nordic Walking to Newark and the surrounding areas.

Nordic walking is the revolutionary full body workout that you can do anywhere. You can work the upper body whilst walking by using specially designed Nordic Walking poles.



It burns 400 calories per hour  
Exercises 90% of your muscles  
Releases shoulder/neck muscle tension  
Reduces the impact on joints  
Requires less effort than normal walking  
Reduces risk of osteoporosis  
It's fun!

Interested?

for information on:

- Induction
- Beginner lessons: learning the 10 steps to Nordic
- Intermediate sessions – working on developing fitness levels
- Range of available walks

Contact Deb on:

07848197356  
debwatts100@hotmail.com

It's been a busy two months since the beginning of the year. Where to start is the question as all items are of equal importance.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

There have been cases of anti-social behaviour recently and I have been in talks with the agencies involved and the police and hopefully something will be sorted out shortly. With this in mind the police would like to hold a regular surgery in the village hall to help with these problems and address them before they become too serious in future.

### Hospital/ General Policing

I have put these together in order to save space. I am a member of the Newark Healthcare Consultative Group and have also recently been to a meeting with a member of the Notts. Police Commission. Neither meeting filled me with confidence - call me an old sceptic - but our problems

seem to be handled by outside agencies who have little knowledge of local concerns. Money seems to be going away from where it is most needed. Local hands-on seems to be the answer.

### Fernwood Development

The Parish Council attended a Development Meeting at the beginning of March where existing and new builds were discussed. On the existing build (the village) the Developers are still side-stepping issues of parking, speeding, ground maintenance charges and public transport. We were assured that Fernwood was not a remote community as it wasn't far to Balderton to catch a bus. This is the uncaring nature of the people we are dealing with.

The new build plans are moving ahead with unnerving speed. Their main problems are with entrance and exit to the new site and also the

amount of water/sewage which needs to be controlled.

With all these problems to be addressed, the Parish Council have decided to involve both Claypole and Balderton Parish Councils as they will be directly affected by the new development.

Your Parish Council and Residents' Association is working to get the best for all of us but we do need backing from residents to achieve this - it is very important that we express our views.

We also have a vacancy on the Parish Council which so far has not been filled. We need a full council in order to complete all the work we have to do. Please contact Emma our Parish Clerk if you are interested in taking this up.

## Development funding for Fernwood donated by David Wilson Homes

Thanks to a very generous donation from the developers, DWH/Barratts Homes, we are now in a position to continue to make some positive changes to Fernwood's infrastructure. We have just received our second amount of £5000.

If you have got any ideas for projects to improve and develop the Village make your application now. We are sure that you have wondered why a village of this size has not been built with certain facilities and/or planting schemes – so now is the time that you can contribute to change.

Residents or resident groups are invited to submit initial ideas for projects which will benefit the village as well as the group. Just let us know what you have in mind.

It is hoped that there will be many applications coming forward so the sooner you let us know the better.

The user group – Project Review Group – will review the merits of any projects submitted and prioritise those for immediate consideration.

It is aimed to make the application process as straightforward as possible so an attempt has been made to simplify any rules/conditions governing an award. However, they will include:

- The applicant shall give brief details of what the project is and how it will benefit the group and the development of the village and residents.

- A condition that any project is completed within one year.

- The validity of any application must be supported a bank account and/or Minutes from the group or supporting user group – thereby giving confidence that there is sufficient backing to both control the expenditure and delivery of any project.

- If a project fails or comes in under budget all excess money will be returned. Initial enquiries should be directed to the Chairman of the Project Review Group, John Proctor – final submissions by the end of April.

**John Proctor**

# Development of Greater Fernwood - Cllr Jim Gould

## **Periodically your Parish Council and Residents' Association**

call a meeting of all the principal stakeholders to the village - residents, County and District Councils, developers, maintenance team and other interested parties.

At the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, representatives from the Balderton and Claypole parish councils also attended.

The principal topic of the meeting was the proposed extension on Spring Lane and Hollowdyke Lane, referred to as Fernwood North. Our existing village is referred to as Fernwood Central. The following report summarises the discussion.

**Fernwood North** Concerns were raised about the access point to the new development of some 950+ dwellings which, to date, have not been fully addressed by either the developers or the local highways department.

**Road Access** The suggestion that the main access route via Goldstraw Lane has not been dismissed. Proposals to widen and improve Hollowdyke Lane as an alternative through-road require further investigation. Residents have already suggested that an alternative road should be laid leading from Claypole in the near vicinity of the B6326 (leading to the A1 and Grantham) and this is now a distinct possibility.

However, this would mean the developers would need to cooperate with another building group who would be commissioned to build what would be known as Fernwood South (an area roughly encompassing a line drawn between Hollowdyke lane facing north and the B6326 and as far as the Claypole borders).

## **Facilities for the new village**

We were surprised to learn that none are proposed, using the argument that the existing

facilities (village hall, shops, car parking, sports) must be fully utilised.

Plainly the developers are unaware that the village hall is already nearly fully booked on a daily basis, and the shops area and attendant parking have left little room for expansion.

The Parish Council receives numerous complaints about parking and speeding, as well as access to the village hall via Plum Way and Rubys Avenue – can you imagine what it would be like with the amount of traffic doubled?

**Maintenance** As far as the maintenance of the new village is concerned, no detailed consideration was available as to the level of charges to be made – we advised that some “lessons could be learned” based on the experiences of existing residents.

Serious reservations were expressed about the provision for disposing of excess water that the build programme would create. Already the Claypole area can be subjected to flooding and any additional displaced water would result in serious problems. Assurance was given that this has already been taken into consideration – but representatives from our parish councils were not completely convinced.

There will be a further review, to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, by which time we expect that our concerns regarding the proposed development will be fully addressed.

**Road adoption/parking and speeding** There had been an expectation that the main spinal road (Goldstraw Lane through to Dale Way) would have been fully adopted by the Highways Department last September but still residents are waiting for a satisfactory outcome. Apparently, a few minor works need to be completed before this takes

place and a revised timetable has been set for “a few months” – and that’s about the best promise that we could extract from both the developers and the Highways Dept. Even then a small section of the road system leading from Johnsons Rd through to Phoenix Lane would be excluded (because the property build off the related side roads are still under development). It was emphasised that road adoption was essential if anything was to be done about irresponsible speeding and parking. One bit of good news, however, was forthcoming inasmuch as more “20 is Plenty” signs could be installed, especially on the main spinal side roads.

**Public transportation** Due to budget constraints no commitment was forthcoming to at least have an effective service like our near neighbours in Balderton – this was considered completely unsatisfactory and will, in fact, be a key topic for the new transport manager to address.

## **Maintenance of the village and associated charges to residents**

The Parish Council have just received the detailed report from the independent firm of chartered surveyors that were commissioned to review how the village was maintained and the charges made for this service.

## **Highlights of the Report**

There was surprise that no working group has been formed between the developers DWH/ Barratts, the maintenance organisation OM and the residents via the Parish Council and Residents' Association. This excited no comment from the developers.

The overall appearance of the village was of a high standard – but the high incidence of dog fouling was mentioned.

The management fees (not including the general maintenance costs) were considered to be on the high side and efforts should be made to renegotiate whatever was levied. As far as incoming residents were concerned there was apparent unease at the fact that the developers appeared not to make the charges as transparent as possible.

The fact that not all residents had to pay the maintenance charges was considered to be unfair – but not through any fault of the residents who benefitted. It was determined that any legal redress would be too costly.

The claim that OM have an agreement with the developers to remain on site for at least 5 years post the completion of the existing build programme was considered unreasonable and could be challenged under the Unfair Contract Terms Act (1977) – and which the Parish Council would certainly seek to exercise in the near future (and probably via negotiation with OM).

**Council tax charges** When compared to other villages it appears that Fernwood residents are being levied much the same as anywhere else, but we have claimed that the attendant level of services provided are nowhere near the same as our near neighbours. Accordingly, a request was made at the meeting that our District Council should justify what is being levied – noticeably no commitment was made at the meeting but it is an issue that will be progressed as far as possible by your Parish Council.

**School build** It’s always good to finish on a positive note. Our school progresses from strength to strength – the build is going according to plan and it certainly looks as though the classes will be full for the foreseeable future – no doubt though this will feature as a separate editorial.

## Service Times at our local churches

### St Giles Balderton (Main St)

#### Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Communion  
(1st Sunday and Greater  
Festivals)
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist
- 6.00 pm Refresh (4th Sunday)
- 6.00 pm Evensong

#### Thursdays

- 9.45 am Holy Communion

*The First Sunday of each month will  
be a non-Eucharist Family Service.*

*On the first Thursday of the month  
the Holy Communion is dedicated to  
those serving in the armed forces.*

#### Holy Week and Easter Services

#### 14th, 15th, 16th April

- 7.00 pm Compline

#### Maundy Thursday 17th April

- 7.30 pm Holy Communion and  
Stripping of the Altar

#### Good Friday

- 10.00 am Hot Cross Bun Service
- 2.00 pm Devotions
- 7.30 pm Joint Service with  
Methodist Church

#### Easter Saturday

- 7.00 pm Service of Light

#### Easter Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist
- 6.00 pm Evensong

#### Sunday 4th May

- 6.00 pm Commemoration  
Service

### Balderton Methodist (Main St)

#### Sundays

- 10.30 am Morning Service

#### Mondays

- 9.30-11.30 am Coffee Morning

### Holy Trinity RC (Boundary Rd)

#### Mass times:

- 7.00 pm Saturday Vigil
- 10.00 am Sunday
- 6.00 pm Sunday

### Salvation Army (Lowfield Lane)

#### Sundays

- 10:30 am Morning Service
- 10.00 am Coffee & Biscuits served  
before the service

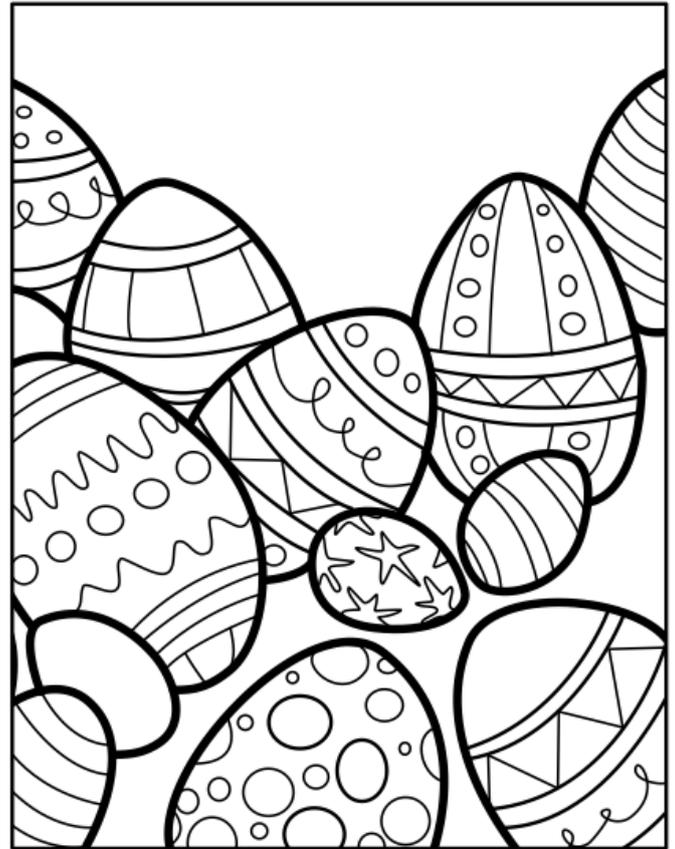
# Youth Centre

# Easter

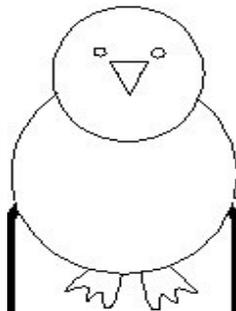
For you to colour - trace the picture or get an adult to photocopy on to card to make an Easter Card

Easter is an important Christian festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many different customs for celebrating Easter around the world, but the Friday before Easter Sunday (Good Friday) and the Monday after are given as a bank holiday in the UK.

Early celebrations included the painting of eggs, which represented Jesus' empty tomb. Now we give Easter eggs - often chocolate - to friends and family, and have Easter egg hunts for eggs hidden by the Easter bunny.

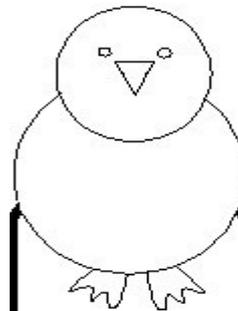


Trace or get an adult to photocopy to card and colour these little book marks  
To give them to your friends as an Easter gifts.



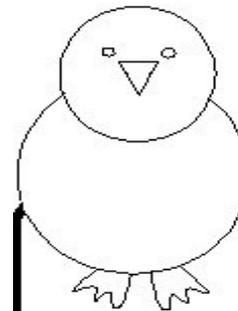
How many  
Easter eggs  
can you put  
in an empty  
basket?

*Only one—  
after that it's  
not empty  
anymore!*



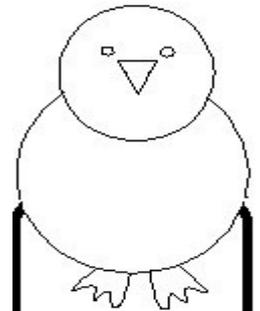
How does  
Easter end?

*With the letter  
R!*



How does  
the Easter  
Bunny stay  
fit?

*EGG-xercise  
and HARE-  
robics!*



Why did the  
Easter egg  
hide?

*He was a  
little chicken!*

## Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA) - John Proctor

### 'The grass is always greener elsewhere - or is it?'

We don't always appreciate where we live. Recently there was a competition staged at Fernwood which included players and spectators from Nottingham, Retford and Mansfield. The overwhelming response from the visitors was "what a wonderful place Fernwood is". They commented favourably on the facilities, the village hall, the well maintained grounds and the friendliness of the people from Fernwood. They said they were looking forward to returning to Fernwood in the summer when all the leaves were in full bloom to enjoy the overall effect of a vibrant and attractive village. These views were echoed by the Newark U3A members coming to the village for the first time.

Fernwood Village began with a football pitch, children's playground and tennis courts. Now since the Fernwood Residents Association were awarded two Big Lottery grants of over £9000 each there are 11 exercise machines and a teenage shelter within the village.

Numerous benches are set in various areas given by generous donations from, among others, County Councillor, Sue Saddington, and Ken Brown. Picnic tables with seats are on the Green and were very well used last summer.

A full set of shops comprising a Bistro, convenience store, hairdresser, Indian



a stone's throw away: plus a nursery and a school. An after-school club takes place five days a week in the village hall for our children.

The village hall moves from strength to strength with many varied activities including Zumba, Boccia, Yoga, Tae Kwon-do, Slimming World and Pyjama Drama. The Fernwood Drama Society staged a very entertaining Panto, 'Cinderella', at the beginning of the year. There is also an active Over 55s group, a ladies group, mothers and toddlers group and a U3A Boccia group. Outdoors there are football teams, a petanque club, tennis coaching and a netball team. Conservation pathways and bird hides are all works in progress initiated by a conservation group.

On the administration side an active Parish Council, Residents' Association and Village Hall Users Group help to solve problems and promote activities in the village, such as the well attended Bonfire Night and, still to come, a summer 'Party on the Green'. Save the date -19 July and help to make it a success.

It is only when you reflect on these, and other things such as the well-maintained grounds, mature trees, and the planters full of flowers, do you realise what a lovely place Fernwood is to live! Lets all do our bit to keep it that way.

Look around you – join in! DWH/Barretts is donating £5000 a year for five years to enhance our facilities. This has been put to good use so far with portable stage lighting, pop up shelters and two benches. More ideas are in the pipeline.

Have your say - contact me with your ideas [jproctor@talktalk.net](mailto:jproctor@talktalk.net) - or better still come to one of our Open Meetings.



takeaway and a fitness centre are now in place with the Tawny Owl and Lancaster Grange just

## Roof Repairs at St Giles Church, Balderton

A few days after Christmas following the spate of wet weather St Giles Church on Main Street, Balderton, suffered severe damage to the roof and ceiling. This necessitated urgent repair work and scaffolding was installed down the nave, the central part of the church, in order for the workmen to access the ceiling safely. Thanks to a great team of volunteers, this did not affect the smooth running of the services and funerals. The cost of the work has been estimated at £15,000, a considerable amount of which has already been met by generous donations.

However, there is a shortfall of around £5,000 and various fund-raising events have been planned over the coming months. Please support your parish church generously. As well as the events which you will see advertised, there are also donation boxes in a number of shops in Balderton. If you would like to make an additional donation, please contact one of the Church Wardens, Mrs Dilys Carby 01636 672155 or Mr Paul Brisbane 01636 672123. Or alternatively contact the Treasurer, Mr Mike Wilson 01636 673298.

## Your Parish Church

A warm welcome awaits you  
At your Parish Church  
St Giles, Main St, Balderton

A variety of services to suit all tastes

### Sundays

9.30 am:

Every Sunday except 1<sup>st</sup>: Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Family Sunday  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Xolossion  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Sunday Club

8.00 am:

First Sunday: Holy Communion

6.00 pm:

Every Sunday except 4<sup>th</sup>: Evensong  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Refresh

### Tuesdays

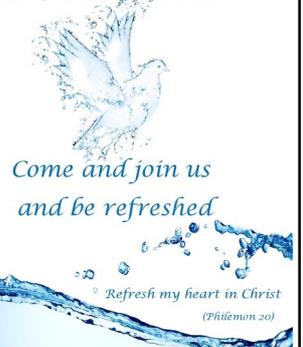
6.00 pm - 7.00 pm:

Parish surgery - to arrange Weddings and Baptisms

For more information see the St Giles Website: [www.stgilesbalderton.org.uk](http://www.stgilesbalderton.org.uk)

## Refresh

An informal evening of praise and worship  
At St Giles Church, Balderton  
At 6.00 pm  
On the Fourth Sunday of the month



## FAMILY SERVICE

Informal Service  
With focus on children  
Without Holy Communion  
First Sunday of each month  
9.30 - 10.15



Come and join the Church Family  
At St Giles, Balderton



Families join together on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
at 9.30 in Church, moving to Hall for fun  
activities - games, crafts and cooking.

Learn about Christian themes.  
learn new songs, make new friends.

## Fernwood Family Focus



Our Family Focus page has returned and we interview the Crossland family, Lee, Dawn and Lewis Crossland along with Archie and Ben.

Lee is a Telecoms Engineer at Nokia and travels to Huntingdon for work. Dawn is responsible for Marketing and Admin for a company in Newark which does work for the Highways Agency and Lewis attends Claypole C of E Primary School. He is currently in year 4.

Lee is going to hit the big 4-0 this year and he is obviously very excited about this. Dawn is forever 21 (or 39 if you check her birth certificate) and Lewis is 9. Archie and Ben are both 5 this year.

Dawn tells us that they moved from Durham to Fernwood in 2004. "We have been very lucky to spend time travelling abroad for work. We have lived in Germany, Taiwan, China and America as well as Selby, Manchester & Chester-Le-Street."

Originally, Lee is from Lancashire and Dawn is from Yorkshire, which causes some interesting 'conversations' when it comes to the battle of the Counties. Despite all the travelling, they say they are now very settled in Fernwood with great friends and a lovely school for Lewis.

We asked the Crosslands why they chose to live in Fernwood and Dawn tell us that when Lee's job moved to Huntingdon, they decided to look at a 60 mile radius around his office as it seemed like an 'ok' distance to travel daily. They just happened to drive into Fernwood whilst looking and really liked the area and so put down their roots here.

The Crossland family are all very involved in Fernwood Foxes Football Club which takes up lots of their time. Lewis plays for the U9 reds, who have just qualified for the Cup Final in that age group which will be played in April. Lee is the team's manager and works closely with Steve Hodson-Mackey to

ensure the children get the best training they can offer them. Dawn was the welfare officer for the club until the end of last year and is now on the Committee along with Steve, Simon Haywood, Gordon Bester and Paul Sterling.

They love to go hill-walking as a family and regularly go Geo-Caching which Dawn and Lee say is a great way to take Lewis' mind off of the distance he walks!

For the past three years they have had a caravan and they love using it for short breaks.

Lee and Dawn also take part in several running events and both are members of Newark Striders Running Club. Dawn has a place in this year's London Marathon and Lee is taking part in this year's Thunder Run, which is a 24 hour relay race. As an extra challenge, he is doing it alone rather than as a team. Maybe it is a mid-life crisis.

Lewis is a member of a chess club, Drama club, cross country club and computer club. All of which he loves taking part in. As well as playing football for his number 1 team (Fernwood Foxes U9 Reds) he also plays at Nottm Forest Development centre and has just been invited for Trials at Nottm Forest Academy.

Dawn and Lee say "We would both love to see a youth club for the Fernwood children. In the early days, a group of us did try to start one but, as with many things, too many people were influencing it and it didn't get off the ground. As Lewis gets older, we would like to think he will have somewhere to socialise with his friends and somewhere that he can make new friends."

When asked if there was anything the village needed their response was "The main thing we feel is needed in the village is more clubs for the village children. We live in a family village but we do not have enough provision for the children. Now that we have lots of clubs for adults, it would be fantastic to concentrate on clubs for the younger generations. Youth clubs, Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guide groups would be fantastic as would a skate park of some description as all ages can enjoy something like that. We do appreciate that space is limited but the kids do seem to get left behind."

As well as celebrating Lee turning 40 this year, we will also be celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Lewis' 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A busy year ahead!

"We have made some wonderful, lifelong friends here and we are very fortunate to have these people in our lives."

## What's On

### Party on the Green



Save the date

Claypole Primary School

7 June 2014

**Spring Fair**

Claypole Primary School PTA is now taking bookings for

craft stalls at the school's Spring Fair. All stalls will cost £10 plus a raffle donation.

To book a stall, please contact Dawn at [dscrossland@sky.com](mailto:dscrossland@sky.com)



Limited availability for Stalls, so Book Early as they are sure to go fast!

### Newark Art Club

#### Spring Exhibition

24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May

Free Entry



At Barnbygate Methodist Church, Newark, NG24 1PX

Refreshments available

St Giles Church, Balderton

Invites you to a

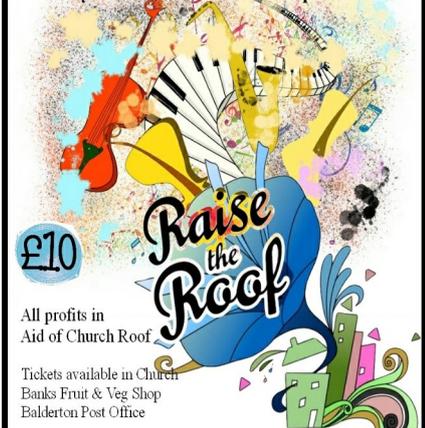
### A Celebration of Music

in Church on

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30 PM

Featuring

Richard Stark, a classically trained singer, Mary Marshall, and other local performers



£10

All profits in Aid of Church Roof

Tickets available in Church, Banks Fruit & Veg Shop, Balderton Post Office