

EDITOR'S PAGE

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We all know that April is an unpredictable season, but take a look at the photos on the two back pages for the wide variety of weather that Bruce has photographed over the last four weeks. He took photos of a gorgeous sunrise, followed by a lovely sunny day whilst out walking the dogs. But the most recent one was taken about a week ago, when we woke up to snow!

I went to the Swinderby School Easter play just before the end of term (see the photos taken of the children in church, the orchestra afterwards and the winners of the Easter bonnet competition as well as some of the other inventive entries). However, one of the highlights of the afternoon for me was to see Mr Day presenting Meg Kitchen with some flowers to thank her for the many years of service that she has given the school whilst listening to the children read. Meg is now giving up that duty and I am sure that everyone wishes her well.

Whilst on the subject of pictures, I hope you like the images of the birds, admittedly taken from the internet, but all mentioned in Colin Measures's article which contains some lovely stories about birds that he has spotted (and in one case, hiding) in Swinderby). Do read his article. I thought there was going to be a sad ending to one incident – but read on.

Colin poses the question as to whether you have any anecdotes to relate. I am asking the same question. I don't have an article saved or promised for next month's edition. Could you tell us about 'a day in the life of? Have you any gardening tips? Have you been on any travels you could write about or were you nervous about moving into the village, but found that it turned out ok?

I am very grateful for the jam jars donated this month and also to Mr Chennell for a generous donation to the Link Up funds.

Hopefully you will get this edition in time to see the advert on page 15 for a fashion show and clothes sale on 28th April. This is in aid of the Swinderby pre-school, and even if you don't have any children, or grandchildren at pre-school, it's good to support the village and its activities.

Now that the good weather is coming, you might like to try your hand at playing bowls. Meg's report on page 7 appeals for new members, both experienced and learners.

Do you feel like singing? Check out the change of evening for the Four Seasons Choir on page 28.

There is a new advertiser this month: Anne Stevenson who is offering tuition for school age children.

You will find advance notice on page 23 of this year's charity event to be held on 9 July. All proceeds are in aid of hospices in our area, so you can support a great cause whilst having a good day out.

The copy date for the next Link Up will be 20th May at 5pm. Copy received after that may not be included. Please note that all articles in Link Up are taken in good faith. We cannot and will not, take responsibility for any legal queries resulting thereof. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect our views. We reserve the right not to print some submitted articles.

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(If you wish to make an appointment to see Mrs. Piper please ring her first).

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Kanda Print, Northampton

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Environment Team

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COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS

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Wednesday 18th Family Bingo 7.00pm

Saturday 21st Thai Banquet 7.30pm

See page 23 for details

Friday 27th Jam Night 9.00pm

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WHAT GOES ON IN SWINDERBY?

SCRABBLE The Scrabblers meet every other Tuesday in the Plough at 7pm. We feel very welcome, a lovely log fire, 'bit of banter' We usually play 2 games, 'nothing serious' put the world to rights, home for around 9.30pm. We range in ages & ability but always have a good time! See the Plough page to find out when the next meeting is. Ring Meg (868378) for more information & come out on the tiles!)

CHOPS Central Heating Oil Purchasing Scheme is a simple organisation designed to save us all some money on our central heating oil. I collect orders about 6 times a year. On my buying day, I get the best price possible and advise everyone where the oil is coming from and the current price. The saving comes from the bulk delivery into the village which normally means at least one full tanker load and 25+ deliveries. Payment depends on the supplier, but the worst scenario is that they phone for a debit card prior to delivery (they all charge a premium for Credit Cards). I do not handle any payment and have no vested interest in any oil company. If you run out of oil between deliveries, you can make your own arrangements and I am not in the least bit offended. The whole enterprise is 100% above board and I make or gain nothing from running CHOPS (apart from a few headaches usually related to deliveries!) If you want to 'join' just let me have name, address and post code as well as your phone number and I will add you to my list. Please note the minimum oil delivery is 500 litres (as designated by the oil suppliers). You will find forward delivery dates and other information in the Linkup. Call David Gardiner 868663

COFFEE MORNING There is a coffee morning every Monday at 10.30 am in the Church. All welcome for coffee and a chat. A great way of meeting new people.

VILLAGE CARE Are you unable to drive and need to get to the medical centre or dental practice in Collingham, Bassingham medical centre or to Newark or Lincoln hospital? There is a team of friendly volunteers who will drive you to the above places for a small fee. You do not have to be elderly to use this service! The service is for Swinderby residents only, the charges are as follows, Collingham £1.50, Bassingham £2, Newark £4, Lincoln £7.50. This is for the complete journey. Other hospitals considered, price dependant on distance. We also cater for optician appointments. Call Susan Brook on 869709

BOOK CLUB The book club meets every six weeks or so. Members read and discuss the books. It's very informal and a great way of coming across new authors. However, as we meet in each other's houses, there is a limit on numbers. The current one is full but there is a waiting list. Or how about setting up another group? Either way, phone Mikela on 868041 and talk to her about it.

SWINDERBY PRE-SCHOOL Check the advert in this magazine.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH This takes place on the first Thursday of each month in the Village Hall. All ages are welcome and for £3.50 you will receive a hot meal, with sweet and cheese. You can just turn up, but it would help the organisers if you could let them know that you plan to attend. The people to contact are Michelle Boddy on 868006 or Doreen Porter on 868479. They are keen to welcome more people to the lunches.

GOOD COMPANIONS Swinderby Good Companions Club promotes social interaction and friendship for the senior citizens of the village. Regular monthly meetings are held in the village hall between 2pm and 4pm on the second Thursday of every month. Games are played and afternoon tea is served by volunteer hostesses. Outings are organised during the year along with an annual fund raising garden party. Rita Hodgson 868707

BOWLS CLUB See the Bowls Club report by Meg Kitchen during the bowling season 868378

PRESCRIPTIONS This is a service only for people who are unable to get to Collingham to collect their prescriptions. The prescriptions are delivered once a week, on a Friday and the pharmacy must be asked to put it in the Swinderby bag. Susan Brook (869709) has now taken over this service. Although prescriptions will be delivered on a Friday, she cannot guarantee a particular delivery time.

RUMMIKUB A few people have started to play Rummikub in the Plough. It's not on a regular night, so if you are interested, please give Pat Clark a call on 868269. It's based on the card game rummy, but with numbers and is quite easy to pick up.

SCHOOL NEWS

Swinderby All Saints Primary School held an enjoyable Easter Service in church on Thursday 24th March. There was a retelling of the Easter story as well as poems and a delightful rendition of 'Spring Chicken' by the youngest members of the school. The afternoon was rounded off with the judging of the Easter bonnet competition and the annual Easter egg hunt courtesy of The Friends of Swinderby School.

Don't forget that Swinderby All Saints C of E Primary School are collecting the Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers 2016. We collect them to help us purchase sport and cooking equipment. People can drop them off at the school. This would be very much appreciated.

See the photos of the Easter Service as well as the orchestra playing, and the winners and other entries of the Easter bonnet competition in this edition.

GOOD COMPANIONS

Our monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14th April and attended by 15 members.

Birthdays were celebrated by Gina, Audrey, Phil and Martin.

The usual games were played. 5's and 3's – Joan & Gordon, Jean & Rita
Scrabble – Joyce & Gina Afternoon tea was served by Marian and Julie.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th May at 2pm in the village hall.
Subscriptions of £5.00 are due.

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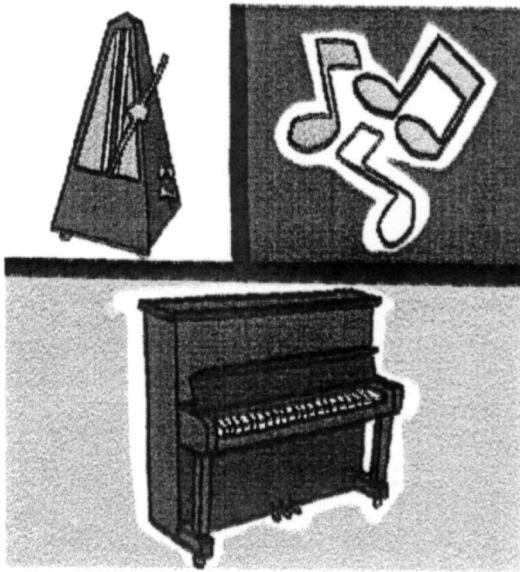
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BOWLS CLUB

On Friday 15 April the children from Swinderby School were coming to have a go at bowling. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled as the green was water-logged. Disappointed children, but the first Friday, weather permitting it will be on we hope.

As most of the committee were there a meeting was held. Since last season we've lost Michael, our Secretary and Pat Whetton was taken into hospital on Thursday 14 April. Pat is our Treasurer. We all wish her a speedy recovery. As we have our first home game on Thursday 28 April at 2pm, matters needed to be discussed. Jackie Thompson has taken on the job of secretary. Jennie Roe is going to assist Pat with the treasurer's job when it's possible. Also Mikela Conboy has offered to look at Michael's computer where the club's details are stored. Jennie and Mikela ran the Link Up for a number of years so they have the expertise. The club is lucky to have them. It was decided to have a practice game on Tuesday 26 April at 6pm, weather permitting.

The next committee meeting is on Friday 17 June at 2pm where we hope things will be more settled.

We are looking for more bowlers – learners and experienced.

Meg Kitchen



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CHOPS

At the time of writing this report, oil prices have gone up a few pence since the last delivery and are now slightly below 30p per litre + 5% VAT. The next delivery into the village will be on Friday 6 May, so it will be interesting to see where prices are at that time.

Please let me have your orders no later than midnight on Monday 2 May 2016. The subsequent delivery will be on Friday 12 August 2016 - time to fill up before autumn.

Thanks

David davidsgardiner@gmail.com 868663

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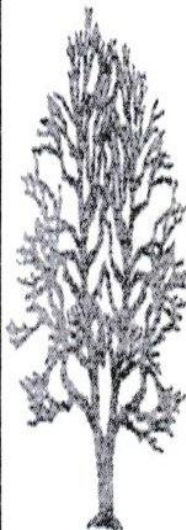
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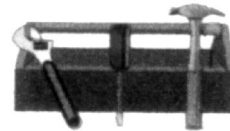
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NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 4 APRIL

This month's meeting started with the AGM which is where we nominate the Chair, Vice Chair, Village Hall member, auditor etc. No surprises, the incumbent members all kept their positions but the biggest shock was when our Parish Clerk, Mrs Lesley Piper tendered her resignation. Lesley has been employed by the Parish Council for 14 years now as the Responsible Financial Officer, Proper Officer of the Council and Clerk and has been the backbone of the PC for all that time, advising, guiding and sometimes ticking us off. I know I have often felt like a naughty schoolboy, stood outside the Head's Office when I have received an email saying I can't do something or I should be doing it this way. Either way, she will be sorely missed. Her last meeting will be Friday 6th May (Monday is the Bank Holiday).

Public Forum

There was no public at the meeting but there was a question raised at last month's meeting. What notification do people get when retrospective planning permission is granted? Well we sent an e-mail to NKDC Planning department and we received the following reply which we quote verbatim: "I can inform you that although no neighbour letters were sent out (this is because there are no dwellings etc immediately adjacent to the site) a site notice was posted on the PROW sign adjacent to the site and this met our statutory requirements with regards to publicity on this application" (Their words not ours)

Goal Posts

As you may have been aware, the goalposts are in a severe state of disrepair, someone even attempted to set them on fire at one point. They had been rounded up and were due for disposal when I got a phone call from a parishioner on Holt Farm Paddock who said she could see bits of white plastic all over the playing field. It seemed that some kids had been recreating the latest Star Wars film by having light sabre battles on the field. So the following day I and another parishioner cleared up all the remaining plastic bits. Well that means we need a new set of goalposts (Good, I was wondering when he would get to the point). The PC has decided on a set of steel junior sized 5-a-side posts to be fixed into the ground. Cllr Lloyd will be looking into pricing these.

Renaming of the Station Road playing field

The PC have long held the belief that the field at the top of Station Road is a parish asset and as such could be used for a variety of events such as a village fête or a country fair. With this in mind it was decided to change the name to "The Parish Field" to reflect the fact that it is more than just a playing field. This will be marked with a new sign (featuring the new village logo). In the meantime the PC are looking for parishioners who wish to organise events on the field to come forward.

Speed Safety Signs

After what seems an eternity (remember I said that sometimes things in local government go at a slow pace, in this case glacial) the survey has been

conducted and we are getting some large 30mph speed limit signs to distribute around the village. Now get this, the recommendations for positioning the STATIC signs say they should be moved every six months or so. Why would you want to move a STATIC sign? Well the theory is that unless they were regularly moved then drivers would eventually become blind to them. Our argument on the other hand is that it doesn't matter if the locals become unaware of them (they should be sticking to the speed limit anyway) but that people transiting through the village should see the signs in obvious locations and slow down as necessary.

Land opposite Church

For some time now the PC has been looking into what could be done with the small piece of council owned land opposite the church where the bird benches used to be. At one time a bench was suggested but because it is opposite the school there was a possibility of a child coming out of the school and running across the road to meet a parent/guardian/relative sat there. Other suggestions were siting the war memorial there or even a piece of public art such as those found in North Scarle and Aubourn. (One suggestion was that we commission a new set of bird sculptures, even after we just had the logo changed to reflect their removal). Either way something has to be done to demarcate the land. The decision was made that the interim solution would be a small wooden picket and chain link fence. Cllr Ketteringham volunteered to investigate costs.

Potholes and Street Lighting

You may have seen in the local press that the highways department are suffering cuts to their funding that may be affecting street lighting and potholes in the future, so we arranged a meeting with the Highways Officer to discuss the changes. I will be presenting the findings of that meeting at the next parish council and subsequently in my next Link Up report but the short answer is, if you see a problem, report it. You can report them directly to a member of the PC or you can use the Lincolnshire highways website at highways.lincolnshire.gov.uk or the independent sites fixmystreet.com or fillthathole.org.uk (yes, that is the real name, honest), either way, we don't have to live with any of these problems.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PC is Friday 6th of May and will be Lesley's last meeting.

Monday May 23rd Annual Parish Meeting

The APM is an open discussion session with no set agenda but a forum for the parishioners to come forward about their ideas for the future of the village. We look forward to seeing you there.

Cllr Bob Crozier
Swinderby PC

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TWEET MEMORIES

We have joined the many in completing this year's back garden survey for the RSPB's Birdwatch project. You watch for the required hour noting down how many of each variety come along, and wondering how it is that the rarer ones you've seen many times never seem to turn up on that day.

Over the years we have kept a record of the birds we have seen in our Swinderby garden, and those which fly over. For anyone who is interested the total of different varieties actually landing here currently stands at 59, including a baby cuckoo, black redstart, waxwing and so on.

Many people will care not a jot for any of this and may have no interest whatsoever in any of the natural world which surrounds us. I totally understand that for many intelligent folks the idea of getting excited because of something supposedly unusual flying around is incomprehensible. A bit like how I would feel if someone told me that the winner of Britain's Got Talent had landed in our apple tree and was about to sing a medley of their top numbers just for me. Sorry, but not bovered.

After over 40 years here watching and listening to birds I am still nowhere near what one would call 'an expert' at either identifying different varieties or knowing their calls. It remains something of a sore point in our house that, in the middle of one moonlit night, after visiting the bathroom, I heard what I recognised as birdsong in the trees outside. I opened a window to listen to this most beautiful sound, and became really excited that this was that rarest of creatures, the nightingale. My wife was fast asleep, but she must not be deprived from hearing this wonderful serenade I thought – so I woke her and rushed her to the open window to listen. 'Isn't that the most amazing song' I whispered. 'It has to be a nightingale.' It must be said that she has always had a better ear for identifying different bird calls than me, and I waited for her excitement to show itself. She blinked a few times, then said 'That's a robin you twit, and, anyway, it's December and I'm pretty sure nightingales are only summer visitors'. She was absolutely right. Oh dear!

I recall other times over the years when hearing something quite different to the usual tweets and whistles and warbles. Once when this amazing call came from surrounding fields and was so piercing it cut through every other sound, then stopped. What was it? I heard it now and again but could never see the bird, or one flying over which might have produced this unique note. One day while working in the garden after a rain storm I heard the call coming from the fields where crops were growing. I dropped everything and, determined to finally track down the mystery bird, set off towards the last heard call. It had to be on the ground I realised as I waded through the wet wheat crop, all I needed to do was to make it fly up to identify it. Left and right, on and on I went, closing in on its call, but still it would not show itself. One minute in front of me, the next, miraculously, it was to the side. It became a bit like something from a drama production, as I ploughed on getting wetter and wetter. This was getting silly, but I was determined to solve this mystery once and for all. I kept going but still no sign of the pesky thing, just an occasional call here or there. It sounded as though it was laughing at me.

How did it keep out of sight and why did it not fly? Was it a bird at all, or, perhaps, was it some sort of Britain's Got Talent field mouse specialising in bird impersonations? I gave up, walked away and never saw what it was, though we kept hearing it around after that.

Then there was the time two beautiful thrushes were both killed on the road just outside our house, and we found ourselves the foster parents for their just fledged youngster. Our boys named him Dick, because he was spotted, and he was a hungry little chap who demanded feeding all day long. It was early summer, and a very hot dry period when we found ourselves needing to search for worms in the parched ground from dawn 'til dusk. Protecting him from cats in his own little pen on the front lawn, we struggled to keep pace with his voracious appetite. We had to learn different tricks for bringing the worms up to the surface of the bone hard soil – using a variety of concoctions involving things like mustard powder and water, or making noises to simulate heavy rainfall. It could only have been a matter of a couple of weeks before Dick was ready to go it alone, but when he finally launched himself high into the oak tree nearby, by heck were we relieved!

He (or she) came back to see us a few times, but as always seems to be the case, we lost touch. This was also the outcome when we were involved with a bird which became trapped in the cavity in our living room wall. It had obviously fallen down from the underside of the roof, and we could hear the 'cheep cheep' of its call as we sat one evening. What could one do? It is a solid wall, it would need to climb back to the top of the house to escape. So I did what perhaps many would in those circumstances, turned the telly volume up to blank out the calls, and waited until the inevitable happened and it would be quiet again. This was said, but you can't start knocking walls down.

The cheep cheep cheeping was still there the next morning. There was no point being soft, and anyway, if it only tried a bit harder, rather than just sit there in the dark calling out, surely the chick could find its own way out, somehow. I must let nature take its course. That was about 15 years ago this Spring, and if you look carefully at the window sill of our living room you can clearly see the large repaired section of the trap door eventually cut to allow Side and Sparrow to escape!

I wonder how many others have stories to tell about their bird watching experiences, or how they have enjoyed, or perhaps been tested by, living with nature. There must be some wonderful anecdotes to be told by others in Swinderby, and well worth passing on to the Link Up. So let's hear them! By the way, for those who are still wondering what that unknown bird call was, I can solve the mystery. Thanks to a BBC Wild Life broadcast where we heard the call, we identified it as the Green Woodpecker (or Yaffle). We also learned why it did not fly up when I was trying to see it. Apparently Green Woodpeckers are particularly fond of eating ants, and spend time moving along the ground searching for their nests. So he was walking around probably wondering why some idiot was staggering through the wet wheat field mumbling 'I don't believe it' to himself.

T.S.BRISTOW

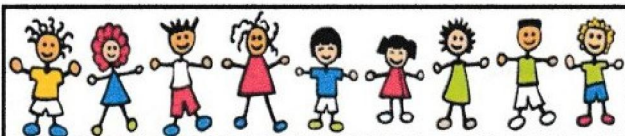
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Thursday 12th May 7.30 pm

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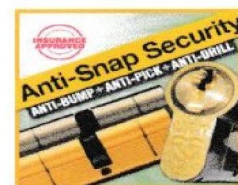
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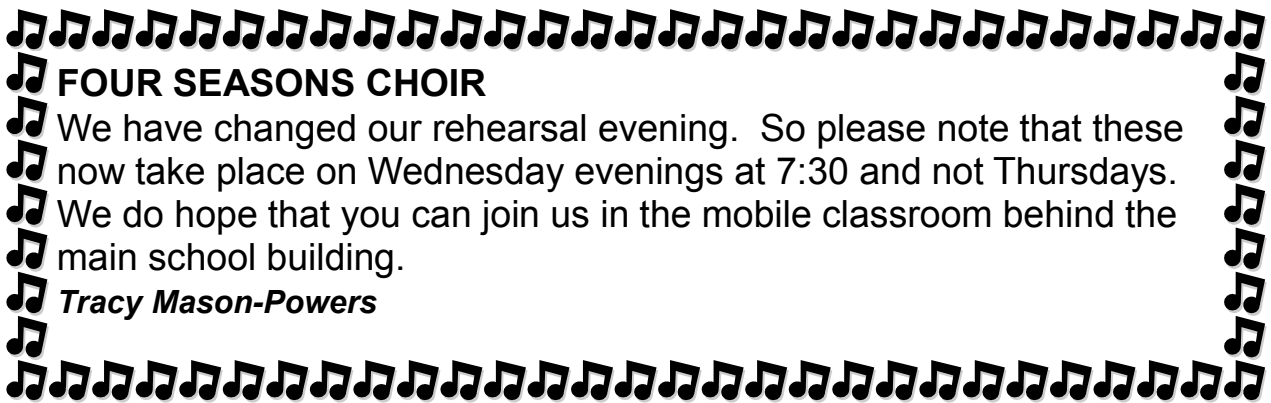
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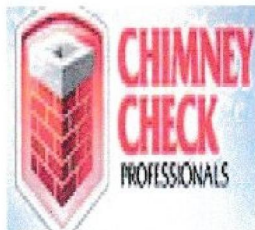
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CALENDAR & DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Sunday 1st		
Monday 2nd	Bank Holiday	
	Coffee morning in Church	10.30 am
Tuesday 3rd	Scrabble Club at The Plough	7.00 pm
Wednesday 4th	Green lidded bins	
Thursday 5th	Fellowship Lunch	12 noon
Friday 6th	CHOPS delivery	
Saturday 7th		
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
Monday 9th	Coffee morning in Church	10.30 am
Tuesday 10th	Brown bins	7.30 am
Wednesday 11th	Black bins	7.30 am
	Acoustic Night at The Plough	8.00 pm
Thursday 12th	Good Companions	2.00 pm
Friday 13th		
Saturday 14th	Live Music at The Plough	9.00 pm
Sunday 15th		
Monday 16th	Coffee morning in Church	10.30 am
Tuesday 17th	Scrabble Club at The Plough	7.00 pm
Wednesday 18th	Green lidded bins	7.30 am
	Family Bingo at The Plough	7.00 pm
Thursday 19th		
Friday 20th		
Saturday 21st	Thai Banquet at The Plough	7.30 pm
Sunday 22nd		
Monday 23rd	Coffee morning in Church	10.30 am
Tuesday 24th	Brown bins	7.30 am
Wednesday 25th	Black bins	7.30 am
Thursday 26th		
Friday 27th	Jam Night at The Plough	9.00 pm
Saturday 28th	Churchyard tidy	10.00 am to 12 noon
Sunday 29th		
Monday 30th		
Tuesday 31st		