

Church News

Margaret Foster Writes

The decision was made within the Benefice at the start of this lockdown to suspend gathered services.



You will be aware that government guidelines permitted churches to stay open but it was decided within the Diocese that, for the safety of everyone, it would be better not to meet in person but have online Services instead.

However, for anyone without a computer, or who feels a particular need to be in church, Lutterworth Church is live streaming the Service on a large screen on Sunday and Wednesday mornings at 10.30am. Charlie, Tom and the ministry team are, of course, available for support via the usual channels and through the office number 01455 558797. Stay safe, keep well and hopefully we will see you in the not too distant future.

Bitteswell and Bittesby Parish Council

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is 18th March 2021 held by zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96238690422> ID 962 3869 0422

If you wish to bring any important issues or concerns to the attention of the council. Please contact the clerk before the meeting by email: parishclerk@bitteswell.org.uk For agenda details past and present go to www.bitteswell.org.uk

Lutterworth and Villages Foodbank

The Foodbank currently needs: tinned potatoes, UHT milk (Not Skimmed), rice pudding, sponge puddings, coffee, cup-a-soup, shampoo, hand sanitiser, tooth brushes, toothpaste, and laundry detergent. There are donation containers at Morrison's, Waitrose, Linden Drive Co-op, Age Concern and Lutterworth Churches.

If you need a food parcel either telephone 07821 802793, or send an email to info@lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk to find out about the procedure during Coronavirus. For financial donations please visit <https://lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

1. 21/00239/FUL | Erection of an annexe building | 3 Yeomans Keep Valley Lane Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SW
2. 21/00166/LBC | Demolition of existing garage and summerhouse, and erection of detached dwelling with garages and associated landscaping (revised scheme of 18/01482/LBC) | Turnpike Lodge The Green Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SB
3. 21/00165/FUL | Demolition of existing garage and summerhouse, and erection of detached dwelling with garages and associated landscaping (revised scheme of 18/01481/FUL) | Turnpike Lodge The Green Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SB
4. 21/00155/NMA | Adjustment to road and site layout, alterations to design of Plots 2 and 3 (proposed non-material amendment to 20/01055/REM) | West End Farm West End Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SE
5. 21/00119/FUL | Conversion of existing outbuildings to annexe | West End Farm West End Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SE
6. 20/02064/FUL | Relocation of overspill car parking | Bittesby Farm Watling Street Bittesby Leicestershire
7. 21/00012/FUL | Improvements to the existing site access arrangements | Asda IDC Hunter Boulevard Magna Park Lutterworth LUTTERWORTH Leicestershire LE17 4XN
8. 20/02075/OUT | Outline application for biomethane refuelling station; petrol filling station with ancillary retail, drive through restaurants (Class E/sui generis), MOT station, ancillary car parking and associated works (all matters reserved) | Land East Of Bittesby Way Magna Park Bittesby Leicestershire
9. 20/02067/NMA | Substitution of drawings 4650 CA 00 00 DR A 01071 Proposed Site Plan PL7 in conditions 2 and 4 with Proposed Site Plan NMA drawing 4650 CA 00 00 DRA 01075 PL4 in conditions 2 and 4 (proposed non-material amendment to 20/00172/FUL) | Bittesby Farm Mere Lane Bittesby Leicestershire
10. 20/01846/FUL | Erection of 2 dwellings including highways improvements, accommodation works and part demolition of existing garage | Newstead The Green Bitteswell Leicestershire LE17 4SG
11. 20/00979/HAZ | Application for Hazardous Substances Consent for the proposed Gasrec Biomethane Refuelling Station at Magna Park, Lutterworth. | Gasrec Biomethane Refuelling Station Argosy Way Magna Park Lutterworth LE17 4XN



Wonders of Nature

Pat Coates writes:

February can appear a very barren month in the Countryside. But there's plenty to observe if you look carefully. Besides the more common garden birds we have seen fieldfare, little owl, green woodpecker, buzzard, cormorant, heron and sparrow hawk, redwing, and mistle thrush.



Pheasants have increased in number this year and regularly come to feed under our bird tables. Foxes are frequent visitors in the area and in winter mainly hunt rabbit and mice, whilst also scavenging from the compost heap to supplement their meagre diet in the colder months.



We often saw the evidence of badgers in our woods, but these seem to have disappeared, possibly because of the construction work taking place in the area. Occasionally you may glimpse a muntjac, but they are very timid and hard to spot.



The first sign of Spring are the primroses and aconites that are appearing in our woods. Wild tulips that we planted in late autumn are already coming through, and snowdrops and daffodils are sure to follow. All a welcome sign that warmer months and longer days will soon be here.

The redwing, mistle thrush and fieldfare feed on the berries in the hedgerows, and after flying south will soon return in early Spring.

Every month there is something new to see, just keep looking!



Thank you Pat for sharing your corner of Bitteswell, and the wonders of nature that surrounds our lovely village; a reminder that if we keep looking, we may also be pleasantly surprised —The Editor

Cover photos taken by Malcolm King with kind permission of Michael and Pat Coates

Highway Obstructions and Damage to verges

Bitteswell Parish Council writes:

The Parish Council has written to Leicestershire County Council Highways to draw its attention to the proliferation of obstacles being placed on roadside verges in the village.

Verges, footways and footpaths are all part of the highway. It is the statutory duty of Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police to keep all highways clear and free from obstructions and to ensure safe and expeditious movement of traffic, including pedestrians. Dark coloured stones or adding stakes in the verge are potentially lethal and should be removed forthwith before a cyclist, pedestrian or motorist is injured trying to use the full width of the Highway which they may do as of right.

The verge is not garden land nor is it open to householders to mow or otherwise damage the verge forming part of the Highway. Those mowing the verge without permission should also note this arguably constitutes criminal damage.

Village Store Open—Support your local pub

The Olde Royal Oak is now open as your Village Store, with lots of essentials and treats, plus gifts for Mothers Day, please check their website and Facebook pages to see how they have adapted their services, and food offering www.theolderoyaloakbitteswell.co.uk

New Facebook page—Bitteswell Village

Sara Johnson, Ashby Lane writes: I've just set up a new group on facebook for Bitteswell Villagers as another way of keeping connected, updated with events, news and share photos etc.

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/460817588421199> for villagers to join the group. It would be lovely to create an online home for the village to stay in touch.

Fond Farewell

Audrey Porter died at Lutterworth Country House 19 November 2020, weeks short of her 93rd birthday



She reluctantly decided to leave her family home of 65 years last August due to failing eyesight and memory. The last few years had been particularly challenging after losing her beloved husband John in 2016.

Audrey was part of village life since moving from Cranford, Northants as a child with parents Phillip and Constance Betts; and sister Pam. Life-long friendships were forged, especially with Jill Smith and Anne Hayes. They met most Wednesday evenings ever since!

Audrey lived at Ivy house until she met John at a village green bonfire party. Married in 1955, they set up home at 3 Church View Cottages and were devoted parents to Mike (b1957) and Ian (b1959).

During her working life Audrey was a secretary for Frank Whittle at Power Jets and PA to the Managing Director of Follsain Wycliffe Foundry.

Mike and Ian extend their thanks to all in the village and, more recently, to the staff at Lutterworth Country House, who provided support, care and comfort.

Jim & Amy Charity Taxi Service

Funded by United Charities it has been an invaluable service especially during lockdown for village residents to help travel to medical appointments and other emergencies. Contact Mrs S Carlton (552077) and Mrs M Osborne (07858154233)