

The Rothley Centre, 12 Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley, Leicester, LE7 7PR
Normal Office Hours: Monday to Friday 09.00 to 11.00am
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Newsletter No 5 September 2018

Who's who on Rothley Parish Council

Rothley Parish Councillors are as follows: -

Percy Hartshorn, (Chair),
Roger Gross, (Vice Chair),
Andy Brettle, Claire Cole,
Mike Ferguson, Graham Hall,
Steve Mitchell, Barry Simons,
Doug Sutherland, Chris Watts.

Administration

Rothley Parish Council staff include: -

Parish Clerk - Gail Newcombe
Deputy Clerk - Pam Armstrong
Admin Assistant - Bev Eldridge
Caretaker - Jennifer Cornish
Caretaker - Bernadeta Skubala
Caretaker - Andrew Hodgson

Rothley Centre developments

In early May, at the Annual Parish Meeting, it was agreed to transfer the management of the Rothley Centre from the Rothley Centre Management Trust to the Parish Council. This will take place as soon as some outstanding RCMT business has been completed. The Parish Council have made enquires of Charnwood Borough Council as to whether they are willing to let RPC buy the facility. Even if this does not happen the Parish Council still want to invest in this village facility with an extension to the lease in order to investigate and make a plan for improving the facility. A much-needed upgrade to the toilets has already taken place and external redecoration is about /has been done.

2018 Precept setting and how we spend it / rationale for charges

2018/19 Budget

Our total budget for 2018/19 is approximately £145,000. The greater part of our income comes from the 'precept', which is the Parish Council's share of

the Council Tax paid by Rothley residents. We are pleased to say that the precept per household is slightly less than last year (yes really!) because we have kept our costs down while the number of households contributing has increased. The budget is allocated under the following main headings: -

Wages	34%
Open spaces	20%
Rothley Centre (grant from RPC)	8%
Village Hall	7%
Operating costs (rent, etc)	6%
Christmas lights	5%
Cemetery	5%
Administration	3%
Street lights	3%
Other	9%

Tree Survey / trees

As a result of a survey that highlighted some disease, a number of mature trees have been felled and in order to assist with the environmental impact we have plan to plant a copse in a corner of Fowke Street playing field in the Autumn.

Fowke Street Play Area

Some 10 years ago the play space on Fowke Street was opened up along with other play facilities to allow easier access. However recent advice for dedicated Under 5 play grounds suggests that they should now be enclosed to give greater protection and to prevent dogs coming in. Therefore RPC have reinstated the two missing corners of fencing. Access is now only by the orange gate.



The overgrown area to the right of the footpath from Fowke Street to the Tennis Club car park has been cleared with much help from a band of local

volunteers. The Parish Council has paid for the removal of the unwanted fence and the area is now being well used by local young cyclists. A large section of felled tree has been left partly as a seat and also for children to scramble / climb on. There will be further developments over time which will improve the appearance of the area and be environmentally beneficial.



Fowke Street Cycle track Area

The overgrown area to the right of the footpath from Fowke Street to the Tennis Club car park has been cleared with much help from a band of local volunteers. The Parish Council has paid for the removal of the unwanted fence and fence posts and the area is now being well used by local young cyclists.



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Town Green Street Playing Field Gates

The Parish Council have provided financial assistance to pay for new gates on this popular park, which is owned by the Bartholomew Hickling Educational Foundation.

Preliminary arrangements for Sunday November 11th

To mark this special date commemorating 100 years since hostilities ceased there will be a change to the normal arrangements.



The church service for adults will be in the Parish Church, whilst the service for children will be at the Baptist Church. Both services will commence at 10.00am. Everyone will meet at the War Memorial for 2 minutes silence and service at 11 am.

Large poppies that were placed on posts around Cross Green last year will be increased in number.

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Car Parking Advice

RPC wish to repeat information issued in the last newsletter that pavement parking is illegal where it causes an obstruction, leaving insufficient room for pushchairs, wheelchairs and motorised scooters to get past especially where this parking forces people into a busy road. The entrance to Town Green Street Playing Fields and the junction of Babington Road / Macaulay Road are areas that are particularly prone to this issue.

Parish Council advice is to ring Leicestershire. Police on 101 and reporting any such incidents.

Roadway Improvements

The private track by side of Library to car park has been resurfaced after lengthy and protracted negotiations with Charles Church who has partially fulfilled a commitment to do this work following use of it by heavy vehicles during the construction phase of the Aspire development. Despite our request they refused to resurface the first 20metres of the road. Users of this track and the car park are reminded that this is a private road and vehicle owners use this road at their own risk. Rothley Parish Council is not responsible for any loss or damage to vehicles.



Volunteering

If you have a few moments of spare time and enjoy gardening you would be welcome to help out at Babington Court on Woodgate. The small gardens at the front and to the rear been looked after by an elderly resident who is now unable to do it. Contact the RPC office for further details on 01162374544

NEWS FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Recycling.

In order to assist with getting rid of food waste cut price compost bins are available by ringing this number 0844 571 4444.

Scams

LCC Trading Standards are keen to help protect and prevent people becoming victims of scams. Any community group wishing to receive a visit from a Trading Standards Officer should contact the Parish Office. The Library will be hosting one of these sessions in September (see Library page in this Rothley Post)

Marion Vincent M.B.E.

Rothley has lost one of its finest community volunteers, Marion Vincent, who sadly passed away on Tuesday 10th July in Loughborough Hospital following a recurrence of cancer which she had been battling with for many, many years. It is a testimony to Marion's commitment that following the award of an M.B.E in 2007 for services to the community of Rothley that she still devoted 11 full years to a huge variety of community activities despite poor health.



Marion was the driving force to mark the otherwise blank pauper burial area with a fitting memorial stone Remembering the Paupers, who lie here in unmarked graves.

Marion was the Natural History Heritage Warden and with two other Heritage Wardens they carried much survey work across the village. Marion became secretary of this small group as they became a charity The Rothley Heritage Trust. This group produced many publications and for one of them, The Departure of the Dead: The Story of Burials in Rothley, Marion transcribed 50 years of burials from entries in the parish council cemetery records. During this work Marion was aware that 198 paupers who died in the nearby workhouse lay in the ground without any recognition. Marion was the driving force to mark the otherwise blank pauper burial area with a fitting memorial stone Remembering the Paupers, who lie here in unmarked graves.

The Heritage Trust began using the Cemetery Chapel for exhibitions and their hard work and research, following a Heritage Lottery bid was launched in June of this year and was entitled Echoes from the Workhouse. The 3 Trustees dressed as characters from the workhouse and Marion carried off with aplomb the role of a pauper inmate, unpicking the fibres from old ropes for recycling as caulking in wooden navy ships.

In 2009 she started research on tracing the burial places and events surrounding the deaths of 34 soldiers from World War One, whose names appear on the village war memorial. Her book Rothley Remembers: Men and Memorials is a fitting tribute to these soldiers but also Marion's desire to create a written record for all of us so that we could have some idea of these men's lives and what they had to endure.

Marion on her hands and knees on a Friday morning working on the flowerbeds around the village green and keeping the war memorial tidy was something local people came to expect. This was also a time when she listened to local folks who came by for a chat.

She became the ears and eyes of the Parish Council and attended nearly all their meetings. She would raise issues where something was out of place, something not working, an improvement that was needed. Almost always these came with a suggested solution. The list is endless.

She lobbied for improved zebra crossing lights following a near accident, made the parish council aware that nearly all other local villages had film clubs so why didn't Rothley have one and in June when she attended for the last time she suggested that there should be signage outside the cemetery to indicate that there were War Graves there.

When the County Council announced that they needed volunteers to run village libraries Marion was one of the first to come forward to offer her help. During her time she reorganised the local history archives.

For many years she was the local Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, the Chair and leading light of the local WEA organizing many interesting courses. She was also responsible for ensuring that all her magnificent local history archives and photos were on a village website, which she later transferred to that of the Parish Council.

In her working life Marion was branch manager at the Alliance and Leicester at Birstall. Marion visited over 50 countries in her quest for birds and nature. She served for many years in various roles on the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society Committee and was the long standing and enthusiastic chairman of the Birstall Birdwatching Club.

Her funeral took place on 24th July but many local people may not have been able to attend and the short service did not permit a full acknowledgement of her voluntary work. A Memorial event is being held at The Rothley Centre on Friday 7th September at 10.00am when all are welcome to listen to tributes and see some photos and records of her work.



