

Yes; it IS darker out there

A number of residents asked the Parish Council if anything might be done to increase the street lighting around the Parish. A policy decision by the County Council to reduce light pollution and save energy by fitting street lights with more energy efficient LED bulbs has led to an unintended consequence in rural parishes like ours. Whilst bats and owls benefit from the fact that the lights now shine downwards rather than outwards, the streets are not as well lit as previously because the beam of the new lighting system no longer reaches the beam of the next street lamp in the sequence. More parishioners wisely carry torches when walking in the evening or early morning. The Parish Council has learned that, in new build estates, street lights will be placed closer together. However, there is no plan to erect additional lighting in established streets like ours.

Less light in our village and hamlets has also caused residents to notice unusual light activity in the lanes and fields around us. The Police say that lights at night are invariably from the activity of 'lamping'; a form of hunting in which bright lights are used to dazzle the hunted animal and shoot it. The area around us suffers from unchallenged trespassing associated with many other illegal activities. Not reporting these issues assumes there is no problem and only by reporting any of this will we have a police presence. Our 'Beat Bobby' has asked that residents telephone 101 if they notice unusual or troubling behaviour in the countryside around us, and the police will investigate.

Fat Balls & Birds Nests

The recent floods in our area have decimated the natural habitat of so much thriving wildlife. Whilst the land will recover in time, many birds are hungry and homeless, and the RSPB are asking for residents to help in each affected locality. Fat Balls, without nets (because they damage the birds), hung from branches and fences can provide food.

The nesting birds season extends from February to August and we are asked to encourage the restoration of the environment and the wildlife by taking care not to disturb birds who choose to nest in hedges and edges in our community, many of whom are 'flooded out' of their usual annual spaces. In particular, take care not to cut hedges when birds are fledging.

A New Parish Councillor : Ken Shephard

After 5 years of service as Parish Councillor, Andrea Wilcox has stepped down. On behalf of residents, we thank her for all she has done in this capacity. In her place, we welcome Ken Shephard. Together with his wife Ann and Rocky the dog, Ken came to live in Misson village in the summer of 2019. They have two daughters and grandchildren in the area and have moved closer to enjoy family life in their retirement years. Ken previously served as a Parish Councillor in Whitby and, as a retired professional also, brings a wealth of experience and a passion for community.

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BEST KEPT VILLAGE



a number of award schemes to encourage the conservation and improvement of our countryside. These include the Best Kept Village Competition, the Valerie Gillespie Award for particular community initiatives to improve the local environment and the Harry Johnson Award for the best design of a new building or restoration of an old building.

As the daffodils are sprouting around the verges of Misson Village, it has been decided that we make application to compete for the Best Kept Village 2020. The village will be judged on its general appearance, lack of litter and dog poop, care and maintenance of public spaces, and overall beauty. It's not about being a 'Chocolate Box' village but is about demonstrating that the people who live there, care about the place and about what is being done to maintain and improve it. Everyone who lives in Misson can help. An easy way is to join the Misson Village Annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday 25th April, from 10am – 12 noon. Organised by the Misson Community Association and supported by the Women's Institute, volunteers meet at the Community Centre on Vicar Lane. Neighbours join together to tidy their own corner of the village. The sacks are filled and left in situ for others to collect and dispose of. No heavy lifting! Afterwards, there is lovely home baked refreshments to enjoy over conversation in the Community Centre, courtesy of the WI. More information about The Best Kept Village Competition in the June Newsletter.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England works to protect and enhance the countryside, believing a beautiful thriving countryside is important for everyone, no matter where they live. Within Nottinghamshire, CPRE run