



Weight limit and footway plan for repaired bridge

Once repairs are completed the Skerne bridge is to have a weight restriction and a pedestrian access.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council engineers have indicated that an assessment of the bridge has revealed it can only cope with limited loading and that the proposed 7.5 tonne restriction, which will allow access for minibuses and some small unladen tractors, would help protect the bridge from further damage. Unfortunately, this will mean that loads greater than 7.5 tonnes will have to find an alternative route, which may involve the Skerne village centre for locally generated heavy traffic.

Additionally, the ERYC intends to add a narrow footway and introduce priority signage to point out that it is a single-track road at the bridge.

The parish council understands that the railings over the canal bridge will be renovated at the same time that the river bridge is being repaired, which is likely to be in the spring.

Carol singing al la 2020

Logistical problems with social distancing have prompted a different format for Wansford carol singing. The six-strong choir of good voices will sing in St Mary's Church yard from 6-7pm on Monday December 21 with villagers invited to watch all or part of the performance from a distance. There will be light, a bit of direct

heat and song sheets will be available. Don't forget to bring a torch or lantern to light the way and be sure to remain in your household bubbles and maintain a social distance.

Requests for your favourite carols can be made to Adrian Harrison on 254452, email adrian@dee-atkinson-harrison

Shoebox collection success in difficult time

Organisers are pleased with the response to this year's Wansford Shoebox Appeal, which took place in difficult circumstances without the church service or a central drop-off point. Altogether 46 shoeboxes and £55 in donations was gathered up to support Real Aid appeal to brighten the lives of children in Romania and Moldova at Christmas.

Can you help St Mary's Church?

With £160 in insurance and electricity to pay each month and £102 coming in in direct giving, the finances of St Mary's Church, Wansford, are struggling.

A small handful of one-off donations has kept the church going this autumn but more help, however small, would be most welcome.

For anyone who would consider regular giving there are standing order forms available in church, which is open on Wednesdays and Sundays. Alternatively, forms or bank details are available from the treasurer by e-mailing jill_pick2001@yahoo.co.uk

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Children's help enlisted in bid to reduce revs

Children in or connected to the parish are being invited to create road safety posters imploring tractor drivers to reduce the revs in residential areas as well as keep off their mobile phone when in charge of tens of tonnes of powerful machinery.

A sample of the posters, which should be colourful, will be used in the next newsletter and displayed on the parish website.

However, the long-term aim is to co-operate with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council highways department to have official road signs made for the entrances to both villages.

Feelers have already been put out regarding this and there has been a positive response.

The posters are part of the Skerne and Wansford Parish Council's campaign launched in the autumn newsletter to try to persuade tractor drivers to be more aware of how intimidating their vehicles can be in village streets and on narrow country lanes which they share with dog walkers, pensioners, pram pushers and small children on bikes.

The parish council, which represents all the community from commuters through residents seeking a quiet life to its farmers and growers

Latest oil price

The ex-VAT oil price negotiated by the Humber and Wolds Community Council for the YORSwitch Bulk Oil Buying Scheme for delivery in December was 28.65p. To join the oil-buying co-operative or for more details contact local co-ordinator Billy Waites, at Skerne, tel 256520, email william.waites@btinternet.com



is well aware that the parish is in the heart of a working countryside and not suburbia.

Moreover, the scale of farming has grown enormously recently while the infrastructure, often designed around the horse and cart, has remained the same.

Thus, the parish council is asking tractor drivers to be more aware of the impact of these giant machines on other users of our narrow streets and lanes and take it slowly.

Any children wishing to make a poster should leave it with any parish councillor or the clerk at Church Cottage, Wansford.

Alternatively, the posters could be scanned and e-mailed to Sandwpcclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Harmony Energy talks

Harmony Energy, which has received planning permission for its 140-acre solar farm on The Beeches land, Skerne, has had discussions with the parish council about possible parish projects that could benefit from the £10,000 per year planning gain agreement.

The Skerne Village Green, the land for which is being donated by Warrendale Farms, remains a priority but Harmony Energy CEO Peter Kavanagh has indicated that the company would be happy to support the others discussed. For full details of the Zoom meeting see the parish council website.

Christmas Eve services in both villages

A service will be held at St Leonard's Church, Skerne, on Christmas Eve at 3pm. There will be no singing and masks must be worn. To reserve your seat telephone Margaret Brennan on 252157.

Shortly after, at 4.30pm, a service will be held at St Mary's, Wansford, the first in the church since the March lockdown. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. All are welcome to attend.

A Nativity trail for Skerne residents young and old will be displayed around Skerne village from December 19 for the week for people to wander round at their leisure and complete the activities.

Chairman's hopes of a better year to come...

Well, 2020 has been one year that we will all want to forget, but I am sure we shall be talking about it for years to come. A lot has happened, but let us look forward to a brighter future – and thank you to all those in both villages who have lit up our main streets and lightened the end of this strange year.

So, what can we look forward to in 2021? Well it may have been slow, but we will hopefully soon have finalised the handover of land at Skerne. In time I am sure it will develop into something we can all be proud of and for everyone's benefit.

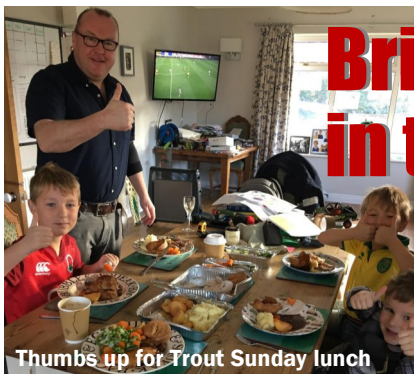
2021 will also see Skerne bridge fully repaired and open again for most traffic, but at least our two villages are re-connected after the closure.

One thing I would like to see in 2021 is full support for our local businesses. It has been an extremely challenging year for them and they need everyone's continuing support.

With that said, I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a much better New Year.



Ken Botterill was once of the residents lighting the way to a better 2021



Thumbs up for Trout Sunday lunch

Bristow kids tucking in to Trout takeaway

Lockdown 2 prompted Trout Inn landlord Keith Robinson and family to offer a Sunday lunch takeaway service, which has proved immensely popular.

Customers from both the parish and wider community have flocked for Keith's legendary roast dinners, which must be pre-ordered.

Parish council clerk vacancy

The search is on for a new clerk for the Skerne & Wansford Parish Council.

The position is part-time, averaging out at about two hours per week over the course of a year. The successful applicant will be required to work from home and to attend parish council meetings every other month as well other extraordinary or parish meetings that may be called. These take place at Wansford Village Hall or, if necessary, by video conferencing.

Duties will include managing both the council's administration, servicing council meetings, fulfilling the statutory role as Responsible

Financial Officer, undertaking research, advising councillors and carrying out other duties that are appropriate to the role of clerk, including managing the parish website and producing four news-sheets per year. IT equipment is supplied. The parish council will support the successful applicant's training to obtain the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) professional qualification.

The salary is by local agreement. Supporting information, an application form and a job specification can be obtained from the current parish clerk by e-mailing Sandwpcerk@

yahoo.co.uk For an informal chat about the role you can call 01377 254741.

Completed application forms should be returned by Tuesday, January 19.

Please note that CVs will not be accepted. Interviews will be held shortly after the application deadline and may be conducted using social distancing measures or via Zoom according to the Government guidelines appertaining at the time.

The start date would be April 1 2021.

Clerk Jill Pick, who took on the role almost 12 years ago, has decided that the time has come for full retirement.

Emergency food parcels available if needed

Emergency food parcels – or 'Boris boxes' - from Driffield Food Bank have been supplied to the parishes' two Covid 19 co-ordinators, Catherine Bristow and Caroline Harrison.

They are for use by any villager in an emergency situation - self-isolating, shielding or in need - who cannot otherwise either afford or access food or who is stranded due to flooding, etc. The boxes are intended to supply, free of charge, any person who **has no other means** of obtaining groceries.

The boxes contain tinned and dried foods, tea or coffee and UHT milk and should be sufficient to

last for a few days.

Release of the boxes has to be authorised by the manager of the Driffield & Wolds Food Bank.

Meanwhile Catherine and Caroline remain available to help you with picking up shopping, collecting prescriptions, urgent requests, etc. Anyone vulnerable or self-isolating and in need of assistance can contact them direct on: Catherine—250190, 07774 402577; Caroline—254452, 07703 354394.

*Villagers in hardship can contact the food bank direct at Driffieldwoldsfoodbank@gmail.com or by calling 252230.

Be wary of all cold callers...

Unscrupulous people are always aiming to take advantage of the isolated with internet, telephone and doorstep approaches. Be very wary of all cold callers and never give your bank details to anyone.

Friends Against Scams - www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk - aims to prevent people from becoming victims of scams, which can be reported at the website www.actionfraud.police.uk

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