



## The River Trent

With spring in the air, daffodils blooming, and lambs in the fields, it is the perfect time to shake off the winter blues and explore the beautiful countryside in the parish.

The area boasts excellent walks, including along the UK's third-longest river, the magnificent River Trent. This section of the river forms the parish's northernmost boundary, running adjacent to Adbolton Grove in the west to the Finger Ponds at Holme Pierrepont in the east.

The River Trent is a treasured asset, offering endless opportunities to connect with nature. Whether it's a gentle stroll, a cycle along the path, or adventurous activities like visiting the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham Sailing Club, or joining a wild swimming group, there's something for everyone.

As for the river itself, the Trent begins at Biddulph Moor in Staffordshire and stretches 185 miles. Beyond the parish, it flows towards Newark, where it becomes tidal, then uniquely turns north until it merges with the River Ouse and Humber Estuary. Historically, it served as a boundary between the Vikings in the north and Anglo-Saxons in the south, and from the 18th to 20th centuries, it became a vital trade route for the country's industrial heartland.

The name 'Trent' is thought to originate from a Celtic term meaning 'strongly flooding,' a fitting description even today. With heavy rains in recent years causing the river to overflow into fields at Holme Pierrepont, its name continues to reflect its character.

## Hire Gamston Village Hall

**An ideal venue for Party Events and Celebrations!**

- Well-equipped kitchen facilities
- Indoor tables & chairs available
- Enclosed Village Green Area

Please contact Rebecca on **07786 141066** or **bookings@hpgpc.org.uk**

Subject to terms and conditions

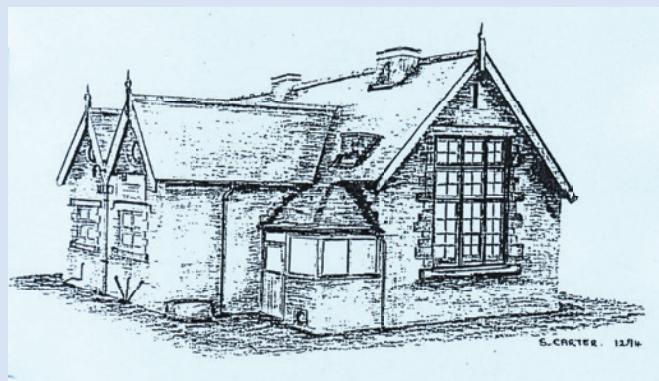
## Anne's first day at school

It is always fascinating to learn more about the history of the parish from the people who lived in the area in years gone by. Thank you to Anne Taylor, who kindly shared her memories of starting at Holme Pierrepont CofE Primary School in 1953.

*"I grew up on Whitelambs Farm in Gamston with my father, mother, and two younger brothers. My father was a farmer who kept cows and pigs. We also had chickens in the yard. Next to our house was a stockyard where we stored hay and straw. From the stockyard, the fields stretched down to the canal and further out towards West Bridgford and Edwalton.*

*I started school in the Easter term in 1953, when I was five years old. On my first day, I remember leaving home with my mother, dressed in a new green homemade pleated skirt and a little jumper that had been difficult to get over my head. I felt very smart. We walked to the bus stop on Radcliffe Road, which at that time was very different from the road today. It was much narrower and quieter, with no traffic lights or roundabouts.*

*There were other children from Gamston waiting, and when the Bingham and Grantham bus arrived, we all got on. Two stops later, we were at the school. My mum stood in the playground with me until nine o'clock, when two women appeared. One was Mrs Skinner, the headteacher who taught the juniors, and the other, Miss Brumpton, who taught the infants. I recall Miss Brumpton wore a pleated skirt, lace-up shoes, and a nice blouse.*



*Miss Brumpton then led me into a big school hall, which was separated into two classrooms by dividing doors. She sat me down at a desk and then started calling out the children's names from the register. I didn't know any of them, but as they all answered, "Yes, Miss Brumpton," I did the same. I was told to play in the sand, and although I didn't know what to do, I soon learned.*

*When playtime came, I was given a little bottle of milk with a straw and, holding a little doll, I went outside. I recall feeling very unhappy and alone. At the end of the day, I was pleased to see my mother waiting in the playground. We crossed the road with the Lollipop Lady and caught the bus home."*

You do not need to be of a certain age for Anne's memories of that first day, over seventy years ago, to resonate. The old Holme Pierrepont CofE Primary School opened in 1909 and closed in 2001, when it was replaced by the new Pierrepont Gamston School on Coledale.

If you have memories of living in the area that you would be happy to share in future newsletters or on the parish council's website, please send them to the clerk at [clerk@hpgpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hpgpc.org.uk).

# parishNEWS



Holme Pierrepont &  
Gamston Parish Council  
Newsletter

Spring 2025

## A few words from the Vice Chair

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Holme Pierrepont and Gamston Parish Council Newsletter.

It's been a busy few months at the parish council. In November, we held our 'Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall' celebration, and it was fantastic to see so many of you come along and enjoy the festivities.

Then between December and March, we opened the doors of the village hall with our 'Warm Hub Coffee Mornings.' These mornings offered a welcoming space for anyone looking to chat, enjoy some company and stay warm.

Meanwhile, at Ambleside Play Park, we were hard at work organising the installation of new equipment as part of

our inclusive play project and are delighted with the progress made.

We are now preparing for our Summer Play Day, which this year will have a festival theme. 'Gamstonbury' will take place at the park on the afternoon of Wednesday 20th August, so please mark a date in your diary. If there are any budding rockstars ready to showcase their talents at this event, please contact the parish clerk at **07432 620 204** or email [clerk@hpgpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hpgpc.org.uk) for more details.

For more information about these events and other local news, please read on.

Cynthia Stacey

## Ambleside Play Park

If you have young children and have not tried out the new equipment at Ambleside Play Park yet, now is the perfect time! The parish council has recently completed the second phase of its inclusive play project, adding new musical, sensory and games equipment. This follows last year's installation of a bucket swing and trampoline.

Partly funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Nottinghamshire County Council Local Communities Fund, the project has also included repairs to the footpaths and tarmac, ensuring full accessibility throughout the park.

The parish council has more ideas on how to enhance this already marvellous community space, so please look out for more updates.





# Christmastime 2024

'Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall' took place on Saturday 30th November, during a fortunate break in the weather between Storm Bert the weekend before and Storm Darragh the weekend after. Many families came along to take part in the start of the festive celebrations, eager to make the most of the day's activities. The village hall quickly filled to capacity, with enthusiastic children and their parents enjoying Christmas crafts and making decorations supplied by the Rushcliffe Play Forum and Nikki Woolley from All Hallows Church.

As well as a quiz and a guessing game with prizes for the lucky winners, Super Sparkle entertained the children with stories, music, and face painting, while Karen, the balloon modeller, created some amazing balloon animals. Thanks to the Burton Joyce Community Brass Band and the Lady Bay and Ruddington Community Choirs, musical entertainment ran throughout the afternoon, concluding with carol singing.

Refreshments, including mince pies and mulled wine, proved extremely popular and, for the first time ever, ran out before the end of the event. It was a fantastic afternoon, and as one member of the brass band commented, "It was a pleasure to be part of such a positive community gathering."



Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, the parish council was able to donate £163.10 to Rainbows, the hospice for children and young people based in Loughborough. The donations help provide essential end-of-life, respite, and community care for 750 babies, children, and young people across the East Midlands who live shorter lives than most.

## West Bridgford Colts

In 1990, around a kitchen table in Lady Bay, a group of parents gathered to discuss setting up a football team for their children. Thirty-five years later, West Bridgford Colts has grown into one of the largest grassroots football clubs in the country, with 2,000 children and adults playing across 148 teams. This remarkable success has been driven by the dedication of 400 volunteers, coaches, and administrators who work tirelessly to provide football training and matches for all its players.

The club's ethos has always been to ensure children and adults have the opportunity to play football, regardless of their background or circumstances, while also helping them reach their full potential. Inspired by the success of the Lionesses and Mary Earps – who played for the club from the age of nine for three years and went on to become England's, Manchester United's, and Paris Saint-Germain's goalkeeper – there has been a significant rise in girls wanting to play football. Today, the club boasts nearly 30 girls' teams, alongside a women's team, a thriving men's section, and a newly established inclusion section with three disability teams.



Although the club hires facilities from various local providers, its permanent home is at Regatta Way Sports Ground. After years of discussions, Nottinghamshire County Council has recently agreed to extend the club's lease to 30 years. This agreement will allow the club to further invest in its facilities, enabling even more people to enjoy 'the beautiful game.'

For more information, please visit [westbridgfordcolts.com](http://westbridgfordcolts.com).

## Gamston Litter Pickers

The Gamston Litter Pickers recently passed another milestone. On the 15th February 2025, volunteer George Golledge filled the 800th sack of litter collected by the group since their formation in January 2019.

Over the past six years, the volunteers have collectively removed an amazing 4 tonnes of rubbish, with a typical bag of litter weighing around 5 kilograms. They have spent more than 30 days picking up the litter, with the average sack taking about an hour to fill, and walked approximately 1,200 miles, as it generally takes 1.5 miles to fill each bag.

All of this has been done in an unobtrusive way and is an excellent example of quiet community action that often goes unnoticed but makes a remarkable difference.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join! The Litter Pickers meet at 10am on the third Saturday of the month at Gamston Village Hall. If you'd like to participate, please email [gamstonlitterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:gamstonlitterpickers@gmail.com) no later than the Friday before the litter pick.

## Parish Council Contacts

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## Grantham Canal

The local community is accustomed to seeing the canal dry out at the end of a hot and dry summer, but never in March. The unusually low water levels at this time of year were caused by a significant leak into two of the fairways at the Nottinghamshire Golf Club. Recently, contractors employed by the Canal and River Trust repaired the leak by injecting resin into the canal bank. To carry out the repair, the water level in the Bassingfield section of the canal was temporarily lowered. It is hoped that the water levels will recover in the coming weeks, with volunteers from the Grantham Canal Society closely monitoring the situation.

As bird nesting season is now underway, clearing vegetation is currently prohibited. The focus has instead shifted to the repair of fencing, with volunteers now working near Hollygate Lane in Cotgrave.

## Gamston Medical Centre

The Gamston Medical Centre opened in 1994 in a portable building located in the Lings Bar Hospital car park. Five years later, it moved to its purpose-built home in the Gamston Centre.



To accommodate the ever-increasing number of patients, now exceeding 6,700, and to enable the provision of more primary care services, a planning application has been submitted for a significant extension to the current building. If all goes to plan, the works should be completed later this year. The number of consultation rooms will increase from seven to thirteen, and the waiting area will be significantly improved.

Careful planning has been undertaken to ensure minimal disruption during the building works, and services will continue as usual throughout the project.

## Holme Lane

In March, the unmade section of Holme Lane in Holme Pierrepont was closed for over a week to allow extensive work to fill large holes and level the road surface. Additional work is planned for later in the year.

The lane, designated as a Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT), was never intended to handle the large vehicles and 'rat running' traffic that have been using it in recent years. After consultations with residents and other interested parties, it was agreed that restricting access would be beneficial.

To address this, lockable wooden gates have now been installed at each end of the unmade section, preventing vehicular access to all except local residents and emergency services. The intention is to reduce deterioration of the lane by stopping through traffic, while allowing walkers, cyclists, and horse riders to pass through via a space beside the gates.

The closure has been clearly signposted at both approaches to Holme Pierrepont.



## The Warm Hub

As the temperatures dropped toward the end of 2024, the parish council opened the doors of Gamston Village Hall every Monday morning, creating a warm and welcoming space for residents to gather, connect, and talk.

Although attendance was modest, those who came early on became regular visitors, appreciating the warmth of the hall and the company, along with plenty of tea, coffee, and biscuits.

The final 'Warm Hub Coffee Morning' was held on 31st March 2025. In the coming months, the parish council will evaluate the success of the initiative and consider reopening the hall later in the year.

