



The Parish Council recently commissioned Phil Rowell, a professional, and renowned champion hedge layer, to restore and rejuvenate our Pinfold hedge. The name is Saxon in origin and means 'enclosure'.

Since ancient days, rural communities have had a public pinfold where stray animals were kept until their owner could come and collect them. Since livestock and livelihood went hand in hand in those past times, a Pinfold was a well used and well respected asset. Over the years the use and utility of pinfolds changed. Here in Misson, The Pinfold fell into private ownership of someone not resident in the parish and not located for a very long time. It became used as a rubbish dump; overgrown and unsightly. Eventually, the owner was identified and The Pinfold was sold by auction. It was purchased by a generous philanthropist, Mrs Elizabeth Clifton of West Street, who wished to gift it back to the people of the Parish, for restoration to something that would protect the heritage of it, whilst making it a useful place for the residents of the Parish and their visitors. It is now a registered Parish asset in the management of the Parish Council.

In the summer of 2018 a public consultation was undertaken to ascertain what the community would like the Pinfold to be used for today. Competing suggestions were; a commemorative garden with a bench, or a children's play area. The Parish Clerk investigated the feasibility of these options and established that Bassetlaw District Council would not support its use as a playground. At that time, Misson School was embarking on a plan for a playground (more of which is reported on page 9 of this newsletter) and so it was agreed that a quiet garden area with a bench would be developed in the restored Pinfold.



October 2019 : The cleared area and the new grass

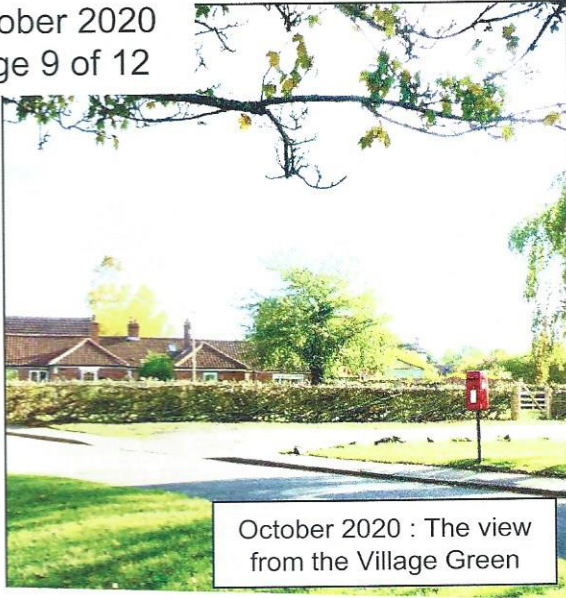
The Pinfold in Misson is a rare site, dating back to at least the mid 1700s and it is quite evident that the boundary was historically maintained by laying. Phil Rowell is committed to keeping the ancient skill of hedge laying alive. By restoring the Pinfold hedge in this way, not only do we acknowledge village heritage but it will also incrementally return the hedge to a healthy condition and provide a dense habitat for a variety of wildlife.



October 2020 : The Pinfold following the laying of the hedge.

Pinfolds are now a rarity in the region. Ours first appears on maps in the 1700s, however it is likely to have existed before this time. The curved boundary of Back Lane suggests it could be Anglo-Saxon or even Norse, making this part of the village quite possibly the oldest still occupied. Remarkably and probably connected to these early origins, Phil has discovered another perfectly curved boundary, set in the corner of the Pinfold hedge and Back Lane. He and his wife Chris, report being overwhelmed by the positive interest in the restoration shown by residents and those passing by. A large party of primary school children and their 'media team' also made an informative and educational visit, and filmed Phil as he created what the children called "A Living Work of Art". As the transformation took

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October 2020 : The view from the Village Green

place, the supportive comments grew. The next steps for the Pinfold are the repair of the wall that was once part of the Pinfold Cottage. The primary school are sharing some of their wild flower seeds to initiate the garden area and look forward to using the space as an outdoor classroom. As headteacher John Birch says; "How exciting to learn in a medieval classroom". There will also be a bench for villagers to rest upon and enjoy this historic place. Our sincere thanks go to Lizzie who acquired it and gifted it to all of us, to the faithful volunteers and lengthsman who cleared the rubbish from it and restored it from a dumping ground to an open space, to those who have worked to acquire grant money for restoration of the site and a bench for the rest of us to sit upon, and to those in our village who support the effort because they value heritage and conservation. Misson Pinfold is once again a place to be proud of and enjoy.