

Paxton Post



Issue 42

May - June 2024

*Your FREE Community Magazine
for residents of Great Paxton*

THE MAGAZINE FOR GREAT PAXTON



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 14th September 2024

2024 Scarecrow Festival



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www.greatpaxtoncommunityshop.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

Monday – Saturday
9am – 5pm

Sunday
9am – 1pm

Editorial by Julie Stock

Welcome to this May/June edition, which as most of you will know by now, is my final issue as editor. Joanna Hartley-Clark will be taking over from me and will let you know her contact details in due course.

Remember that you can see the magazine online via the Community tab on the Parish Council website at <https://greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk/>.

If you'd like to contribute to the next issue, please note the deadline dates below. We now have an advertising policy for local businesses. Please contact the Parish Council clerk if you're interested in this.

Deadline Dates for Upcoming Issues

The Paxton Post is published 6 times a year. Cut off dates are now the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please see the table below for these dates. It is the responsibility of contributors to ensure articles are submitted to the Editor by these dates. Thank you.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Copy deadline</u>
July – August	15 June
September – October	15 August
November – December	15 October
January – February	15 December
March – April	15 February
May – June	15 April

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MIG KIMPTON

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Mig Kimpton
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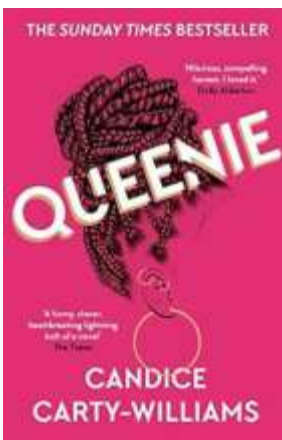
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Great Paxton Reading Group

We have just read “Queenie” by Candice Carty-Williams. It took me a while to get into this book. Glad that I persevered, I enjoyed it – it is mainly about Queenie and her friendships/relationships.

Amanda Niven

The Mobile Library visits Little Paxton, Eynesbury, Eaton Socon, Great Paxton, Offord Darcy and Offord Cluny on the 3rd Monday in the month (Round H15).

Great Paxton: Towgood Way 2.55pm to 3.30pm

As well as a large range of library books, you can get your NHS hearing batteries, replacement walking stick ferrules and you can dispose of old household batteries.



The Offords WI

The AGM of our WI took place in March, and this was followed by a very enjoyable talk by one of our own members, Norma Hollingsworth. The intriguing title was A Life in Crime.

No, Norma is not a rogue – but was actually the very first woman to become a Chief Crown Prosecutor. Working in a very male dominated profession, we heard how Norma survived the inevitable attention. We heard some very amusing stories!

On a serious note, she explained how the Crown Prosecution Service works and how it liaises with Police. Norma outlined some of the cases she had worked on and challenged us to make some decisions if we had been in her position. It was fascinating and thought provoking. Norma is retired now but we wonder how many of our neighbours have a hidden story to tell.

If you do and would like to talk to us, we would love to hear from you! If you are more of a listener, then do please consider joining our group. We meet on the second Tuesday each month in The Offords Village Hall at 7.30.

Our timetable for the coming year is a work in progress, but a poster advertising each talk will be displayed in your friendly Village Shop.

Enquiries to: Jenny Murby. Tel: 01480 811474

Great Paxton History Society March 2024. Important info about meetings

Website <https://greatpaxtonhistory.weebly.com/>

Please visit the website. If anyone has some more pictures of people and places in Great Paxton we would be pleased to see them. See also Great Paxton 1000 - <https://greatpaxton1000.co.uk/>

and email greatpaxtonhs@yahoo.com

Future meetings in the Bell?

We are costing The Bell to open on Mondays. Just as with the Crafty Belles group, we don't want The Bell out of pocket; it's bad enough taking Rachael's one day off a week. With so few of us it's unfair on her.

So please see the dates here. April and May no meeting.

WE WILL HAVE THE JUNE MEETING IN THE BELL MARQUEE

I will keep the monthly **newsletter** going but would very much like some contributions, rather than just my ramble invention. Even a picture of something as show and tell.

Ideas for other speakers or activities please?

Apologies that I got the dates wrong in the last edition of Paxton Post, but anyway it's all change now.

Dates of meetings – 2nd Monday of each month.

8th April. 13th May. By newsletter only

**10th June. MARQUEE The Bell, The World Turned Upside Down -
Stuart Orme. 7.30pm. £3.50 at the door**

8th July. 12th August. at the church or the recreation ground
pavilion TBC

9th September 14th October. 11th November 9th
December

At The Bell, 7.30pm, depending on home crib matches, to be
confirmed.

Jacqueline Wieczorek, general Society information
– 01480 477035 jacqueline.wieczorek@gmail.com

Graham gave an update on the 1921 Census research paid for by the
Goodliff Award. All data is logged and he is now preparing
summaries. He confirmed that in the report he will be breaking up
statistics with these summaries, villagers reminiscences and
photographs of the time. One example of information found was that
only one third of villagers were born in Great Paxton during that
time.

Paul spoke to the group about his findings on a topic based around
vagrancy. He referred to the Vagrancy Act of 1824. He read out a
very detailed description of the legal definition of the term, and
referred to Thomas Butler who was born here but lived nearer to
Bedford. Seems that if you are not liked by someone they can report
you to the police as a vagrant!

Graham then spoke about some items he has extracted from the Paxton Posts from the recent past now held in our village archives such as:-

1. The original plans were for the community shop to be in the pub.
2. Concerns about noise from the proposed wind turbines at Coton Farm.
3. Reports of a planning permission request for a massive solar farm off Toseland Road. Other uses for that land had been stabling, 30 houses, and a large golf course.
4. There were also two separate but linked history articles about the Towgood Institute by Bert Goodwin. The first informed us that the original Reading Room was in 6 London Lane as it is now called. It is believed that the Towgood family built 6 cottages in London Lane near to the High Street around the 1860s with one given over for the use of the village for meetings by such groups as the Mothers Meeting under the supervision of the Towgood daughters who lived in Paxton Hill House.
5. Later, around 1896, Mr Hamer Towgood bought the land on that corner and had the Towgood Institute built for the village. Games, newspapers and extra reading lessons were given, just for boys and men. Two daily newspapers were provided, as stipulated in the deeds, and these were the Daily Express and the Daily Mail. It was well used until the end of World War 2 with the vicar as the sole trustee, it is believed. Then lack of use meant that the building lay empty for many years.

Great Paxton History Society

Monday 10th June 2024
7.30pm The Bell marquee
Great Paxton

£3.50 on the door

'The World Turned Upside Down'
– the experience of the British Civil Wars

Stuart Orme, Curator of the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon



We tend to think of the English Civil Wars as being rather romantic – with dashing stories of cavaliers and roundheads, but what was it really like for those who lived through this turbulent period? This talk looks at the experience of ordinary people, soldiers, and civilians, of one of the bloodiest and most important times in our history, including the real birth of ‘fake news’ and the origins of some of our modern sayings.

Great Paxton PTA News

Thanks to all who came to support the chocolate bingo in March - it was a great success and we raised over £600 for the school.

PTA Family Race Night – 11th May at The Bell

On the evening of the 11th of May, the PTA are hosting a family race night at The Bell. BBQ from 5pm to 8pm with races starting at 6pm.

Opportunities to sponsor a race for £20 to promote your business:

£5 to own a horse

£5 to own a jockey

£20 winnings each for the jockey and the horse if they win!

Just message Tara West if you would like to sponsor or buy horses and jockeys. Bets start at £1 a race. A fun way to get together to support the school.

Great Paxton School fete - a serious upgrade!!




Sunday the 9th of June 11am to 3pm at the Great Paxton Recreation Ground

There will be bouncy castles, loads of games and stalls, food vendors, fancy dress competition and more!! - Fun for all the family!

We will need volunteers to help out on the day so please let Tara West know if you can spare an hour to help.

Finally, we are collecting for our tombolas please. We are looking for items for a toy tombola, teddy tombola and adult tombola. Tara can collect donations locally.


*




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Perkybeans23@gmail.com



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Swing by the Bell carpark for your dose of warmth and energy.




Follow the scent of freshly ground joy – your favourite coffee and hot chocolate will be served on the farm track
(top of Adams lane) on:

Saturday 4th May 7am till midday

Saturday 1st June 7am till midday

SAVE THE DATES!



The Retirement Revolution

It has now been 9 years since the Government made major changes to the regulations regarding how and when we can access our pension funds. Prior to this, we had very little choice concerning our own pension money when retiring. It was a general perception that we could not be trusted to make 'the right decision'.

The changes raised concerns that we would access and spend our pension funds on items such as cars, holidays or home improvements and many of us would then face a long retirement with only the state pension to support us. In reality, the evidence suggests that most of these funds have been used in more practical ways, such as repaying debts, topping up savings or meeting increased living expenses.

To many of us our pension represents the largest single asset we own next to our home. Few of us, however, give as much time and care to looking after our pension as we do our home.

These far-reaching changes mean that every person will have decisions to make regarding their retirement provisions. Whilst the Government has set up a guidance service to assist, they are not able to offer specific advice.

Few of us work for one employer for our whole career any more and this means that many have 'lost' pensions that would well be a welcome windfall.

The recent increases in the cost of living and interest rates have led to many experiencing a sharp rise in mortgage costs. Utilising pension

cash may be an attractive way to reduce or clear borrowing and free up much needed income.

Whilst the changes are undoubtedly welcome, I urge everyone to take time to review their situation and seek Independent Advice before taking irreversible action that could also lead to unnecessary tax bills.

I have lived in Great Paxton for 26 years and have been providing Independent Financial Advice for over 30 years. If you would like to review your situation, I would be glad to assist.

Chris Wills DipPFS, Cert CII (MP & ER)
Senior Independent Financial Planner
Brooks Wealth Management chris@brookswwealth.co.uk
E chriswills11@ymail.com T 07512 439325

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Little Paxton Gardening Club

Where gardening and friendships blossom

Our monthly club meetings take place in Little Paxton Village Hall at 8pm with the following, before taking a break over the summer for Club Outings:

<p>Wednesday 1st May 2024</p>	<p>Bootsies Nursery <i>Creating Containers & Tubs</i></p>	<p>Karen, one of the owners of Bootsies Nursery in Upper Caldecote, will share with us her expertise in successfully using peat free compost and how to create wonderful hanging baskets and tubs for your summer garden.</p>
<p>Saturday 18th May 2024</p>	<p>Spring Plant Sale <i>Grove Road, Little Paxton. Between 10 – 2pm.</i></p>	<p>To get your garden off to a great start this summer come and buy your young vegetable and flower plants, at bargain prices !</p>
<p>Saturday 13th July 2024</p>	<p>PaxFest Plant Stall 12 – 5pm <i>QE11 Playing Field, Little Paxton.</i></p>	<p>Please stop by and visit our stall and grab yourself some plant bargains! We are here all day.</p>
<p>Wednesday 4th September 2024</p>	<p>Robyn Staddon <i>Bumble Bees</i></p>	<p>Robyn has a BSc in Ecology and among other interests is a volunteer ranger at the Paxton Pitts Nature Reserve. She has studied bumble bee populations in private gardens and flower rich meadows and tonight shares her knowledge with us and helps us identify some common UK species.</p>

Visitors are always very welcome - £4 per meeting, which includes refreshments.

For more information, please contact:
PAULA HAYWARD Tel. 07717 846 712

YAY! IT'S THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We meet in The Bell pub

On the first and third Tuesday of each month

At 11.00 until 12.30

So the next few dates for your diary are:

7 and 21 May

4 and 18 June

Come along and enjoy coffee, cake, chat, a (gentle) quiz and a game of dominoes - all for a mere £2.

We would love to see you, a warm welcome guaranteed.

If you wish, and most of us do, you can stay for lunch in the pub afterwards.



The countryside charity
Cambridgeshire
and Peterborough

Introducing CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) is one of the longest established and most respected environmental groups in England. Your local CPRE group, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, was set up over 90 years ago – and we've been speaking up for our countryside ever since. We want to protect it from the threats it faces, and to shape its future for the better.

CPRE campaigns for a beautiful and living countryside. We work to influence how we plan our towns and cities to make them better places to live and work, to ensure the countryside is protected for all to enjoy for now and future generations.

Our work is largely carried out by a small band of volunteers who are committed to protecting our landscapes and rural communities.

Standing up for the countryside

In Cambridgeshire we are lucky to have diverse, evocative and beautiful countryside – Great Paxton, for example, is an historic village located close to the Ouse Valley and a nearby nature reserve. However, very little of our countryside has the official designation which would protect it from inappropriate development. With Cambridgeshire being one of the fastest growing parts of England, the countryside on our doorstep is under threat!

The dangers include massive and inappropriate development, in particular the government's ambitions to build 150,000 or more homes in and around Cambridge over the next 20 years. Flood risk, the impact of climate change and the need to protect our precious farmland in order that we can feed ourselves are just some of the concerns for CPRE regarding development on this scale in Cambridgeshire.

What you can do

Will you help us in our work? We desperately need more volunteers and members. Joining us for just £5 a month would make a real difference. For more information contact Jo McGowan at office@cprecambs.org.uk or see our website <https://www.cprecambs.org.uk>.

We're also active on both Twitter (@CPRECambs) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CPRECambridgeshireAndPeterborough>), so why not join the conversation?

Holy Trinity Minster Church, Great Paxton



Contact details:

Vicar: Canon Annette Reed

01480 211048 canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Mr Bob Hacking, 1 Mint Lane, Great Paxton

01480 219846

Mrs Andrea Goodyer, 7a Church Lane, Great Paxton

andrea.goodyer@clinicallyconnected.com

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Jacqueline Jackson

jmunro@btinternet.com

Tower Captain:

Mrs Mary Parnham

01480 394727 maryP2707@hotmail.com

Regular Services at Great Paxton Church.

We hold a variety of Christian worship, and you will always find a very warm welcome.

Do contact Annette if you are thinking of having a youngster baptised or would like to chat about holding your wedding in our wonderful village church. canonannettereed@gmail.com

Here is our regular service pattern:

1 st Sunday	9.00am	Prayer Book Holy Communion
2 nd Sunday	11.00am	All Age Worship
3 rd Sunday	11.00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
4 th Sunday	11.00am	Morning Prayer

An easy way to donate towards the upkeep of Holy Trinity Church.



Here is our new QR code and if any readers would like to make a one off donation towards looking after our 1,000 year old building, the code is easy to use with a mobile phone. Thank you.

Follow news for the Paxton’s Benefice on Facebook, @thepaxtonsbenefice.



Celebrate May

Join us in Great Paxton Churchyard

Sunday 5th May

12.30-4.00pm

A variety of stalls and traditional
wooden village games

Tower Tours with a view of the bells
from 12.30pm

Live May Day Music

History Display in church

Refreshments

All funds raised going to

Holy Trinity Church

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 2nd June

Open Gardens at Paxton Place

1.30-4.30pm



The All-New Great Paxton

Information Sheet for our Community

The Bell Pub

Great Paxton Community shop

Girl Guiding Association

Village events.....

..... and so much more

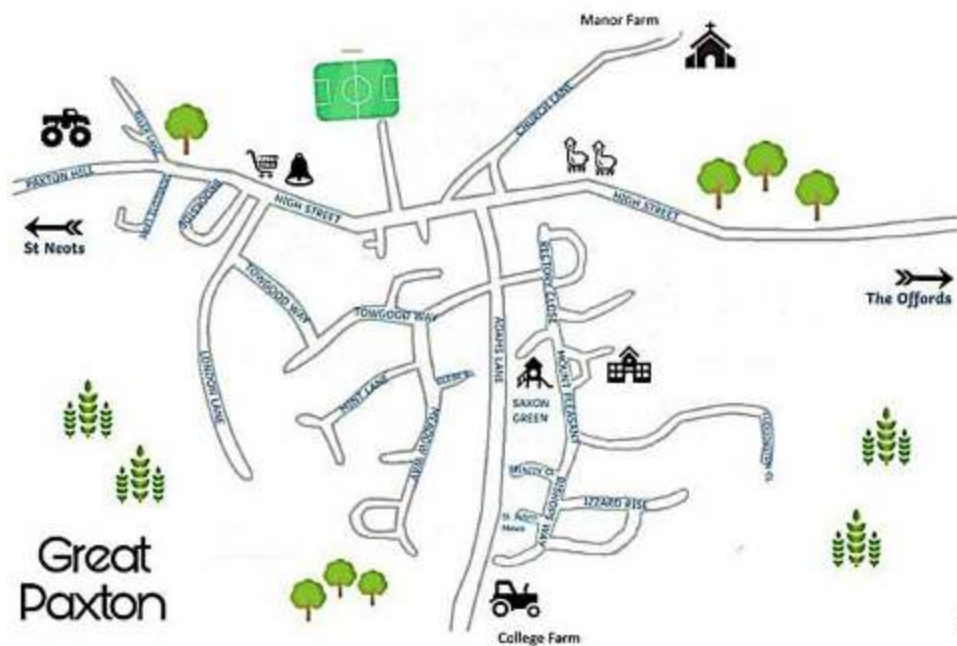
(Pull-out and keep for Handy Reference)

A more detailed version is available online at www.greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk - February 2024

Organisations, clubs & activities	Contact	Facebook	Website	Phone	Email
Rainbows/Brownies/Guides	Michelle Oakley	Sirifinding Great Paxton	1st Great Paxton Brownies	01480 477847	girlguidinggreatpaxton@gmail.com
Allotments and Community Garden	Gillian Smith			07903 371774	gilliansmith45@btinternet.com
Booze and Briskies	Sarah Peters				sarahpeters20@gmail.com
Church Bell ringers	Maureen			01480 394777	
Church - Holy Trinity Minster	Canon Annette Reed	The Benefice of Little & Great Paxton	https://www.thebeneficeoflittleandgreatpaxton.org/	01480 211048	
Churchwarden	Caron Hackling			01480 219846	
Community Room - at school	Andrea Goodyer			01480 472132	Andrea_goodyer@clinicallyconnected.com
Community shop	Julie Edwards			01480 218624	greatpaxtoncommunityshop@gmail.com
Crafty Belles Craft Group	Andy Wyldie	Great Paxton Community Shop	Great Paxton Community Shop	07522 449535	diane.james42@outlook.com
Crib Team	Diane James			07790 857729	
Darts Team	Chris Horne			01480 700107	Rachael.Martin.The.Bell
Exercise group	Men's, Graham Holton - Ladies, Sally Ritson			07715 460818	
Football Club	Mitch Wilson	Great Paxton Boot Camp	www.mwff.co.uk	07540 491068	
Football - colls	Danny Love-Fulton	Great Paxton FC		07786 625397	football@greatpaxtonfc.co.uk
Football - Mini Soccer	Collin Bower	Great Paxton Colls FC		07532 764389	
Friendship Club	Jamie Stenton				
History society	Ask Rachael at The Bell	Great Paxton Remembers	greatpaxtonhistory.weebly.com/	01480 477095	Jacqueline.wieczorek@gmail.com
Male Library every 3rd Monday	Maureen	www.comingofageites.gov.uk/residents/libraries	www.comingofageites.gov.uk/residents/libraries		mobilibraries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
MOYV - every Tuesday 2-4	Christine	https://www.facebook.com/moyv246632	https://www.facebook.com/moyv246632		
Parish Council	Post Office - In The Bell car park	Great Paxton Parish Council	Diford & Buckden Angling Society	07564 277062	
Paxton Post - Village Magazine	Christine Brandon (Clerk)			01480 380142	
PTA	Simon Black			07561 320538	
Recreation Ground	Tara West	Great Paxton School PTA			
Great Paxton Primary School	Michael Fairs		www.greatpaxton.cambs.sch.uk	07950 967250	greatpaxtonpte@outlook.com
Pre-school	Julie Edwards			01480 472132	Michael.fairs@gmail.com
Stay and Play	No longer active in village				office@greatpaxton.cambs.sch.uk
Speedwatch	Heather Arnold	Great Paxton Stay and Play		07828 992884	heavarnold1@yahoo.co.uk
The Bell	Chris Hall	The Bell, Great Paxton	The Bell (mybellpub.com)	07595 473806	clerk@greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk
Woodsoners Golf Society	Rachael Martin			01480 700107	
Other Facebook groups -	Trevor Smith			07473 219556	trevorsmith1009@outlook.com
Community group					
GP Community Selling Group					
Sale Community - Sell your stuff					
Share - age related housing					
Sow and Grow - gardening advice					

Other information				
Bin collection details	www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/refuse-calendar			
Council	www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/			
Community Council (HDC)	www.huntingdoncouncil.gov.uk/			
Hospitals	www.pwanhslft.nhs.uk/huntingdon	www.cuh.nhs.uk/addenbrookes	Hitchingbrooke 01480 416416 Lakeside 01480 406677	Addenbrookes 0123245151 Buckden 01480 210444
GP Practices	www.wanlakeside.nhs.uk	Huntingdon, Library and Local Archives		0345 045 5225 01480 472452
Libraries	St Neots Library			
Garages, River Lane	Great Paxton From tractors to nails	River Lane, 01480 476901		
Garages; repairs - 2 in village	Paxton Hill Garage Ltd 01480 217806			
Bus times at Adams Lane/High Street	https://dewu-coaches.com/	Mount Pleasant - opposite the school - 9.00 a.m.		
Post boxes	Outside the community shop - 9.00 a.m.			
Cinemas	Cineworld - St Neots, Huntingdon	09330 333 4444	www.picturehouses.com/cambridge	
WI (Women's Institute)	Nearest are in St. Neots, Offord or Yelling			
Volunteering	Great Paxton Community Village Shop	Opportunities at Church led events		Helping with Guiding: Speedwatch
Nearest supermarkets	Various in St Neots			
Maps of walks in the College Farm area – refer to the website	www.facebook.com/groups/23569673122000 posts/38666490026703/			
School bus to Longsands – details of stops and timetables	Transport – Longsands Academy			
Police – general non-emergency number	101			
NIA – St Neots	University of the Third Age (U3A)			
Area 1 Women's Group	University of the Third Age (U3A)			
Place of Worship	Huntingdon, Miller Chapel			
Nature Reserves	Paxton Pits Nature Reserve			01480 877215 01480 406795
Bailway station, St Neots	03450 264700 (central number)			
Museum, New Street, St Neots	www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk			01480 214163 curators@stneotsmuseum.org.uk jonathan.djanogly.mp@parliament.uk
Member of Parliament	Jonathan Djanogly	Member of Parliament		
Emergency numbers for				
Gas	report a leak			
Electricity	supply issues	https://cadentgas.com/emergencies/smell-gas		0800 111999
Water	help – Anglian Water	Help and Advice in the event of a Power Cut		0800 316 3105
Regular Annual Events-	Village fête at Paxton Place	https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/		0800 771881
	School PTA Summer fête	Canon Annette Reed		01480 211048
	Scarecrow festival - September	Tara West		01480 472132
	Remembrance Sunday service	Joanna Hartley,Clarke Canon Annette Reed	Great Paxton Scarecrow Festival	
	Christmas lights switch-on and stalls around village – early December	Rachael Martin		01480 211048
	Christmas carols outside The Bell	Canon Annette Reed		01480 211048
	Christmas Eve carol services	Canon Annette Reed		01480 211048
	in Bell Pub car park area	NICOLA COOPER		01480 211048
EMERGENCY DEFRILLATOR				

Where we live



Welcome to the Village

Update from the dynamic Holy Trinity events planning group!

Members of the PCC have put together a new programme of events for 2024. The aim is to bring some fun events to the village and raise some essential funding to keep our beautiful historic village church in good order and pay our share of the cost of having a full time vicar across our four churches.

Apologies for cancelling the Vicar's Curious Quiz Night in April. The Vicar was recovering from an appendectomy (subject of next Quiz night?) and felt it best to cancel.

Sunday May 5th – Celebrating May and Spring!

See the poster above.

A special day at Great Paxton Church with lots of stalls, plants, cakes, games for children and refreshments. With a reminder too of the traditional customs enjoyed at the beginning of May in olden times. Donations of cakes/plants/pre-loved items/books very welcome! Delighted that four musicians will be joining us to play traditional May Day Music with the village May Pole present!

Sunday June 9th from 1.30pm onwards.

We are delighted that Matthew and Sophie have offered to host another Open Gardens event at their lovely home, Paxton Place. This was once home to the vicars of Great and Little Paxton and can be found as you come out of the village travelling towards the Offords on the right.

Many stalls and an opportunity to sip Pimm's in the lovely and peaceful environment of the Old Vicarage Gardens.



Great Paxton Churchyard

The grass cutting season is well under way and the PCC are now paying for our regular grass cutter to mow the extensive lawn areas.

It would help him, and volunteers who also care for the churchyard, if any flowers and tributes left on graves were removed when past their best. Please could any objects which are glass or ceramic and liable to break also not be introduced. We hope that many of our residents find the churchyard a peaceful and comforting place to be. Do be careful when entering as some of the ground is very uneven.

The Benefice Ringers.

Now that the weather is warming up a bit, the ringing team have been back to the belfry at Great Paxton and practising their skills on the six bells. They are always willing to toll a bell before a funeral service commences and if requested will ring afterwards to celebrate someone's life. They will be ringing at our weddings this year and are always pleased to welcome visiting ringing bands.

The major project to refurbish the bells and add a sixth bell took place in the summer of 2018. Below is a picture of some of the bells and their wheels in the belfry.

If anyone would be interested in finding out more about learning to ring, do contact the Benefice Tower Captain Mary Parnham
maryP2707@hotmail.com



Great Paxton Church

A poem by John Robert Butler S.R.N c 1974

John was born in Great Paxton as in 1920 his family had moved back to the village and settled at the Black Bull Public House in High Street.

Why do we like to gaze?

And why do we wonder?

Is it that we can really move in Time?

And here by the trees we stand, look over the grass

And see in our days of youth

The Saxon pile?

Symbol of honesty, set in your village charm

As far as the city's grey as roses are

Any quietly next to the farm,

*You speak of the days when ships along the Ouse
Brought Saxons. Now the bells in stately time
Over the willows ring. St Ives and Huntingdon
And many a quiet meadow village too
Have churches old, but none as old as you.*

John served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a nurse during WW2.





SAVE THE DATE

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

SATURDAY **14** SEPTEMBER
2024

START PLANNING!
FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON



REPORT FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL: MAY/JUNE 2024

Firstly, our former **District Councillor Richard West** – you might be aware that Richard resigned from Huntingdonshire District Council in March. Richard represented Great Paxton for many years and has worked hard for residents and the village and been an asset to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has extended their appreciation to Richard for his service and endeavours on our behalf and wished him well for the future. Elections for a new District Councillor will take place on 2nd May.

The Parish Council has extended a warm welcome to its newest Councillor – Simon Black, who was co-opted to the Council in March.

In other news...

Regrettably, the Parish Council's application for Community Grant (Biodiversity) was unsuccessful on this occasion although the District Council has suggested that there might be other opportunities to reapply in the future;

Thank you to Councillor Hall and his team for all their hard work to clear brambles, overgrown shrubs etc on London Lane;

Maintenance of trees on Parish Council land has been completed;

A new dog waste bin has been installed on Rectory Green; the former bin having been relocated to the Recreation Ground to replace one with a broken lid;

Our membership of the Great Ouse Valley Trust has been renewed for 2024;

A request for grant funding towards maintenance of the Churchyard from the Parochial Church Council was deferred to

the May meeting to allow it to be considered at the same time as other applications; and

The annual RoSPA inspection of the Play Space on Saxon Green will be undertaken in April.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** takes place on **Monday 20th May** starting at **7pm** on the Great Paxton School site (either the Community Room or Main Hall, depending on numbers). This is your opportunity to ask questions and raise issues of interest/concern with the Parish Council. Already on the agenda for discussion are 'traffic calming on the High Street', review of the Parish Plan (copy available on the website) i.e. what else would you like the Parish Council to do on your behalf and, in view of the resignation of the current Editor, a look at the future of the 'Paxton Post'? The Council's very formal Annual General Meeting follows – you are welcome to stay on for this too! Simple refreshments will be offered.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 20th May.

[Late News: the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor withdrew its services in late March. Hopefully, by the time you read this, a new Contractor will have been appointed. We hope the transition will be seamless]!

SATURDAY FREIGHTERS

Locations

Saturday Freighters will be available from 6.30am-1pm between the months of April and September 2024 on the following dates.

27 April, 25 May, 22 June, 20 July, 17 August and 14 September.

Brington – Thrapston Road

What 3 Words:
///breakfast.stylist.nicely
Servicing residents in:
Leighton
Brington & Molesworth

Tilbrook – Tilbrook Road layby (mid Kimbolton & Tilbrook)

What 3 Words:
///curable.recruiter.otter
Servicing residents in:
Tilbrook Stow Longa
Catworth Kimbolton

Little Paxton - Paxton Pits

What 3 Words:
///shoelaces.obligated.commuted
Servicing residents in:
Little Paxton Diddington
Great Paxton Southoe & Midloe

St Neots - Riverside Park (excluding 22 June and 17 August)

What 3 Words:
///deflated.tractor.reboot
Servicing residents in:
St Neots
Hail Weston

St Neots - One Leisure

What 3 Words:
///discrepancy.taped.loaning
Servicing residents in:
St Neots
Hail Weston



Every location will be regularly monitored and evaluated. HDC reserve the right to cancel locations based on usage and risk. Please check the website and social media for any changes to the schedule.

Great Paxtonians – Phillip Melville Cardell, 1917-1940.

A series of articles about people who have lived in Great Paxton or have a connection with the village.

Phillip “Pip” Cardell was born at Manor Farm, Great Paxton (the farm behind the church). His family had moved from Cornwall to Great Paxton in the 1890s to farm here. It was a role and way of life that he had grown into before war broke out.



Pip joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in May 1939 as an Airman Pilot aged 21. He could have stayed in Great Paxton and worked on the land during the war but instead chose to remain with the air force when war broke out, being called up on the 1st of September 1939. He was initially sent to Scotland for flying training before

being posted to 263 Squadron at Drem, East Lothian on the 23rd of August 1940. A few days later he went to 603 Squadron at Dyce, Aberdeen. The squadron then went south to Hornchurch (East London) in late August to fly Spitfires in the Battle of Britain (July 10th – 31st October 1940).

On September the 27th, 300 enemy planes were heading across the Channel to the south of England, it was one of the most intense days

of the conflict. Pip's squadron was scrambled and was shortly in combat with two enemy fighters, he was seen by his friend Pilot Officer Peter Dexter who joined the combat, between them they shot both down.

On the way back home, they were set upon by five enemy fighters, they managed to get away though Pip's Spitfire had been hit, Dexter saw he was in trouble. Pip bailed out a quarter of a mile out from Folkstone at 300 feet, too low for his parachute to open, he fell into the sea and surfaced. Dexter flew around trying to attract attention including going to shore and back out to show anyone on the ground that help was needed. As no help was forthcoming, Dexter made a forced landing on the beach and commandeered a boat to go out to save Pip. It had been 35 minutes since he bailed out and it was too late, the rescue had become recovery.

Phillip Cardell is buried in the corner of Great Paxton churchyard, one of "The Few".



The memorial in the corner of Great Paxton graveyard. The central feature is a stand of brick and tile topped with a sundial made for Manor Farm by Phillip when on leave from the RAF, possibly over the weekend before he was killed.

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

– Winston Churchill.



The blue plaque on the wall of Manor farm House.

Pilot Officer service number 80818.

603 Squadron R.A.F. Hornchurch, East London.

Spitfire Mk. 1 N3244.

There were 2 938 Battle of Britain pilots, their average age was 20.

There were 24 pilots in 603 Squadron, only 8 would survive the Battle of Britain.

Paul Ward

Thanks to Suzy Cardell and the Tally Ho Project for pictures and information.

Recreation Ground report

It's been a busy season for all the Great Paxton teams with all the Adult, Colt and junior teams doing well. It is fantastic to see the facility benefiting so many people from young to old.

The pavilion has been tidied up inside to make it a more useable space for village clubs or events, this process will continue with plans to finish decorating the inside and repairs and painting of the outside. Howard and his team of great grafters have been busy with maintenance and the new addition of new benches in the dugouts.

The recreation ground and pavilion are available for hire, please contact me with any enquiries. Michael Fairs 07950967250.

We look forward to the PTA Fete being held at the rec for the first time on the 9th of June. Further events are in the planning including - car boot sales, outdoor cinema, rec ground breakfasts and the Great Paxton Wheelbarrow Race!



The allotments and sensory garden which are situated on the recreation ground are looking wonderful! Gaynor and her volunteers have recently done a great job of laying new wood chip paths to allow a less muddy



walk for visitors. They have also just planted a lovely Cedar tree at the rec that was grown from a seed from a 300-year-old Cedar tree! Please pop down and enjoy this wonderful space now the weather is getting better.

As always, the rec is a registered charity and is run by a small group of volunteers, if anyone would like to help with fund raising, maintenance, grass cutting etc or have ideas for events or uses for the rec please get in touch. It is a brilliant village asset that we are lucky to have!





**GREAT PAXTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mount Pleasant
Great Paxton
Huntingdon
Cambs PE19 6YJ**



Telephone: 01480 472132

Fax: 01480 471735

Headteacher: Mr L Frost

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Miller

E-Mail: office@greatpaxton.cambs.sch.uk

Web address: www.greatpaxton.cambs.sch.uk

The Summer Term is well under way and as always, we have a lot to look forward to.

Our annual Sports Day will be taking place towards the end of May again this year – a much better time of the year in terms of temperature.

In June, Y5/6 are going on a residential trip to Hilltop and Y3/4 are going on a residential trip to Rock UK.

June also will see the school football team entering our final football tournament of the year. Fingers crossed!

Y3/4 Lego Club – 'kidswithbricks'

Our 'lego' club continues to operate this term. We have managed to have another one of our entries chosen as one of the weekly National winners:



As of the time of writing this newsletter, we are currently sitting in 14th place Nationally, out of 566 clubs

Lettings

The School Hall and Community Room are available to hire during term time at competitive rates (see below) for family events including parties and gatherings.

Our self-contained Community Room includes a kitchen, toilets plus an enclosed garden.

Our hall is a large space which can accommodate bouncy castles, soft play and seating up to 100 people.

Please contact Julie Edwards on 01480 472132 (option 4 for the school office) if you require more details.

Friday & Saturday 6pm to midnight

community room £22.50 an hour with minimum of 2 hours.

School hall £25 an hour with minimum of 2 hours.

Hall & community room package £32.50 per hour.

Saturday & Sunday 9am – 6pm

community room £15 an hour with minimum of 2 hours.

School hall £25 an hour with minimum of 2 hours.

Hall & community room package £32.50 per hour.

Maximum charge of £110.

(An hour free of charge before and after your event to enable you to set up and clear up. Insurance @ 15% of letting fee plus a tax premium on the insurance @ 12% will be added).

Summer Fete


Great Paxton School PTA Fete

Sunday 9th June - 11am to 3pm

Great Paxton Recreation Ground

Bouncy castles, stalls, games, BBQ, a fancy-dress competition, face painting and much more!

Best Wishes



Mr Lee Frost
Headteacher

Empty Seats – by Laura Stock

My last piece in the Paxton Post centred on the empty seats around me on my trips to our local cinema. Since then, I have discovered the ‘St Neots Cinema Club’, a recently founded Facebook group that has steadily garnered nearly three hundred members. The group admin picks a different cinema showing each week for group members to attend, where you are welcome to sit and watch together, or if you’re slightly more socially awkward like myself, you can sit alone – but in the comfort that you are in the company of film fans like yourself. The group has been a pleasure to join, especially as it means the seats are becoming less and less empty.



I attended one of the group’s selected watches of *Wicked Little Letters* at the beginning of March. In the lead role, Olivia Colman plays a devout Christian whose temptation to live freely as a woman during the suffragette movement is heavily repressed and refused by her fellow villagers, her father, and herself. As a beloved national treasure, Colman commands a natural pity in a lot of her roles, but I find her most engaging when her character has a bit (or in this film, a *lot*) of an edge to them, much like her performances in *The Favourite* (2018)

and *Empire of Light* (2022). Supporting actress Anjana Vasan stole the show for me, however, as the ‘woman police officer’ responsible for solving the film’s mystery, and for providing most of the laughs.



My next watch was Dev Patel’s directorial debut and revenge-epic *Monkey Man*. Set in the bustling streets of an Indian city, Kid (played by Patel) fights at an underground boxing club whilst wearing a monkey mask, fuelled by his desperation to avenge the murder of his mother. Kid embarks on what is nothing less than a killing spree, and fights his way into the VIP spaces of the elite where his enemies lie. The hectic nature of the narrative was similar to the Safdie brothers’ heist-gone-wrong movie *Good Time* (2017), in the way it refuses to let you catch your breath after every gory battle. Its deeper meaning was potentially lost underneath all the blood, but Kid’s sensitivity amidst his thirst for revenge seemed to pay a homage to others of its genre like *Manila in the Claws of Light* (1975) – and Patel as director won’t be going anywhere after the film has grossed \$20 million worldwide.



Most recently I saw *Civil War*, which, if you have seen other works by director Alex Garland, you won’t be shocked to discover its content is not for the faint-hearted. If its depiction of innocent deaths and wrecked cities isn’t enough, you literally cannot escape the cacophony of gun shots, bombs, and crucially – the sound of cameras clicking. The protagonists are each war-photographers, both ambitious and traumatised. Kirsten Dunst’s established career as an actress cleverly contrasts that of newcomer Cailee Spaeny, complementing their competing characters’ outlooks throughout the film. We are

guided through the 'neutral' perspective of the journalists who are provided with free passes to scurry through conflict (mostly) unscathed. Rather than wondering whose side you are on, you are left attempting to differentiate the shots of the guns from that of the cameras.

*

Great Paxton support Kick4Life

Recently, our club chairman, Danny, visited Lesotho and volunteered alongside Kick4Life. During his time in Lesotho, Danny visited local schools delivering life sessions such as HIV awareness, social skills and life lessons.

Once the school visits were complete, football matches were held against the school teachers and local people. A full home kit was donated to Kick4Life and was used during each of the matches. This kit will remain in Lesotho and will be used in the months/years to come.



The picture here was taken at Thetsane High School. This was the first school visited and the first match played.

During the 10 day visit multiple announcements were made by Kick4Life, the main one being the announcement of their twinning/partnership with AFC Wrexham.

Further details of the trip, Kick4Life or club life in general can be obtained by contacting Danny at the Football Club.

Great Paxton Fund

Are you:

- **A Great Paxton Resident?**
- **And/or on a low income?**
- **And/or struggling to afford essential household items?**
- **And/or needing a bit of help to fund activities/course?**

**This fund may be able to help you
To find out more or apply (in complete confidence)**

Email: greatpaxtonfund@gmail.com

Or Phone: 01480 211048

**Or Write to: Great Paxton Fund
24 St James Road
Little Paxton
St. Neots
PE19 6QW**

Deadlines are 7th December and 7th June

Registered Charity No:203104



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