

IRCHESTER, LITTLE IRCHESTER &  
KNUSTON

VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE  
MARCH 2023



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## **CAN YOU HELP US?**

The Parish Council of Irchester are looking for volunteers who can help to produce the parish magazine.

If you would like to help in any way, which could include writing articles, organising puzzles, making things, finding advertisers or putting the magazine together, then please get in touch with Pamela Armstrong Chair on [ipcmag23@gmail.com](mailto:ipcmag23@gmail.com) or 01933 311222

Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

**Guess the where the picture was taken Photo 1?**



## **Irchester Parish Council – Report from the Chair**

The council has started 2023 with 2 new Councillors so we now have 15 members supporting the residents of Irchester, Little Irchester and Knuston.

Hopefully the weather will now become kinder to us and we can look forward to lighter nights and warmer days ahead. As in previous years the Parish Council have paid our contractor to grit the block paving during the week in order to help prevent any slips and falls on the way to school.

The budget has now been set for 2023/24 and hopefully you will be pleased to know that the council have not increased their precept, so residents will not be paying any extra in their Council Tax to the Parish Council. However in doing so we have had to reduce some of our grants.

We have however made provision to pay for the usual services of grass verge cutting, litter picking, looking after the cemetery and war memorials etc. We are also purchasing some new play equipment for the Daniels Road Play Area in Little Irchester. A big thank you also goes to the now dissolved Little Irchester 1-100 Club who have donated funds in support of this.

As most of you are aware residents have shown concerns to the Parish Council regarding speeding traffic through the village and we will support residents and NNC Highways in ways to try and reduce this problem.

Take Care – Pam Armstrong – Chair Irchester Parish Council

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Highway Report for Little Irchester.** Highway Rep John Dunkley

- The lovely Christmas tree planted in the play area was stolen .
- New Play equipment has been approved for Little Irchester.
- The fencing as you come into the village on the A509 has been repaired and is looking good.
- Speeding is still ongoing in the village please be aware when using the crossing.
- Litter has been reported around the area of Milton Road flats and is being monitored be aware.
- Brown bins for garden waste start again for collection in March. Contact NNC for costs from April.
- Fly tipping of garden waste has been reported on the Village Green and is being monitored.

## IRCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

### CEMETERY

Maintains the trees  
Cuts the grass  
Health & Safety

### PLAY AREAS/OPEN SPACE

Maintains all play areas  
Litter picks  
Cleans & Maintains bus shelters

### CIVIC EVENTS

Remembrance Day Services  
~~Irchester~~ and Little ~~Irchester~~

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Determines areas for developments with the local planning authority

### STREET FURNITURE

Maintains 60 Seats  
15 Dog Bins      22 Litter bins  
4 Salt Bins      2 Village Signs  
9 Bus shelters      5 Notice boards  
2 Defibrillators

### STREET LIGHTING

Maintains and provides some street lights

### REPAIR AND DAMAGE

Street lights, street furniture and play equipment, graffiti removal

## FUTURE PROJECTS

### LIBRARY

Rents the building and financially  
Supports payment of utilities

### WAR MEMORIAL

Maintenance work for both memorials

### PLAY AREAS

Look at new equipment and refurbishment  
For ~~Irchester~~ and Little ~~Irchester~~

To maintain the community land and play area to the Mulberry Homes development

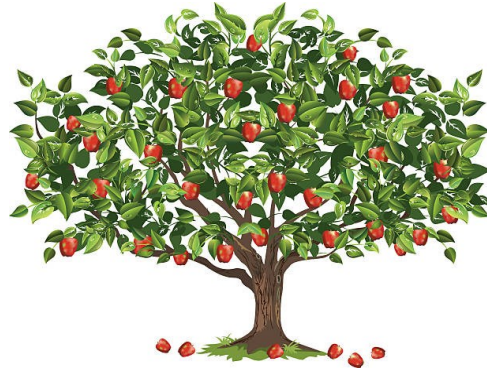
## BUDGET

### OUR BUDGET 2023/24

The council budget of £172,907 of which the majority comes from Council Tax

### BAND D 2023/24

The Average household Council Tax for ~~Irchester~~ is £65.26 per annum



## **COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

We continually check your orchard on a weekly basis, the gardener visits in order to carry out small jobs, collect rubbish and weed areas.

The weather has been against us all as far as planting is concerned, we will endeavour to get the tulips and daffodil bulbs planted now that the weather is being a little more reasonable. (Countryfile has just informed us that we could have snow!)

Thank you to the gentleman who has given us a bag of flower bulbs, these will be planted amongst the trees.

On a more serious note, person(s) have damaged one of the trees. It has been checked and trimmed down for another branch to grow. The orchard belongs to everyone in the parish. It is not closed which allows dog walkers, visitors and children to play but damage to the trees is not fair as the orchard is for everyone to enjoy.

Finally I would like to give a big 'Thank you' to the family who have planted a fruit tree during Christmas, it is very much appreciated.

Kevin Watts (Cllr)



# Irchester Parish Historical Society

## MEMBERSHIP

We are a group of people who love different aspects of Irchester, Northamptonshire, national and world history. New Members are always welcome. Subscription is £15.00 for a year (May to May) for Adults and £7.50 for Children. There is a small charge at each meeting of £2.00 for members and £4.00 for non-members.

Our talks take place at Irchester Library at 7.30pm usually on the second Thursday of the month. Working Party Meetings, where no charge is applied, are held at different locations. These meetings concentrate on researching the parish history, preparing exhibitions and publications.

Further details of the Society can be obtained from the Chairman, Jon-Paul Carr at 23 High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AA. Tel: 01933 382476 or email [jpcarr01@hotmail.com](mailto:jpcarr01@hotmail.com)

## EVENTS DIARY 2023

- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023**      **‘Radio Day’s’** an illustrated talk by historian Kevin Varty about the programmes that we listened to when the wireless hummed and the dial took us to Hilversum, Luxemburg and the trawler band
- 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**      **28<sup>th</sup> AGM followed by a talk on the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre at the Chester House Estate.** A chance to hear about what the ARC does and the first 18 months of being open with Ben Donnelly-Symes the Archaeological Archives Curator. .
- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023**      **Tour of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre – Details TBC**

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*How Many Easter Eggs can you find?*



## Irchester Player – Spring 2023

Happy New Year from all of us at Irchester Players and what an exciting start to the year it has been for us! We have successfully staged our most recent pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* which has had glowing reviews not only from our NODA representative but all our audiences that came out to watch. Please check our website to see the full report from NODA. Thank you to everyone who attended, without our audiences we would not have a show!

For us we are now moving onto our next project. This is a one night only fundraising that has a DISCO theme throughout. It promises to be a night of singing and dancing and a whole heap of entertainment. This show is going to be performed on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Parsons Hall, starting at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 6:45pm. Tickets for this production will be available from [www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice](http://www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice) All tickets for this production are £10.

Our Youth Division has moved on and are now starting their next Junior production. This year they are taking to the stage and performing Disney's High School Musical. A well-loved film, turned stage production full of all the well-known songs and dances. The cast is only our Youth members and no adults are taking to the stage. Tickets for this production will also be available from [www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice](http://www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice).

### **Membership**

At Irchester Players, we are always looking for members to come and get involved, whether it is on stage or off stage and within all of our divisions. If you are interested please get in touch via our Facebook page or email [info@irchesterplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@irchesterplayers.co.uk)

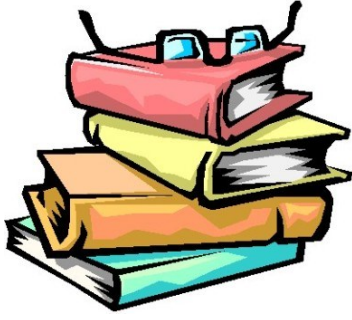
### **Mailing List**

Irchester Players currently operate a mailing list, giving you frequent information about what shows we have coming up and when tickets are available. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email [info@irchesterplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@irchesterplayers.co.uk) and mention that you would like to be added.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook as well to receive the most up-to-date information on Irchester Players and our upcoming performances and events. Until next time.... Alex McKenzie, Irchester Players CEO







## Book Corner

Did you get any books for Christmas?

Have you read all of last year's gifts/purchases?

What were your favourites of the year?

Did they live up to expectation?

In my case, the answers to these questions are yes, no, several favourites and yes, mainly. Highlights include *Where the Crawdads Sing*, which seemed to fire up a huge number of comments on various online book clubs, with most thoroughly enjoying it but those who didn't, REALLY didn't like it. Over Christmas, I also watched the *Crawdads* film, which seemed to cut out all the long descriptions which was what most people seemed annoyed with as, of course, you can show things visually and quickly. I enjoyed both the book and the film. If you say it is about a girl who is abandoned by her family, lives alone and is called 'marsh girl' by the locals, it hardly does justice to a story which is rich in nature and emotions and people's attitudes to anyone who is different. Do try it, if you haven't already done so.

Next was Sarah Winman's *Still Life*. This is set in Florence, always a good place to start, and is about art and relationships and, starting in 1944, flows through time. Sometimes books and films are given such hype that they can't help but be a disappointment. The first review I read was one saying the reader didn't like being preached at! This one is a Sunday Times Bestseller, Between the Covers pick, and Guardian Best Book of 2021 amongst other awards, but is in no way disappointing. It is full of heart and loveliness, which I know is not a very literary term but there you are. I think the moral here is ignore what others think and read and decide for yourself!

Other favourites were Alexander McCall books, which I mentioned in the last edition, a couple of Donna Leons which, I suppose, are my 'comfort' books, and Miss Benson's Beetle, which is charming and yes, really is about the search for a beetle. These were interspersed with psychological thrillers such as Ann Cleeves *The Long Call*.

Don't forget Irchester library is now open to borrow books, free of charge, unless you forget to renew of course, but it's easy to take out, to renew and order a book at the library, or online. The hardest part is choosing your book!

Happy reading! Angela Scheidegger

# How to Reduce Food Waste

Food waste is as damaging environmentally as plastic waste, due to the squandering of energy and resources involved in growing and distributing the food in the first place. Most food waste comes from individual households, so how can you cut down the amount that ends up in the bin?



## 1 - Organise your kitchen

An organised kitchen is a key starting point to creating a zero waste lifestyle. Overstuffed cupboards or fridges with older foods languishing at the back are a recipe for discovering out-of-date horrors hidden away down the line.

Here's how to manage your kitchen: Rotate goods when new items come in. Just like in restaurants and shops, put the new stuff at the back and move the older stuff to the front. This ensures nothing is lurking at the back of the cupboards, fridges or freezers. Create an 'eat me first' box or shelf in your fridge.

## 2 - Know the foods that go off first

Meats, fish and salads will go off more quickly. Your non-perishable items don't need as much attention. This will take away the stress of using all of your ingredients and draw attention to the fresh items which will end up in the bin faster than, say, a bag of rice. Remember: 'Best before' refers to quality, so after that date it'll be safe but might not be at its best. 'Use by' refers to safety so after this date you must not eat it, even if it looks and smells OK.

## 3 - Get your portion sizes sorted

When the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) asked people why their food ends up in the bin, 25% said it was down to cooking and serving too much - a matter that comes down to understanding portion sizes. Try to find your own hacks for measuring food that work for you. For example, a standard builder's mug can be used as a measure for rice: a mugful of dried rice should serve four adults when cooked. The Love Food Hate Waste website has a portion planner which is a useful starting point

## 4 - Plan ahead

The World Wildlife Fund says we waste 30% of the food we buy, which it likens to taking £100 out of the bank and putting £30 straight into the bin.

Keeping a meal planner will help you write a shopping list to stick to, thereby saving money and generating less waste by only buying what you've planned for. A meal planner will also help save time as you can factor in batch cooking in days when you have more time.



## 5 - Get creative

This may seem like common sense, but zero waste involves actually cooking the food you have bought. A massive 41% of waste is created because food wasn't used in time. This is where good menu planning comes in. Rotate a handful of dishes throughout the week to use up the ingredients you've bought. Don't be afraid to get creative with adapting a simple dish. For example, you can change a classic Bolognese sauce into a chilli con carne, meat pie or even a lasagne. This can help to change up leftovers so you don't get tired of one meal, or can incorporate an ingredient you know needs to be used up - for example grating a spare carrot or courgette to bulk out a tomato based sauce. Another great option for leftover odds and ends, particularly fruit and veg, is making up a quick batch of soup, or a smoothie.

## 6 - Freeze what you can't eat

Most things can be frozen, so if you've got leftovers, or things approaching their use by date, freeze them. Label them so you know how long they've been there. Freezing tips: Divide up bigger dishes so you can easily dig out a couple of portions at a time. Grate hard cheese before it is frozen and give defrosted skimmed milk a good shake before using it. Eggs cope well in the freezer with a bit of prep. Beat until blended, pour them into freezer containers and label the containers with how many eggs are in each before freezing.

## 7 - Get composting

NNC collects household food waste, but the other option, if you have the space for it, is to learn how to compost at home. When you compost at home you stop waste going to landfill and end up with a soil improver to benefit your garden.



## **8 - Make sustainable kitchen swaps**

Small lifestyle tweaks can help add up to big zero waste gains for the environment - and many of these can be implemented in the kitchen. Some disposable kitchen items you can swap in for reusable ones: Plastic straw - invest in some metal ones Kitchen roll - use old tea towels or T-shirts cut into squares to mop up spills, and then wash to reuse Paper napkins - buy in some cloth ones that are washable Plastic sponges - look for scourers made from hemp, loofah or recycled foam Cling film - there's an increasing range of options, including wax wraps, cloth covers and silicone lids. Compostable cling film is also available Sandwich and freezer bags - reusable silicone bags and glass/steel containers, or recycled glass food jars are all good alternatives. Cotton, hemp or linen bags are good for storing veg.

## **9 - Buy to last**

Making high-quality choices next time you need to buy something, whether it's for knives that can be re-sharpened, tableware made from strengthened glass or appliances that have longer warranties and are built to last, are all good choices to reduce waste in your kitchen. Buying to last or choosing second hand will save money, and will save the resources needed to make a new one.

## **10 - Check your fridge temperature**

Keeping your fridge at the correct temperature will help keep your food fresh. WRAP says the average UK fridge temperature is set way too hot at 7°C - setting it at below 5°C could extend the life of milk and other perishable items.



# House

All the words are hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally—in both directions. The letters that remain unused form a sentence from left to right.

S T U D I O L B A T H R O O M  
C A N H O L L O W W A L L A T  
P O T I E C L D A E T S D E B  
E A L W I N D O W S I L L B C  
T S N O I T A D N U O F D E H  
S D E R N G U T T E R I I D I  
R R O H C N A L L A W R S R M  
O F F I C E A R C A D E A O N  
O C R E T T I D A R A E S O E  
D O C T A E B L E G L S T M Y  
E R L A D R D E I R E C O T H  
A R T I S R I N S N T A V A K  
O I T A P U L L E D G P E C I  
N D S I T T I N G A R E A T O  
T O W O D N I W R E M R O D H  
D R A I N P I P E E T F L O O  
N E H C T I K R O A F A N A T  
T R O O L F I S H U T T E R C

DORMER WINDOW  
DRAINPIPE  
FIRE ESCAPE  
FLOOR  
FOUNDATIONS  
GARAGE  
GUTTER  
HAT RACK  
HOLLOW WALL  
KITCHEN  
OFFICE  
PATIO  
SHUTTER  
SITTING AREA  
STOVE  
STUDIO  
TURRET  
WALL ANCHOR  
WELL  
WINDOWSILL

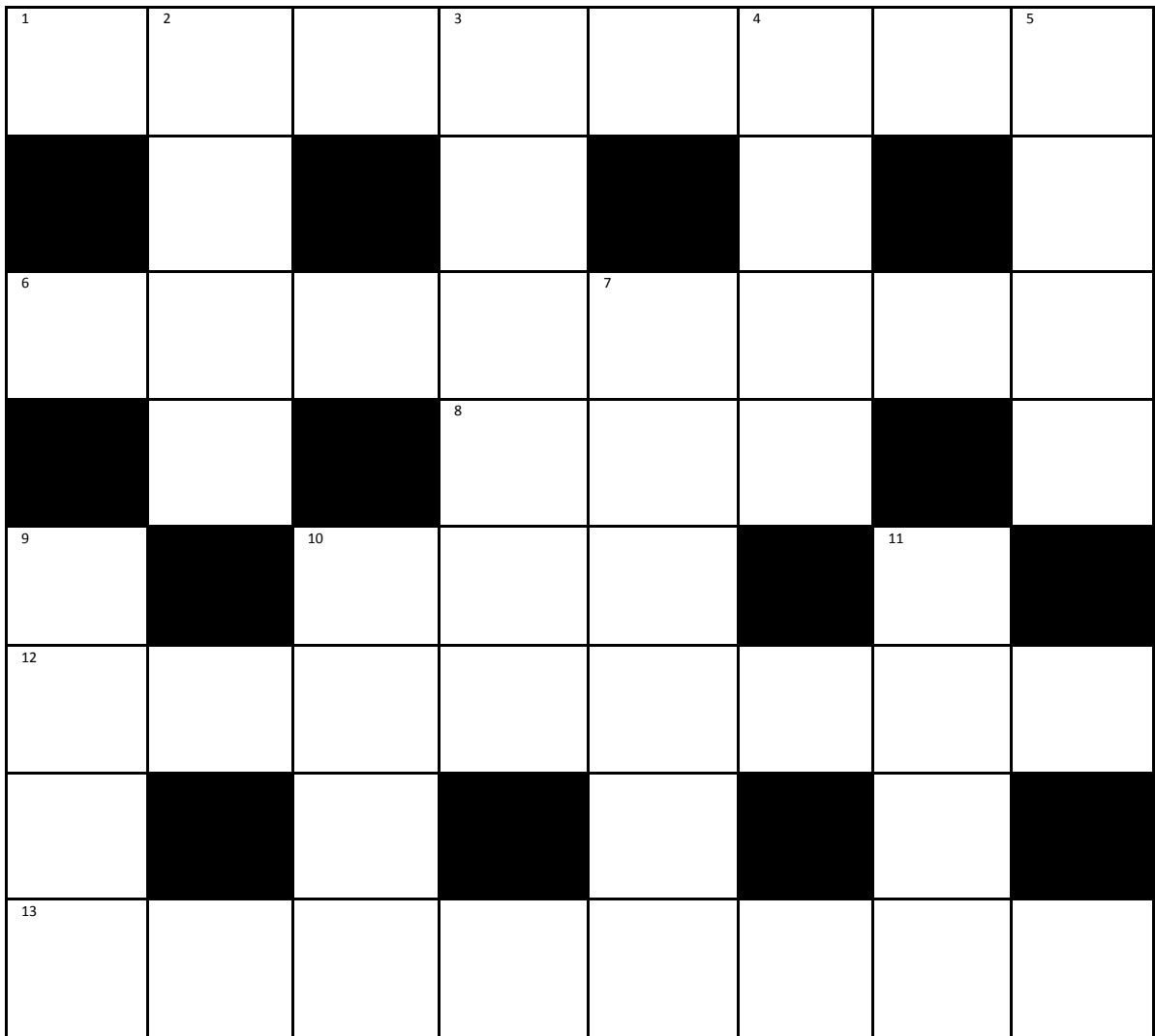
ARCADE  
BATHROOM  
BEDROOM

BEDSTEAD  
CEILING  
CHIMNEY

COLONNADE  
CORRIDOR  
DOORSTEP



## Crossword



### Across

1. Digit used for detecting errors
6. Abroad
8. Trophy
10. Bottom Line
12. Solid with trapezoidal sides
13. Become settled

### Down

2. Busy Place
3. Tent Show
4. Aerobic bit
5. Zorro Wear
7. Picnic days
9. Smudge
10. Scarf material
11. Japanese soup

**Solution on Page 25**





## **Gardening in March/April**

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seeds, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

### **Prune bush's and climbing roses**

These general tips for rose pruning will help you improve the health and lifespan of any rose.

### **Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes**

Onions are such a versatile vegetable – they feature in so many recipes, and growing your own means you'll always have them to hand.

### **Plant summer-flowering bulbs**

Bulbs make a fine display planted in containers or borders, especially daffodils, snowdrops and tulips in spring. They are one of the easiest and most rewarding garden plants to grow.

### **Lawns: mowing**

The mowing regime is an important part of maintaining a healthy lawn. The cutting height and mowing frequency will depend on the purpose and look you want to achieve, whether it be a close-cut 'classic' lawn or longer-grassed wildlife lawn.

### **Slugs**

Slugs are widespread animals which can cause problems in the garden, eating holes in leaves, stems, flowers, tubers and bulbs. They can cause damage throughout the year on a wide range of plants, but seedlings and new growth on herbaceous plants in spring are most at risk.

# Irchester Community Library

*“A friendly, welcoming place at the heart of the community, offering activities for all ages.”*

After many months of discussions and meetings and organising funding, Irchester Community Library finally re-opened on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Everyone who has visited has been very happy that we are open again and has been very complimentary. We now have 37 trained volunteers to sign you up as a “borrower”, to help you look for or buy books, or generally help to show you the ropes on taking out your books. Other volunteers help with other aspects of running the library from management to maintenance. We have a dedicated volunteer who now organises the volunteer rota and we even have a WhatsApp group for emergencies, such as if someone is not able to cover their shift. Another volunteer advises and uses allocated funds to purchase new books every quarter (with money and a book list supplied by North Northamptonshire Council), so keeping our stock list up-to-date.

Funding for the running of the library comes from events the library organises, funding generously supplied by the Irchester Parish Council and other grants or kind donations we have been able to obtain. If you feel that you would like to Volunteer, please do also get in touch.

We had a list of plans that we wanted to put in place. For example, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 we started Rhyme Time for the under-fives with 37 adults and children joining in the singing and rhymes and clapping. They all had a wonderful time! The Rhyme Time volunteers have been delighted with the response. Rhyme Time is held every Thursday at 9.30am (during School Term Times). We also intend to start a craft club and a book group.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the Library celebrated its 113<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The library was originally opened on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1909 with £1000 provided by Scottish American steel magnate and library promotor Andrew Carnegie on land given by Baroness Harriet Wantage.

We held a very successful coffee morning for our 113th Birthday Party. At 10am we held our breath and looked at the refreshments that people had kindly donated before visitors arrived to look around, to chat, enjoy the refreshments – and to buy raffle tickets. It was so good to see our Library being used again.

Every Friday until March 2023 from 9am-1pm we have been offering the Library as part of the National Scheme for Warm Space. Come along for free tea, coffee, cup-a-soup, bread and butter. We have places to sit and relax and many, many books to read or borrow - for free!

We offered a space for 'Free Coats for Kids' during the winter and lots of people kindly donated more coats which have been shared in the area to keep children warm. The library is also a hub for borrowing litter pickers and hoops with bags to keep your village clear of litter. Don't forget also that the library is able to be hired for groups.

Please check our Noticeboard, Library Facebook page or Irchester Area News and Views Facebook page for events. We also intend you keep you up to date in the Village Voice. Do come along and sign up for a Library Card to enjoy the many books on offer – free of charge!

**Our opening hours are:**    **Wednesday 10am-2pm**  
   **Friday 2pm-6pm**  
   **Saturday 10am-12noon**

**Library Email:** [IrchesterCML@gmail.com](mailto:IrchesterCML@gmail.com)

**Phone Number:** 0300 126 3000) switchboard number for North Northamptonshire Council. They can help with many libraries general enquires e.g. renewing books)

**Website:** [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/libraries)



## Police Surgery

**Irchester Community Library, High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AA**

**Pop along and see your local**

**PCSO Donna Fenner**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 10am-12noon**

**(Subject to Police Operational Needs on the Day)**

# Irchester Community Library

is delighted to welcome back:

## **RHYME TIME**

Songs and rhymes for everyone to join in.

Weekly on Thursdays during term time.

**9:30 - 10:00 at the library**



All children under 5 & their parents/carers are welcome!

No booking necessary and no fee!

We look forward to seeing, and hearing you!



## What is Rhyme Time and why is it important?

Learning rhymes and singing songs  
Help little brains to grow,  
Rhyming words and copying sounds  
Are things they need to know.

Listening and practising  
Is how we learn to speak,  
Action songs and finger rhymes  
Give the opportunities we seek.

Language and communication  
Help make sense of what we know,  
Clapping and laughing and joining in  
Taking turns and having a go.

Come along and join the fun  
You'll have a lovely time,  
Bring your little one along  
On Thursdays at half past nine.

*Rhyme Time is on every Thursday morning in term time at Irchester Community Library 9.30 to 10.00. A time for under fives and their carers to interact, join in and have fun together as they learn songs and rhymes and get to meet others too - and it's free!*



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## EVENTS AT SAXBY'S CIDER TAPROOM IN FARNDISH

**7/4 & 30/9 CIDER & SAUSAGE FEST**

**29/4 BLOSSOMFEST**

**3/6 CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

**1/7 COMEDY CLUB**

**2/7 & 9/12 LOCAL PRODUCERS FAIR**

**5/8 SUMMER BBQ**

**PYO EVENTS ON THE FARM AT SAXBY'S CIDER**

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If someone in your family needs a  
little help please call Sheri Brown  
on **01933 678775**

<http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/eastnorthants>  
Email: [sheribrown@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:sheribrown@homeinstead.co.uk)

3 Regent Park  
Booth Drive  
Wellingborough  
NN8 6GR

**Home Instead**  
Caring for people  
*to us, it's personal.*

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In the comfort of your  
own home

07746 315 438  
[janealee26@hotmail.com](mailto:janealee26@hotmail.com)



## EASTER QUOTES

“Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.” — Evan Esar

“In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it, you’ll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade.” — Irving Berlin

There is nothing lovelier than springtime in the country. Once the days get longer, the weather begins to warm up, and colorful flowers start popping up, we’re ready to get outside and bask in the glory of the season.

No matter how long the [winter](#), spring is sure to follow. *English Proverb*

“All I really need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt!” — Lucy Van Pelt

“There’s nothing better than a good friend, except a good friend with chocolate.” — Linda

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

### Across

- 1 Checksum
- 6 Overseas
- 8 Cup
- 10 Sum
- 12 Prismoid
- 13 Takeroor

### Down

- 2 Hive
- 3 Circus
- 4 Step
- 5 Mask
- 7 Summer
- 9 Spot
- 10 Silk
- 11 Miso

## **IRCHESTER COMMUNITY AWARD — 2022**

The following people were presented with the Irchester Community Award for 2022 for their outstanding contribution to the village.

Suzanne Moreton and Sian Millard for their hard work in setting up a Foodbank for those in need in our Village. At Christmas they produced quite a lot of hampers to make Christmas a little bit better for some. They haven't stopped so if you can support them in any way, please do.

The other nominated person was Peter Holman. Some of you may know Peter for his work with Neighbourhood Watch. He hears from the Police and then passes on to us anything we need to be aware of.

These three people deserve this Award and we congratulate them.

The Award for 2023 is open for you to nominate any person you feel deserves recognizing for the work they do unselfishly for the village. Please let me know.

Ann May, Tel: 350785

## **IRCHESTER VILLAGE SHOW—2023**

We hope to resume this event on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 after the last couple of years when we couldn't meet.

It takes a lot of planning and we would welcome anyone who could assist us this year, especially anyone who knows a thing or two about growing veg, flowers and fruit.

The categories will be the same. Paintings and Photos. Any craft in wool, wood etc. Baking – homemade jams, pickles etc, cakes, scones and biscuits. Vegetables, fruit, flowers.

We will produce an entrance paper nearer the time.

We would appreciate your support.

Ann May, Tel: 350785

## ABC PRE-SCHOOL

We hope that all of our families and the wider community enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and welcomed in a lovely New Year. At Pre-school we have had a fabulous start to our New Year, we have welcomed back all the children and also some new starters and staff who have settled happily into our busy pre-school.



We finished the year exploring colours and shapes, in different contexts including Fireworks, Remembrance Poppies, Children in Need and of course, the favourite was Christmas. All the children got involved in a variety of creative activities including making glitter firework pictures, Apple printing poppies and designing Christmas cards for their families. Finally we ended our 2022 with a Christmas party and a wonderful visit from Father Christmas, which the children are still talking about. It was wonderful to be able to invite parents into the setting to share our Christmas sing-a-long.

So far this year we have already explored Winter, Feeding the birds, The Chinese New year of the Rabbit and How things work. The children have greatly enjoyed using coloured paint and exploring make different textures making bird feeders cutting out rabbits and using their pencil skills to recreate Chinese writing.

During next term we will be challenging the children and their families to learning Nursery Rhymes and doing World book day to help the children with their communication and language skills. We will then be moving onto learning about Spring and Easter. We hope to be able to continue our yearly Easter coffee afternoon so look out for our posters.

Strep A and Covid still around, along with various colds and illnesses the children have become very familiar with our extended cleaning routines which we have had to continue. We have been able to relax some of the restrictions to allow some occasional visitors.

We welcome feedback from our families and will always ensure that there is somebody available to answer questions or have a chat as required.

We are open in the Village Hall, Monday to Friday 8.50 – 11.50 and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we offer lunch time 11.50 – 12.20 and sessions from 12.20 – 3.20 during school term times.

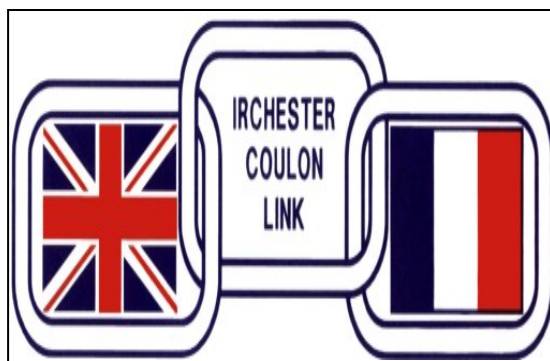
Now may be an ideal time for you to place your child's name on the waiting list for when they are ready to begin pre-school. We have spaces available for this academic year.

For further information or to come and have a look around please telephone ABC Pre-school on 07906086995 or

email: [nickyabc@virginmedia.com](mailto:nickyabc@virginmedia.com)







The sun is actually shining today and it's not as cold as it has been so maybe Spring is on its way!

We are looking forward to welcoming our Coulon Link friends from France in April, and hoping for some lovely weather to give them a warm welcome back after the interruptions to our yearly visits due to Covid.

As always we have our monthly events and hope that you will put the date in your diary and be able to come along.

A Barn Dance with the ever popular Kelly's Eye Irchester Village Hall Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 start Ticket price tbc Please bring own drinks and nibbles

The Coulon Link Twinning visit April 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

Beetle Drive Irchester Village Hall, Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 start. Ticket price tbc Please bring own drinks and nibbles.

If you would like to come along to any of the events or to join the Irchester - Coulon Link you will receive a very warm welcome. Please contact one of our committee members for more information.

**Charlie**

**386296**

Chairperson

**Sue**

**385352**

Secretary

**Pete**

**312224**

Vice Chairperson & Tickets Sales

**Dave**

**350785**

Treasurer

**Sandra**

**386296**

Members Secretary

## And here are some French Easter traditions.

The Easter bells or les cloches de Pâques

On Maundy Thursday, church bells across France remain silent until Easter Sunday to mourn the death of Christ. Legend suggests that the bells flew to Rome to be blessed by the Pope and would then begin their journey back to the French churches. As they travelled they picked up eggs along the way and scattered them into the gardens on their return to France. The bells then rang out on Easter Sunday to announce the Resurrection of Christ and would therefore 'return'. So in France it is the bells not the Easter bunny who delivers Easter eggs.

Eating chocolate is also a popular French Easter tradition. Decorated chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies and chocolate bells are given to children (and adults) at Easter. Chocolatiers take time to produce imaginative displays of chocolate and the windows of chocolate shops and pâtisseries are full of these intricate works of art.

As in England Easter egg hunts are popular. Towns and villages often organise Easter egg hunts in the local park and Easter egg hunts in back gardens are also popular with young children. The eggs used to be decorated hard-boiled eggs, now however, they are usually small foil covered chocolate ones

\*\*\*\*\*



### Easter Eggs

"Yellow and blue.  
For me and you  
Candy sweet.  
Are good to eat.  
Pretty and funny.  
Is the Easter bunny?"

–Anonymous

Easter eggs,  
Easter eggs,  
Easter eggs  
Easter eggs,  
But...where oh where





## Turning point

THE REVD CATHERINE LOMAS



*"Thus says the Lord,... I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"  
(Isaiah 43:19)*

In church this morning, we shall be celebrating the feast of Candlemas. It is the last Sunday of January. Today is a special celebration as we bring to an end our church celebrations of Christmas. A far cry from many of you, I am sure, who would have packed away your decorations long since. Yet throughout the month of January in church, we remind ourselves of how, starting with the birth of Christ, through the coming of the magi (or wise men) at Epiphany, through Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan, and through the miracle of water into wine, Jesus' identity as Saviour of the world and Son of God was made known throughout the nations. We take comfort in the abiding truth that, with the babe at Bethlehem, God's work in our world began in a new and special way, in a way that continues to this day.

Candlemas is then the feast that brings these celebrations to their official end. On Candlemas, the crib scene that we completed at Midnight Mass is taken down. The last of the Christmas lights in the Vicarage are taken down. Candlemas thus marks a turning point in the church year. We turn away from our celebrations of the Christ-child and we turn towards our keeping of Lent and Easter, which are only a few weeks away (and will have begun by the time you read this). Symbolically, at the end of our Candlemas service, each congregation member bears a lighted candle, which is then extinguished as we begin the journey together towards these more sombre seasons in the church year. It is a powerful moment.

There is a deep poignancy in the service of Candlemas that I have always loved. It was no coincidence, therefore, that I chose this day to be my last service at St Katharine's and as your parish priest. Today, I shall lock the door of St Katharine's for the last time, as I prepare to move out of the village and begin a new ministry elsewhere. While I shall continue to serve God as a priest, I am not moving to another parish role. Instead, I shall be focussing full-time on ministry as an iconographer and Christian artist. As the Bible verse with which I began reminds me, God is indeed doing a new thing in my life.

The same is true for St Katharine's. God is at work in all our lives, in all times and seasons. God has already been at work in the life and heart of the person called to be the next Vicar of Irchester with Stanton Cross, though we do not know yet who that will be. The process to appoint my successor is well on the way and after a season of advertisement, applications, interviews and appointment, there will be another celebration service to welcome that individual. I have no doubt that you will welcome them just as you welcomed me seven years ago. I shall always be grateful for my time here in Irchester and for the many people across the whole community who have encouraged and supported me. Thank you all.

Meanwhile, St Katharine's church community is still growing, strong and filled with hope for the future. Throughout the vacancy when there is no parish priest, Sunday (10am) and Thursday (9.30am) services will continue as usual; our children's and families' groups will continue; weddings, funerals and christenings will continue; and the care and love that we share with one another and with those around us will continue. As I celebrate my final service here, today does mark a turning point in the history of St Katharine's Church. However, St Katharine's story runs for over a thousand years; we as God's people (whoever we are, church members or not) are part of a story that began at the dawn of time, and that story continues forever. As seasons change, as people move on, God remains the same, yesterday, today and forever.

May God continue to bless you now, and always.

*Revd Catherine*

*Come and celebrate Lent and Easter* – everyone is welcome to all our services. Further details of our special services for all ages in the lead up to Easter will be shown on the church noticeboard.

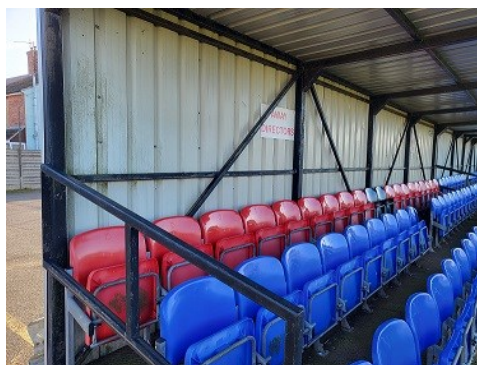
If you need support from the church during the vacancy, please contact our churchwarden, Anne, in the first instance and she can direct you to the right person to help.

By email: [annestkatharines@gmail.com](mailto:annestkatharines@gmail.com)

By telephone: 01933 359096

.....

Answer to photo 1





I've been thinking about change, something my husband says is dangerous, because it usually involves some work taking place! But not on this occasion.

Life is full of change. Our day's plans can change, circumstances change, our mood can change, so much can be subject to change, either unexpectedly or planned. Some people see change as an opportunity for something new and exciting and they embrace it. Others can become anxious about it, preferring to hold onto what is familiar and comfortable.

At Reachout we are in a time of transition and things are going to change. Because of Jim's ongoing health issues, he will be retiring from his role as Pastor and will pass the baton onto one of our lovely young men, James Hodgson. He will become our Senior Leader with the support of his lovely wife Shelli. Usually when a baton is passed on in a race, there is a period when the two runners run together, then one moves forward and the other steps back. This is how our leadership transition has been taking place over the last year and James will carry on the work officially from March 19<sup>th</sup>, when we will have a commissioning service.

To be honest, we have been so blessed by the way our Leadership Team has stepped up and steered the church over the past 3 years since Jim's cancer diagnosis. They have done a brilliant job, which has helped the congregation to feel secure with the change. Jim and I are not going anywhere, we will continue to be part of the Reachout church family because we love Irchester, and we will try to do whatever God calls us to do while we can, but in a more background role.

Jim's cancer is stage 4 and he started immunotherapy treatment just after Christmas. We won't know if it is successful until after three months. If it is, we are told that it can carry on indefinitely. The cancer is not curable, but the hope is that the treatment will contain it. This is the medical verdict, and we are so very grateful for all the medical teams who have been part of our lives for the last three years, but it is our Heavenly Father who holds our futures.

Changes take place all around us, but there is One who is constant. The Bible says in James 1.17: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

I can't remember if I've told you about our breakfast Bible study meetings on a Saturday morning at 10.00am. The ladies meet one week and the men another, and they have been times of real blessing. By the time you read this Village Voice, the planned ladies' meetings are on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>. The men have only planned as far as 18<sup>th</sup> March, but further dates will be posted on a notice in the church windows. If you'd like to come, just pop a note through the café door with your name and a contact number to help us with the catering. There is no charge.

Although things are changing for us, I will still be sending our contributions to Village Voice, so you haven't heard the last of me yet!

Every blessing, Mary



# Irchester WI

Following a busy year, 2022 ended on a high for the Irchester WI, with a Christmas Party and home grown entertainment from our very own

'Wood and Walters'. 2022 proved that our members

were more than ready for a return to normality, with monthly meetings, regular meetups and events and, of course, the fascinating speakers that educate and entertain!

We were fortunate to enjoy Line Dancing, an insight into how the wax figures are made for Madame Tussauds, a fascinating talk from local author Kazia Myers, who kindly gifted every member copies of her superb books charting her parents journey from Poland to Welford. We were entertained by the Welly Ukes and taught the art of professional gift wrapping; all this and more whilst catching up with friends old and new!

2022 saw our President Mary Wright step down and a new committee elected. Mary took the Irchester WI through some of the most challenging times and remains a much loved and respected member of the Irchester WI.

2023 is another exciting year of projects, recipes, events and activities with the WI. We have a fabulous year planned for members; learning about Medical Detection Dogs, Sign Language and more. Along with celebrations of the coming Coronation of our King, regular walking groups, days out and events there is something for everyone, no matter what your age or interests!

We are always delighted to have visitors to our monthly meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Village Hall; all are guaranteed a warm welcome.

**Irchester WI; much more than Jam & Jerusalem! To find out more please contact Emma on 07933 790954 or find us on Facebook — Irchester WI.**





# **IRCHESTER BOWLING CLUB**

## **OPEN DAYS**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**27th & 28th May**

**10am - 3pm**

**FREE**

**Come along & give bowls a try!**

**Fun for all the family**

**ALL AGES & ALL ABILITIES**

**Flat Footwear Essential**

**Free Tea & Coffee**

**Bar Open for refreshments**



**Non Members can join in our Friday  
Eve Roman's Cup Game 6.15pm  
Relaxed Dress Code-Just £5 per  
session. Begins Friday 5th May..  
Be part of the fun ...**



**110 High Street, Irchester, Northants. NN29 7AB**  
**All enquiries to The Secretary 07970265539**



## ***Easter Flower Rabbit Ears***



Make these lovely Rabbit Ears for Easter -

First cover the headband with ribbon, attach one end of the ribbon to the bottom of the headband and wrap the headband until it's completely covered adding small dots of glue as you go to keep it in place.

To make the ears, cut two lengths of pipe cleaner, about 20" and gently fold each in half. Twist the ends together and using glue, attach the twisted ends to the head band.

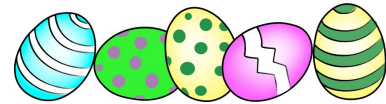
### **Easter's Bunny**

"With a hip and a hop—  
Easter bunny won't you stop,  
At my house to hide some yummy little eggs.  
Then you'll jump out and run –  
Down the street for some fun,  
Zippity quick on your fuzzy, furry legs.  
To hide treats for the others –  
Boys and girls –even mothers,  
Treats galore packed in baskets and bright bags!"  
— Leanne Guenther

\*\*\*\*\*

**Guess where photo 2 was taken?**





Spring is springing

Suddenly everything is brighter  
Perhaps we can forget about snow and ice  
Ring in the sun and look forward to warmer  
days.

Ideally, we can put away the heavy coats.  
Nature is bursting into bloom once more.  
Great news!

Angela Scheidegger 2023

## Answer to photo 2



Can you guess where photo 3 was taken?



# Easter Day

## Word Hunt

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.



X	K	O	J	E	L	L	Y	B	E	A	N	S	L	C
R	V	D	C	S	N	J	X	V	U	T	T	P	W	H
X	P	V	J	N	G	L	H	Y	K	H	V	R	V	O
P	B	B	N	W	Y	O	N	S	D	A	G	I	E	C
E	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	A	M	N	Z	N	D	O
S	G	G	E	F	X	U	F	R	W	R	A	G	A	L
X	B	H	M	P	E	F	M	E	Z	F	I	C	R	A
G	A	Y	I	Z	O	Y	Q	T	Q	Z	A	T	A	T
U	S	Q	K	D	A	N	T	S	X	U	V	F	P	E
W	K	U	I	Z	C	N	I	A	B	F	L	I	W	W
X	E	L	N	A	E	U	P	E	U	O	H	E	R	X
N	T	K	R	D	D	B	Y	C	W	K	S	U	C	Y
Y	P	R	I	R	A	Q	J	E	L	E	R	A	N	M
T	O	D	O	L	Q	Y	R	B	O	D	Y	S	J	T
T	D	S	K	C	I	H	C	B	Y	I	S	L	F	H

BASKET  
BUNNY  
CANDY  
CARROT  
CHICKS  
CHOCOLATE  
DAFFODIL

DECORATE  
EASTER  
EGGS  
FLOWER  
HUNT  
JELLYBEANS  
PARADE

SPRING  
SUNDAY







## Defibrillator locations:

24 hour use - Outside Village Hall  
School Road  
Irchester

24 hour use - Outside Flats  
Milton Road  
Little Irchester

## Answer to photo 3



# **Irchester Country Park**

Irchester Country Park is open all day, every day with free admission, parking charges apply. The pay and display car park, cafe and toilets have separate opening times



## **Cycle round the woods**

Bring your bikes to explore the surfaced tracks around the woods.

## **Join the Nature Tots**

Education ranger led wildlife activities for pre-school children – for details, see their website

## **Build a den**

Build a den in the woods - follow the woodland trail to the den building area.

## **Take the Ironstone Heritage Trail**

Follow the trail to discover the history of the park. Find the Dragline Viewpoint and the Megalosaurus skeleton in the woods.

## **Visit Irchester Narrow Gauge Railway Museum**

When the [railway museum](#) opens on Sundays and bank holidays, you will discover history of the ironstone quarrying at the park and see the steam trains in action.

## **Book and have a go at the Jungle Parc**

Climb, swing and zip through the trees on the [Jungle Parc UK](#) high ropes.

## **Go orienteering**

Download our orienteering map from the [British Orienteering website](#) and try to locate all the control points and code letters.

## **Buy an ice cream or coffee and cake at the cafe**

Visit the Quarryman's Rest Cafe and enjoy a special coffee, home made cake or choose from the menu of locally sourced produce including Sunday roasts.

## **Find the Velociraptor and giant T-Rex skeletons**

Start with some excavation in the Quarry play area sand pit then follow the dino trail into the woods to track down a giant Jurassic beast

\*\*\*\*\*



**Welcome to Chester House Estate – a gem on your doorstep**

**[www.chesterhouseestate.org](http://www.chesterhouseestate.org)**



## **History**

Visitors to Chester House Estate can now weave their way through time – thanks to the introduction of large storyboards showcasing the site's 10,000 years of history.

Nine history boards, which take visitors from the Mesolithic age into the Bronze and then Iron ages, through Roman times and into the Medieval era, now line the Northamptonshire estate's main walkway. Simply park up in the main visitor car park in Claudius Way and step back in time.

As well as being the site of a Roman walled town, there is evidence that Chester House Estate was home to a series of traditional farm buildings dating back to the 17th century. Visit Chester House Estate for a journey through history.

## **Shop**

Visit the Farmyard Shopping Courtyard, packed with independent shops selling food and drink, flowers, gifts and goodies for your four-legged friends. Resident shops include florists Eden Wilde, the estate's gift shop and visitor centre with the History Book Corner, The Canine Cottage, Chester House Farm Shop and award-winning Saxby's Cider. Great for day-to-day shopping as well as special occasions.

## **Learning**

Schools, businesses and people with a passion for knowledge are invited to explore the estate, with Chester House Estate delivering a pioneering and diverse education programme, accessible for all ages.

## **Eat and drink**

The Farmhouse Café is open from 10am-4pm Tuesdays to Sundays, serving up a menu packed with local produce and home cooked goodies. Pop in for fabulous breakfasts and lunches – with stunning views, whether you choose to sit indoors or in our outside seating area. No need to book, just turn up. Plus, all our readers get 10% off all food and drink.

## **Walk and wander**

Visiting the Estate is totally free – for the whole family. Bring your children, your dogs and explore. There is a play area, lots of footpaths and you can bring your dogs with you – even into the café.

## **Where to park**

Park up at the main visitor car park in Claudius Way, which you access via Prologis Park in Wellingborough. Use the postcode [NN8 2DH](#) to find this entrance and then walk along the hard standing footpath, through stunning landscape, and get to the main Chester House building in less than 10 minutes. If you have accessibility needs (blue badge holders) then make your way to our Lime Avenue carpark, using the postcode NN29 7EZ,

\*\*\*\*\*

### [Aquatic Playground., The Embankment, Wellingborough](#)

This public park is a bit different; instead of the usual swings and slides it has sprays, squirts, mists and sheets of water! Children will love running through the jets and spending hours chasing and dodging the water as it shoots up from under their feet!

There's an ice cream or refreshment van parked near the site and a toilet block nearby. So pack your towels, change of clothes, sunscreen and a picnic and make the most of the fleeting British summer without breaking the bank.



## ACTIVITIES

- VILLAGE HALL - ABC Preschool, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts, 50+ movement to music, Photographic Society, WI, Pulse Dancing, Rainbows, Miss Emma Dancing, Coulon Link
- PARSONS HALL - Youth Club, Barn Dancing, Birthday parties, Wedding R+ceptions, Keep Fit
- SPORTS ASSOCIATION - Football, junior football, cricket, darts, skittles, netball
- BOWLS CLUB - Outdoor/indoor bowls, events

## FACILITIES

- SHOPPING - Co-Op High Street  
Village Shop near recreation ground  
Village Shop Arkwright Road
- TAKE AWAY - Fish & Chip Shop, Wollaston Road  
Indian, Wollaston Road  
Chinese, High Street  
Burger and Kebabs, High Street
- CAFÉ - Pear ree Café, High Street
- PUBS/CLUBS - Sports Association - Members Only  
Working Mens Club - Members Only  
Carpenters Arms
- BEAUTY - Hairdresser, High Street  
Hairdresser, School Road  
Beauty Shop ,Wollaston Road
- OTHER - Garage, Wollaston Road  
Garage. Lower Farm, Off High Street  
Chemist, High Street  
Library, High Street
- CHURCHES - Irchester Methodist Church, Tel: 01933 312778  
Reachout Community Church  
[www.reachoutcommunitychurch.org.uk](http://www.reachoutcommunitychurch.org.uk)  
St Katherine's Church [www.stkatharinesirchester.com](http://www.stkatharinesirchester.com)
- IRCHESTERPLAYERS [www.irchesterplayers.co.uk](http://www.irchesterplayers.co.uk)

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Council Chair: P Armstrong	-	01933 311222
Parish Council Vice Chair: K Watts	-	07941 571661
Parish Council Clerk	-	07525 909528
Cemetery/Projects Officer	-	07525 909528
Doctors Surgery	-	01933 413888
Irchester Community Primary School	-	01933 383848
ABC Pre School	-	07906 086995
<i>North Northamptonshire Councillors</i>		
Cllr Jon-Paul Carr		<a href="mailto:jon-paul.carr@northnorthants.gov.uk">jon-paul.carr@northnorthants.gov.uk</a> 01933 382476
Cllr Martin Griffiths		<a href="mailto:martin.griffiths@northnorthants.gov.uk">martin.griffiths@northnorthants.gov.uk</a> 07968 551360
Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood		<a href="mailto:tom.partridge=underwood@northnorthants.gov.uk">tom.partridge=underwood@northnorthants.gov.uk</a> 01933 665157
North Northamptonshire Council	-	<a href="https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/contactus">https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/contactus</a> 0300 126 3000
Fixmystreet	-	<a href="https://www.fixmystreet.com/">https://www.fixmystreet.com/</a>
Village Hall	-	01933 311222
Parsons Hall	-	01933 543118
Kettering General Hospital	-	01536 492000
GP out of hours	-	111
Police - Non emergency	-	101
Police - Emergency	-	999
Irchester Allotments	-	01933 413965
Little Irchester Allotments	-	01933 673310

### **Irchester Parish Council — Councillors**

Claire Ashford	07941 270787
<b>Pam Armstrong (Chair)</b>	<b>01933 311222</b>
Victoria Blake	07414 151156
Stewart Bridge	07954 754942
Linda Brown	0776 1189501
Ken Clarke	07879 651057
Jon-Paul Carr	01933 382476
Tim Maguire	07741 162619
Matthew May	01933 311011
Pete Smith	01933 312224
Shion Vassell	07501 894515
<b>Kevin Watts (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>07941 571661</b>

### **Little Irchester Councillors**

John Dunkley	01933 274245
Sylvia East	07956 050328
Davina Shroll	01933 278185

Clerk/Cemetery Officer: Nikki Daft	07525 909528
Assistant Clerk: Sarah Tweddell	07521 243980

### **North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) — Councillors**

Cllr Jon-Paul Carr

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