Issue 622 October 2026



News for the villages of Colsterworth, Woolsthorpe, Stainby, Gunby, North Witham and Lobthorpe

Edited by Stuart Whitcombe 5 Stephenson Close, NG33 5GP 0777 323 0815 InTouchCopy@gmail.com

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Parish Council Report

Parish Clerk - 01476 861888
clerk@colsterworthanddist-pc.gov.uk

Your headlines from the Parish Council (PC) Meeting 1st September 2026

Full minutes and reports are available on the Colsterworth and District Website
Search 'Colsterworth and District Parish Council' and find the agendas and minutes under 'Council Business': **https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business**

Public Forum
Two members of the public present to observe proceedings

Chair's Remarks
Cllr C. Hainsworth (Vice Chair) welcomed everyone and thanked the locum clerk for her work alongside Councillors who have been supportive in carrying out checks. She reminded attendees that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes. The recordings are destroyed when the minutes are adopted.

Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Councillors Report
LCC Cllr Charlotte Vernon reported: -

1 The options for Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) have been announced. Central Government have decided that from 1st April 2028, Lincolnshire will be comprised of 2 unitary authorities: Lincoln Unitary Authority (mainly Lincoln City) and Lincolnshire Authority (LA). Until then, everything remains the same. The County Council have raised a pre-action protocol which questions the processes taken to reach this decision. This is the first step which could lead to a potential judicial review. In the re-organisation, LA will have 47 x 2-seat divisions and 6 x 1-seat divisions with a maximum of 100 councillors. This will put undue pressure on the 6 County Councillors who will have to cover a large area single handed and there will also be a steep drop in current County Councillor numbers. The location for the new LA offices has yet to be decided.

2 A huge thank you was extended to the local retained fire service who have been working extremely hard over the dry summer. In one week, they had 58 call outs which is unprecedented.

3 Drain cleansing will not be carried out if cars are not moved out of the way. Residents receive letters alerting them of the service. If the drains cannot be accessed, they will be left until the next scheduled service date. Cllr C Vernon was made aware of drain issues in Back Lane, Colsterworth and Main Street, Gunby that had been reported on FixMyStreet. Response will be monitored.

4 The Councillor Grant Scheme is open for applications. Awards from £100 - £3000 are available for smaller projects, and £3001 - £15,000 for wider reaching projects.

SKDC Cllr D. Bellamy reported: -

1 He attended the Bourne Road development committee meeting to raise the PC's objections, but it was approved.

2 The Local Planning Review is due to streamline the system and the new protocol will be adopted by SKDC. This will not result in a change to the numbers of new builds already designated for the area in the next 5 years and may lead to a rise in speculative development.

3 A briefing is due to be held on Thursday 3rd Sept on the Scheme of Delegation proposed by the Government. It is likely there will be no committees in the future and vetoes and decisions will be senior officer led instead. This system is due to be implemented from October.

4 The AD public enquiry took place over 4 days from the 14th July. The Planning Inspector is due back on site on the 14th Sept.

5 Notices have appeared in North Witham for the landowner with reference to the location of the Weston Marsh Grid and possible sites identified for a depot location during its construction. A traffic survey was carried out on Sunday 30th Aug.

6 Outline planning permission has been granted for a substation near the Canner's Lane development. The site would cover 100 acres.

SKDC Cllr B. Green reported via email: -
LGR updates (covered above)
Kerbside battery collections remain suspended. He is investigating the reason behind this.
Changes are being proposed to backbench scrutiny rules at SKDC and these are being discussed at an Extraordinary Governance & Audit Meeting on the 7th Sept.
The Canner's Lane Battery Energy Storage Development near Stoke Rochford has been approved. Concerns had been raised about the location, especially the proximity to ancient woodland and the long-term effect on the landscape.

The Isaac Newton Village Hall
It was resolved to register the Village Hall as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) so that there is time to make a decision about the future of this community asset.

New Defibrillators for Colsterworth and district
It was resolved to explore funding avenues to replace the defibrillators in Colsterworth and to also purchase the two new units for Gunby and Stainby.

Tree Survey for the Parish
It was resolved to obtain quotes for a tree survey.

Finance
The CAD Business Continuity Plan was approved.
The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was posted on the website.

Accounts for payment were approved by Council.

Highways & Footpaths Working Group Report
National Grid is coming to cut the trees on Back Lane which are touching the power cables this year as opposed in two years' time.
The meeting with Alicia Kearns, MP was fruitful and her involvement will lend weight to further discussions with LCC.

A member of her team has been designated to help with issues. A walkabout with Highways needs to be carried out highlight all the concerns and this must be facilitated through the County Councillor.
It was resolved to formally write to Cllr Charlotte Vernon to request a walkabout in Colsterworth with representatives from LCC Highways to highlight the issues raised with Alicia Kearns, MP and to agree a plan of action.

All Fix My Street (FMS) Reports can be found at **https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/**

Clerk's Report & Day to Day Business
Summary below – Full details can be found on the Parish Council Website **https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business**
1. All defibrillators are back up and running with some on loan for the time being.
2. Play Park gates have been repaired.
3. The hedge at Old Post Lane crossroads was cut back to improve visibility.
4. The print run of In Touch magazine has increased to1050.
5. Fly tipping around Colsterworth has been reported.
6. Footpath 20 has been strimmed by LCC
7. All the blocked drains on Main Street, Gunby have been reported to LCC.

Correspondence Received
Summary below: - Full details can be found on the Parish Council Website **https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business**

Council received details of correspondence relating to allotment weed issues, footpath disappearance, fly tipping in the area, an incident on the Nature Trail, overhanging trees on the Nature Trail, oversized lorries from Skillington quarry, Microlite noise and additional cars parked on Belvoir Road.

To contact the temporary acting clerk, please email **clerk@colsterworthanddist-pc.gov.uk.**

SKDC Planning

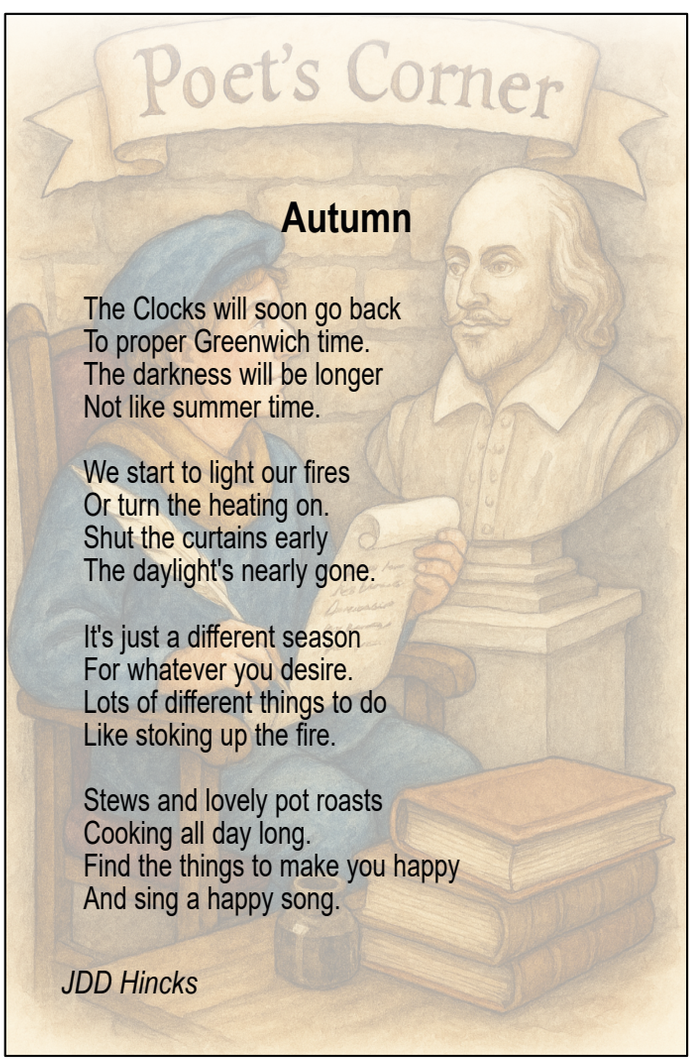
SKDC Planning Applications
S26/0458/PSLET - 18 self storage units on Great North Road, Colsterworth.
S26/1340 - Construction Traffic, Management Plan of planning permission S26/0458
S26/0683/PSLET - construction of 4no dwellings on land between 16-18 Bourne Rd, Colsterworth NG33 5JE
S26/1391 - Discharge of Conditions of planning permission S25/1484.
S26/1424 – Various tree works at The Rectory, 13A, Back Lane, NG33 5NJ
PL/0037/26 – Amended description to application S22/2421 for weighbridge and wheel cleaning facility, Colsterworth Triangle, Crabtree Road, Colsterworth

SKDC Planning Permission Granted
S26/0918 - Proposal: G1 - Group of 3 x horse chestnut, growing towards house - Provide approx 3m clearance from any part of the house and 4m crown raise on the surrounding horse chestnut trees. G2 - Group of 3 x silver birch, growing towards house - prune 3m away from property & 2.5m from ground level. T1 - Beech growing towards house - tree over patio, crown raise to 4m all around canopy. Location: The Rectory, 13A Back Lane, Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, NG33 5NJ
S26/0688 - Application for Certificate of Lawful Development for the installation of twelve electric vehicle (EV) charging bays, along with associated equipment, within existing car park of the OK Diner, Colsterworth.
S26/0687 - Application for proposed substation, display totem, and associated works Colsterworth Grantham NG33 5LN
S26/0683 - Application for construction of 4no dwellings Land between 16-18 Bourne Road, Colsterworth NG33 5JE

Matters Requiring Attention
Shingle across the road on Woolsthorpe Road.
Report Grimsthorpe brown sign on the flyover.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 6th October 2026. Methodist Church Hall, Back Lane, Colsterworth.

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH DOG FOULING ON THE VERGES IN STAINBY.
PLEASE BE A CONSIDERATE DOG OWNER AND CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET.
UNDER HEALTH AND SAFTEY REGULATIONS, THE VERGES WILL NOT BE STRIMMED FOR THE TIME BEING.



Colsterworth WI Meeting
18th August 2026.

August saw the return of popular speaker Penny Wainwright. Penny last visited Colsterworth WI in June 2025 when she spoke movingly about 'Women in Airforce Blue' and told of many women who served their country at airfields around Lincolnshire during World War Two. This time Penny was at Colsterworth in the guise of travel writer. As the ladies filed into village hall on Tuesday, 18th August they were met with a fine array of foodstuffs and products on display, all originating in Italy. It all looked fascinating and as soon as Helen had opened the meeting at 2pm welcoming 22 members and 1 visitor and presented a birthday card and good wishes to Rosemary, members settled down to listen to what promised to be an entertaining 40 minutes.

Penny started by remarking that when most people considered Italian foods they thought of pasta, tomatoes, pizza and olive oil. There are 26 regions in Italy and all have delicacies particular to their individual area; from cocktails, dumplings, Linzer cake, bacala (a form of dried cod from Norway first appearing in Italy via a returning shipwrecked sailor), chocolate (brought centuries ago by the Aztecs) to Valpolicella wine and balsamic vinegar from Modena. Penny showed images of pasta being made by women who mixed and kneaded huge amounts of ingredients. She explained how a variety of dishes have been developed by chefs using different types of pasta. Moving on to tomatoes, Penny described how these are harvested by hand in the autumn, squashed by hand before being placed in passata making machines. Largely still a family concern, passata is made in bulk for the coming year, Penny cast doubt on the widely held belief that pizza originated in Naples when disclosing that in the ruins of Pompeii there is, apparently, a fresco which appears to show a pizza! But she did go onto say that an authentic Neopolitan pizza always starts with a base of locally produced passata with just mozzarella cheese and bay leaves on top. The lesser known burrata cheese was developed by an enterprising farmer in the 1920s when he amalgamated left over scraps of mozzarella with thick cream!

In Umbria olive oil is known as 'green gold'. The olives are still picked by hand before being taken to a local co-operatively owned oil mill to be pressed. Oil is such a vital part of Umbrian economy there are museums and showrooms dedicated to it. Penny described how she had attended an oil-tasting event. All the different oils were in tiny, royal blue glasses. This was so tasters weren't influenced by the varying colours of the oils on offer. After a hugely interesting talk taking in truffles, tiramasu and trattoria eating, Penny sat down to enthusiastic applause. Jil gave the vote of thanks saying how appetising the talk was but she was going home to a prawn salad for tea!

The tea break followed. After all things Italian, the table was laden with typically English fare. Delectables cakes, biscuits and fruit were provided by hostesses Eileen, Lynne and Rachel. As members chatted, they voted in the 'Flower of the Month' competition. There were a lot of entries this month with a wide variety of blooms from which to choose. Penny judged the 'Item of the Month' competition, the theme being 'Something Italian'. It must have been a bit tricky, again there were a lot of entries: a piece of Murano glass, examples of Italian food, pottery, lace, even an Italy versus England rugby programme!

Helen called the meeting back together for the business section, which she rattled through with commendable speed as it was half past three. The correspondence was dealt with and details of eight different outings including lunches, theatre trips and exhibitions were announced. Colsterworth is fortunate to belong to such an active federation.

Christine gave a report on the July outing of the walking group. Again blessed with lovely weather, the ladies walked along the wild flower meadow on the village nature trail. She gave details of the September event. Rosemarie gave a report on the 'Christmas in July' craft event she recently attended at Cranwell Village Hall showing the items she had created and Pamela reported on the Federations Treasurers' meeting which she and Helen had attended. She said once they had actually found the place where the event was taking place, a lot of helpful advice and information was provided.

Helen outlined final arrangements for the tea and cake stall which the WI are running at the Village Gala and a brief discussion about the proposed Christmas Tree festival to be held at the church took place. Members decided they would like to go again to the White Lion pub in the village for their annual birthday meal in November and decided, after some discussion, to move the fund-raising coffee morning to spring 2027 to avoid clashing with the Macmillan event. Results of the competitions were announced with Rosemary coming first in the 'Flower of the Month' competition with a lovely rose named 'Rachel' and Gillian B winning the 'Item of the Month' with an arrangement of Italian food items in a jug which she then generously donated to the raffle, which was then called. Helen announced our next meeting will be on the15th September, Lincolnshire Poacher, Speaker Nicola Hallam. She thanked members for attending and wishing members a good afternoon, closed the meeting at 4pm.

Colsterworth Women's Institute

Diary Dates

October 20th 2pm Colsterworth Village Hall Wild Woolers Sheep to Socks

Natural History Bulletin

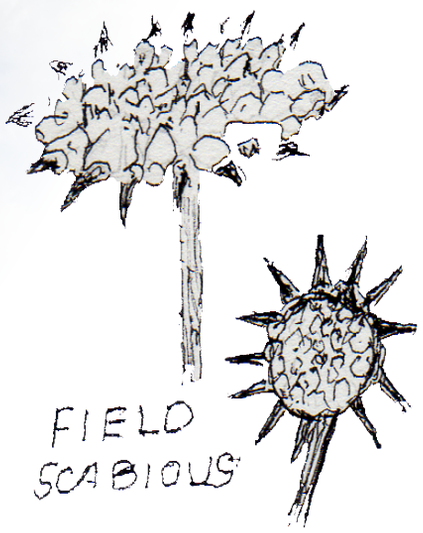
October 2026

After an extraordinary spring and summer of floods, then heat waves and wildfires there is a forecast of more extremes to come. The question being asked by farmers, gardeners and naturalists is which plants, and in turn animals, will survive best.

Farmers have always selected crops which were more productive - more grain on shorter stalks, early ripening. Gardeners have bred colour and double forms from native plants like yarrow and wild rose. On Nature Reserves there is an attempt to keep the special associations of plants by regular management. Locally we have two Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR) managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. One is adjacent to The Meadow on the Nature Trail. Both managed to conserve the plants of limestone grasslands and to encourage diversity of both plants and animals.



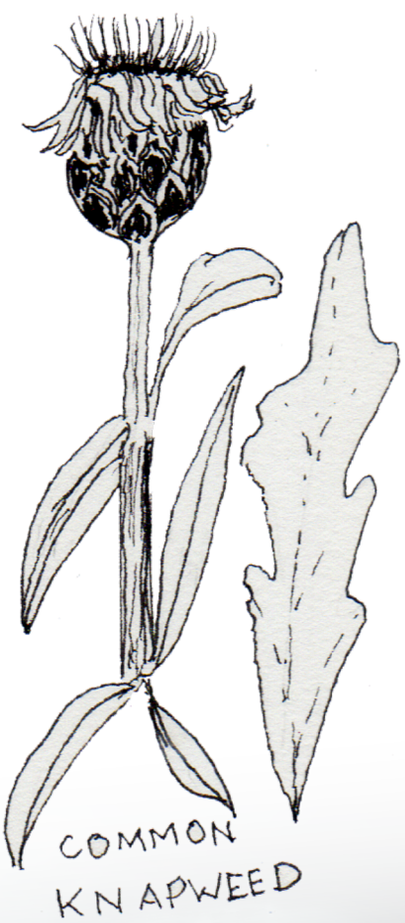
Early mowing reduces competition from invasive species. Early flowering this year meant flowers cut down in their prime. Most notable were the dark purple Greater Knapweed and the pale lilac Field Scabious.



In gardens, first herbaceous plants withered, then shrubs. Finally, even mature trees began to wilt. Greens planted for winter were eaten off by a migration of Cabbage Whites. Fruit trees formed fruit early but then dropped this – to an extent beyond the usual self pruning. Beans only podded in the shade. Lawns and grassland everywhere were the colour of bleached earth.

What is left? Who are the survivors? Strategies include: – Go deep with tap roots, cooler nearer water table. Go wide with spreading roots. Get waxy or hairy leaves to reduce evaporation, or keep them furling or many but tiny. Live fast seed to seed to survive another year. Get protected with armour or prickles, spines and bad taste. Ask questions of what you see of the survivors. Here are mine of a plant watched through the window for three months.

Why does a tall Brittle Oxtongue, straggling uninvited over a neat herb garden, close all it's dandelion-like flowers punctually in the hottest part of the day (early afternoon), but on the few cooler days the flowers remain open. Closed against the heat, eclipsing the sun it leaves crescents of seed hairs in a few places. It seems like a response solely to temperature, not day length like the daisy or Chrysanthemum. Does a response to extreme heat give it an advantage in the struggle for survival? Scientists may discover the answer with months of experiments. We are free to speculate.



Jane Ostler

Dog waste bins provided by the Parish Council which are situated in the following locations.

Old Post Lane junction Water Lane

West End of the Nature Trail

The Nature Trail behind Woolsthorpe Play Area

Footpath 18 near river

Stamford Road near allotment

School Lane where it meets footpath 20



If the Parish Council Dog waste bins are full you can use an SKDC litter bin with the dog waste accepted logo.

The White Lion

Day	Opening Hours	Food
Monday	12 – 11pm	12 -3pm
Tuesday	CLOSED	
Wednesday	12 – 9pm	12-3pm, 5pm-8pm
Thursday	12 – 11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Friday	12 – 11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Saturday	12 – 11pm	12-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Sunday	12-8pm	12 - 4pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting		08001 830279
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	Dawn Prentice	07960 036477
Book Club	Anne Prothero	01476 860952
Bootcamp	John Crewe	01780 460017
Buckminster Primary School & Pre-school		01476 860315
Colsterworth Festival of Performing Arts	Julia Kerby	01476 860329
Colsterworth and District Parish Council	Eleanor Parfitt	01476 861888
Council - Lincolnshire C.C.		01522 552222
Council South Kesteven District		01476 406080
Councillor SKDC & LCC	Charlotte Vernon	07887 558015
Councillor SKDC	Dave Bellamy	07890 313561
Councillor SKDC	Ben Green	07471 838698
Doctor's Surgery Back Lane Colsterworth		01476 860243
Doctor's Surgery Bourne Road Corby Glen		01476 550056
Doctor's Surgery St John's Close Corby Glen		01476 550251
Floodline		03459 88188
FOCUS	Brian Ostler	01476 860465
Football and Coaching	Carl Adams	07521 148726
Gas Emergencies		0800 111999
Highways, Lincolnshire C.C.		01522782070
Ingle Charity Correspondent	Margaret Winn	01476860404
Little Legs Nursery	Sarah Moore	01476 860053
Luncheon Club	June Jessop	01476 861400
Mobile Post Office	Andy	01778 570221
Neighbourhood Watch	Steve Bill	01476 861399
Newton's Players	Paul Cope	07445 800163
Police Non-Emergency		101
Rolling Stones New Age Kurling	Sally Ogborne	07941532692
School, Colsteworth C of E Primary		01476 860569
School, Colsterworth PTFA		01476 860569
South Witham Children's Centre	Claire Hilliam	01572768876
Sports and Social Club		01476 860279
Village Archive Group	Margaret Winn	01476 860404
Village Hall, Colsterworth	Sandra Cox	07748090655
Village Hall, North Witham	Jane Clark	07762 851265
White Lion, Colsterworth	Bob Prentice	01476 861466
Women's Institute (Secretary)	Rachel Popham	01476 860312
Woolsthorpe Manor		01476 860338



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Our little café (inside and out) serves homemade food and cakes and afternoon teas, as well as our own blend of roasted coffee beans. These can be booked in advance if required on 550462 or through our Facebook page.

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and events: "Lily's Lavender Hut"

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COLSTERWORTH Festival of Remembrance

Military Plaques Required

Have you ever served in the Armed Forces or have a family member that has in the past? If so then we would love your contributions to our military wall within the White Lion.

If you have any Unit, Division, Corps or Single Service plaque then we would love to see them placed on the village military wall.

Any donations to Bob Prentice

This is in support of the Colsterworth Festival of Remembrance (CFoR).

Any questions to David Heath French at davidheathfrench@gmail.com

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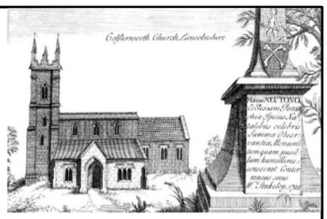
St John the Baptist Church, High Street
Colsterworth, Grantham NG33 5NF
The parish church of Isaac Newton and his family
Our church has been part of our community for more than 1000 years, with a tower added 700 years ago. Today it is part of a group of 7 rural parishes along A1 south of Grantham. For enquiries please contact Peter Wheatley, Church Warden



Contacts: Rector	In Vacancy	
Churchwarden	Peter Wheatley	07765 126402
Treasurer	Carol Wheatley	07936 437018
Secretary	Peter Baldock	01476 860293
PCC Member	Christine Baldock	01476 860293

Services for October at St John the Baptist Church:

4th Oct	11:00am Morning Prayer	Rev'd Sandra Ellison
11th Oct	11:00am Morning Prayer	Steve Potts Reader
18th Oct	11:00am Holy Communion	Rev'd Jill Potts
25th Oct	11:00am Morning Prayer	Angela Grimwood ALM

OTHER EVENTS

Church Cleaning: 6th Oct at 9:30am with coffee and chat after

Church Open: Daily 10:00am – 4:00pm

As we are without a resident vicar, our services are led by visiting clergy or lay volunteers, with tea, coffee and biscuits after each service. Wedding, Baptism or Funeral Services can be arranged, please contact Peter, Churchwarden.

For more information on services, or the church, please see social media, our website **www.achurchnearyou.com/St-John-the-Baptist-Colsterworth** or Peter, Churchwarden.

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Minister: Rev'd Neil Maynard,
142 Princess Drive,
Grantham, NG31 9PY
Tel: 01476 564191
Email: **neil.maynard@methodist.org.uk**
Village Contact :
Pamela Harrison – 07716 427995



COLSTERWORTH METHODIST CHURCH
October 2026

Our services will be in the church, however we will also be zooming 2 services a month from the building internet permitting. If you are interested in joining our services by zoom, please email **helenscorror@outlook.com** or phone **07921914461** for more details.

Our services for October are:

Date	Time	Service	Preacher	Flowers
4th	11:00am	Harvest Festival	Elaine Robinson	All
11th	10:30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Neil Maynard	Cheryl Sutcliffe
18th	10:30am	Morning Worship	Jane Wakerley	Gill Dexter
25th	10:30am	Morning Worship	Rowena Ward-Barrow	Helen Scorror

Craft Fair with Cake & Cuppa – Saturday 12th September
Thank you to everyone who supported this event. £550 was raised to help with heating costs over the Winter

Open Door Lunch –Wednesday 14th & 28th October 11:45am – 1:30am
Join us for a filled roll plus either a hot pudding or cake and lots of chat. We welcome people of all and no faith and of all ages to join us. Our book and jigsaw library will be available for you to browse and borrow from.

Games/Craft & Chat Group – Wednesday 7th & 21st October – 2:00-3:30pm
Bring your own craft along and join our group for a cuppa, a chat and maybe an opportunity to learn new skills. Or alternatively come and have a chat over a game of dominoes. Everyone welcome.

Harvest Festival & Lunch – Sunday 4th October – 11:am Service, Lunch at 12:15pm
Tickets £10 per adult, £3 for under 12's. Please book your tickets by Friday 2nd October via Helen Scorror – **07921 914461**

Villages Diary October 2026

Sun 4th 12:15pm	Harvest Festival Lunch	Methodist Church Hall
Wed 7th 2-3:30pm	Games/Craft & Chat	Methodist Church Hall
Thu 8th 12noon-12:30pm	Mobile Library	Colster Way
Wed 14th 11:45 -1:30pm	Open Door Lunch	Methodist Church Hall
Tue 20th 2pm	Women's Institute	Colsterworth Village Hall
Wed 21st 2-3:30pm	Games/Craft & Chat	Methodist Church Hall
Wed 28th 11:45 -1:30pm	Open Door Lunch	Methodist Church Hall

Weekly

Mondays	10am-noon	**FOCUS Kurling**		Village Hall
	12:30pm	**Merry Widow(er)s**	*(1st Monday)*	White Lion
	6:30pm-7:30pm	**Pilates**		North Witham Village Hall
	7pm - 8pm	**Tigers Dance Class**	Alternate Mondays, not term time.	Village Hall
Tuesdays		**Dementia Singing Group**	*(1st Tuesday)*	South Witham Village Hall
	1pm	**Free Chair Yoga**	*(2nd Tuesday)*	Methodist Church
	6pm-7pm	**Yoga**		Methodist Church
	6pm-7pm	**Beavers**	*(Term time)*	Village Hall
Wednesdays	**11:45am -1:30pm**	**Open Door**	**(2nd & 4th Weeks)**	**Methodist Church**
	12:30pm	**Lunch**	*(3rd Wednesday)*	North Witham Village Hall
	6:30pm -7:30pm	**Pilates**		Methodist Church
	2pm-3:30pm	**Craft & Chat**	*(1st & 3rd Weeks)*	Methodist Church
Thursdays	10am-noon	**Rolling Stones Kurling**		Village Hall
	6pm - 7:15pm	**Cubs**	*(Term time)*	Village Hall
	6:30pm-7:30pm	**Pilates**		North Witham Village Hall
	7:30pm-8:45pm	**Scouts**	*(Term time)*	Village Hall
Fridays				
Saturdays	10am-12noon	**Football Coaching**		Sports Field
	10am-11am	**Breakfast**	*(1st Sunday)*	North Witham Village Hall

Copy for next month's issue of In Touch must arrive by noon on Tuesday 13th October 2026
Email contributions to **InTouchCopy@gmail.com**
The deadline date is final and copy may not be included if there is a shortage of space.
Please submit your copy as early as possible.
Images and/or artwork submitted in digital formats **MUST** be at a resolution of 300dpi.
Ensure that you put your contact details on any submission.
Send or deliver hard copy to **5 Stephenson Close, Colsterworth NG33 5GP (Tel:07773 230815).**
Remember to give dates of future meetings if you want them to appear in the Villages' Diary.
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