



PARTNEY & DALBY NAVIGATOR



partney-dalby-parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk

‘Leaves are falling, Autumn is calling’

As autumn makes way for winter, Lincolnshire has experienced the first blast of icy cold conditions. Prior to this we were blessed with calm and beautiful autumn days, the colours of the season were truly magnificent. The mild and still weather in October/ November meant that the trees held onto their colourful leaves for a fraction longer. Did you know that 2024 has been recorded as the warmest on record according to climate experts? Many of you who are keen gardeners will be aware of this, as perennials are still in flower as they have escaped the night time frosts normally associated with mid-November. Another unusual phenomenon this autumn has been the appearance of the Northern Lights which were visible on Friday 11th October. Thank you to the residents who shared their photos, below are a selection that truly captured this dazzling and rare display of colour.



Parish Council News



The autumn meeting was held on Tuesday 12th November at the Victory Hall in Partney. Thank you to all households who completed the Parish Council questionnaire, which was delivered to residents over the summer months. All your comments/views are extremely useful in helping to prioritise the council's future plans and provide a focus for actions. The information, once collated, will also help to get an insight into what residents would like to see in the parish. In total 25% of households returned the questionnaire. Once the information is analysed it will form an excellent starting point for the **Parish Council Action Plan**. This will be shared, either at a special event or prior to a Parish Council meeting. Understanding local needs and aspirations supports the council in applying for funding and gives greater impact to communication with other organisations, such as ELDC and the County Council.

Partney & Dalby Parish Council

Darker Sky Initiative

An agenda item for discussion at the meeting was a darker skies proposal for the village of Partney. The aim of the proposal is the reduction of light pollution. A detailed report was prepared by Councillor Packa Risi and shared with those in attendance at the meeting. The rationale behind the darker skies initiative is to reduce artificial light, particularly in rural locations such as ours. Partney village can be described as rural outlier with over 75 street lights from the village perimeter. The darker skies initiative is **not** about turning all the street lights off, but rather looking at the effects of artificial light, which shines where it is neither wanted nor needed. It would mean the council examining all future planning applications to ensure that the lighting planned is sensitive to our rural location. There is increasing awareness of the benefits of darker skies, this includes enhancements to health, as too much light can affect sleep patterns. In addition, turning off or dimming unnecessary lights can save lots of energy and reduce carbon emissions. Research has shown that too much light can affect the breeding cycles and feeding habits of many animals, including birds, bats and moths. By turning off unnecessary lights the natural beauty of the night sky can be truly revealed. Many of the lights, particularly along Spilsby Road, were installed when the entrance to the village formed part of the A158, before the construction of the bypass. Following a discussion it was agreed to seek the expert advice of the County Council's streetlighting team. We will continue to keep residents informed of all future developments. For more information appdarkskies.co.uk or at the Campaign to Protect Rural England at www.cpre.org.uk



Partney Cemetery

A cold water tap has recently been installed in the cemetery. Thank you to Richard Middleton for completing the work so promptly. You may be aware that as part of the statutory health and safety requirements of running a cemetery the Parish Council are required to carry out a topple test. This has identified a number of unsafe headstones/memorials. Thank you to those residents who have already taken actions to repair family memorials. A gravestone's maintenance is the responsibility of the family who purchased the grave. The Parish Council is currently seeking to contact the relatives of the following headstones in need of repair. If families cannot be contacted the possible option is to lay it flat on the ground. We are seeking the families of the following memorials. Helen and Mabel Alexander 1978, John and Mary Cooling 1958, Ellen Elley, Mildred Gainsford 1978, Gordon Harris 2017, Mary Hewson 1963, Sarah Hewson 1920, Kate Luck 1963, Herbert Stainton 1993, Leonard Stainton 1986, Seth Stainthorpe 1948, Charlotte Walker 1997. In addition a stone floral container in the name of Knowles has been identified as unsafe. For more information please contact Jane Slaymaker, Parish Clerk at clerk@partneyanddalby-pc.gov.uk



We have had many positive comments about the Remembrance Day display. Thank you to Mick Lovelock who created the four wooden soldiers which were added to the exhibit this year. Thank you again to Pat Johnson and Joan March who knitted the red and purple poppies. The purple poppies are in memory of all the animals lost in conflict. The Parish Council added to the large lamppost poppies with a £50 donation.



St Nicholas' Church



On the 28th and 29th September we held an amazing Harvest Festival weekend here in Partney. It started with the Harvest Festival Church Service and we were joined by Partney Choir, which is always extra special. The church looked truly spectacular, with the beautiful autumn flowers and arrangements. Comments from visitors included, 'how well cared for and loved the church looked'. Harvest is always a special time as we give thanks to God for the food that we eat and the good things that He provides. It is also a time to remember that not everyone has as much as we do, and to be generous to others. The food that was donated was sent onto the Spilsby New Life Centre for local families to enjoy.

Extraordinary Scarecrows



Partney villagers fully embraced the first Scarecrow Festival. We had so many heart-warming comments: "the scarecrows have really brought the community together and I have talked to people I have never talked to - thanks to the scarecrows." I am sure you all had your personal favourite! In total there were 30 scarecrows around the village, all with their own individual personalities.

On the Sunday, we held the vegetable, fruit and flower show in the Victory Hall with over 50 entries into the various categories. A variety of crafts were on sale in the church - thank you to everybody who supported the harvest weekend, and it was felt that it is something that we can develop for next year. Roll on Harvest 2025.

The church would like to thank Angie Meffen for a very generous donation of £235. This money was collected during her weekly Wednesday "chats and laughs" sessions. "We can't thank you enough for your support!"

You may have noticed some more work happening in the church yard. Members of the PCC and volunteers took on the task of removing all the overgrown ivy that was clinging to the ancient wall. The weight of the ivy was in danger of dislodging masonry by growing into the mortar. We have received positive comments about the improvement. Thank you.

Christmas Carol Service



Please join us for the Christmas Carol Service to be held on Sunday 22nd December at 6 pm, this promises to be a magical evening. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for permission from Lincoln Diocese to replace the oil tank, so if this hasn't happened before our service, please wrap up warm as the church will be cold. Following our celebration, hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies will be served at the Victory Hall to warm you up. We do hope you will be able to join us at this very joyous occasion.



The PCC would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Victory Hall



GRASSroots Success

The Victory Hall Committee are delighted to report that their application for funding to improve the old toilets was successful. The GRASSroots Scheme, managed by Lincolnshire Community Foundation, provides an amazing opportunity for organisations, such as village halls to make improvements and restore their community spaces. This work will commence in the New Year. Two members of the committee attended a celebration event on 12th November having learnt that the Victory Hall will be receiving £10,000 in prosperity funding. It was an excellent networking opportunity as they met with other volunteers from village halls. It was also incredibly inspiring to learn about the other successful applicants projects, in particular to witness the enthusiasm and dedication from the volunteers. Sharing information about contractors who could be relied upon to complete the work on budget and in a timely manner was highly valuable. Hopefully we will be able to provide an update in the winter edition.



The Power of the Volunteers!

The committee has seen the bookings at the hall greatly increased over the last couple of years with a regular programme of social events. 2024 has been particularly busy with a variety of one off events and weekly activities. The hall has hosted a talk on the wedding of Matthew Flinders, two afternoon teas and a 1940's dance. The weekly coffee morning has raised money in 2024 for a variety of different charities, including £355 for **Macmillan Cancer Support**, £100 for **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** and £100 for **BBC Children In Need**. The Coffee Morning has been running for over 7 years and in that time has raised the magnificent total of £30,000 for local and national charities. This weekly event is supported by a loyal team of volunteers and many customers All from 2 small villages in Lincolnshire !! Thank you everyone for your very generous donations and also for your generous support.



The Coffee Morning is also 'home' to the Village Tote which rises over £1,300 each year for local charities . A draw takes place at 11am each Friday morning with winnings of at least £25 each week, often with a rollover, the winnings can be considerably more than this. If you would like more information please contact Jacquie Simpson 07484839641.



The Victory Hall has a new Bookings Secretary so if you have any ideas for events or want to hire the hall for any future occasions please contact Sue Sargeant 07871 240190. The committee would like to send an enormous 'thank- you' to Margaret Blanchard who was the hall's booking secretary for many years. We greatly appreciate Margaret's commitment and skills as a valuable volunteer- Thank you Margaret. We are always looking for new volunteers to support the committee in managing the hall and planning future activities- it certainly has so many benefits !

The Victory Hall



Future Events



The final preparations are being made for the Victory Hall Christmas Fair. This is run in partnership with St. Nicholas Church and Partney Primary School. Santa promises to be in attendance, accompanied by one of his elves. There will be a variety of crafts stalls for that special and unique handmade gift. Refreshments, including mulled wine, teas/coffee and mince pies will be served. The event runs 2pm- 4pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone ! All funds raised will be distributed between the hall, school and church. Residents support will be greatly appreciated.



The Victory Hall will be hosting the **Big Christmas Quiz** on Saturday 7th December. Snacks will be provided but please bring your own drinks. Teams up to six participants. £5 per member. All 'kicking off' at 7pm. For more information please contact Mick Lovelock 07442 179371. This has been a most enjoyable evening in the past. On Friday 6th December a Chrimbo Bingo session will take place with the funds raised for the Baby Care at Boston Hospital. Doors open at 6pm.

Partney Community Garden

The Community Garden has now completely moved from the school site to the new location at the side of the hall. The volunteers are gradually developing the new garden with lots of plans for the future. The greenhouse has been constructed and a number of wooden raised beds have been built. The space is slowly transforming and the community gardeners are looking forward to growing and harvesting crops in 2025. They meet most weekends and can also use the new location during week days. A huge benefit of the new home is the easy access to the kettle! For more information contact Ann Lovelock 07565 348188.

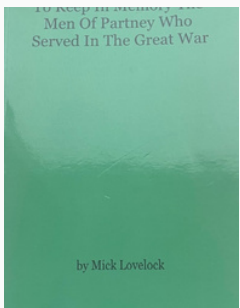
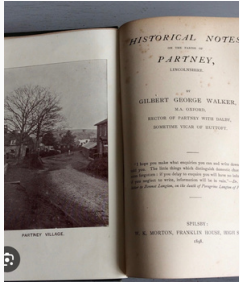


Don't forget one of the weekly activities at the hall. **Angie's Chats and Laughs** on Wednesday afternoon from 1pm,- 4pm. Call in for a spot of lunch with jacket potatoes, sandwiches and cakes, or stay longer for a game of bingo or sticky 13. In these colder months it is a great place to stay warm, meet new friends and enjoy a chat. For more information contact Angie Meffen 07531 985394.

Polite Reminder: If you are travelling to the hall by car please remember to park at the Victory Hall car park rather than outside the church and up to the junction. Thank you !!

Partney History

Partney Hall 1898



Many readers will be aware that there are a couple of books written about the history of Partney. The first was written in 1898 by Reverend Gilbert George Walker who was the Rector of Partney at the time. Entitled **Historical Notes On the Parish Of Partney**, the book covers the history of the village from ancient times. Copies can be found on sale on internet auction sites. The second book, written by Mick Lovelock, details the lives of the 55 men associated with the village who served in the Great War and whose names appear on the Memorial Scroll in St. Nicholas Church- rare unsigned copies can still be found!! Mick has continued, his historical research and is currently researching a book on the history of the village from 1900 to 1914 (the period between the two books). Much of the content has come from old newspaper cuttings from the period, which covers everything from adverts to cases held in the Spilsby Magistrates Court . It makes for really interesting reading, as we learn about the exploits of Partney and Dalby characters from the past. Below is a small extract. Happy reading!



Football Goes Wrong

A group of lads employed by Morton's the Printers of Spilsby were caught playing football on the highway. Amongst them was Harry Blakey of Partney, who would go on to serve his country in the Great War. The boys appeared at the Police Court on Monday 9th February where all charges were withdrawn on payment of 2s 6d costs by each lad . The Morton's Dinner Hour Football Club was disbanded.



A Unique Horse And Carriage

On the 30th January the Stamford Mercury carried an announcement of an auction to be held at Spilsby Market on 2nd February to sell a Horsebreaker's Skeleton Pair Horse Brake the property of Adolphus Cobb, a horsebreaker who lived near Partney Mill. Originally a Brake was used for 'breaking' or training teams of horses. It was a carriage with a skeleton frame and a heavy undercarriage., with hardly any body construction on top (right handside photo). The undercarriage was like that of a coach using a long pole (called a perch) to connect the front and back axles. Around the middle of the of the 19th Century it became more common to put a wagonette body



onto the break undercarriage. This was then called a body break and was used not only for training horses but also carrying up to 16 passengers and luggage!

Researching the past certainly provides us with an insight to how we once lived and worked !!