



# The Limewoods

BARDNEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL'S MAGAZINE



Welcome to the latest edition of the Limewoods Magazine! Here you can find out what activities your Parish Council has been involved in over the past few months, including news of any upcoming projects and events. We will also keep you informed of any community related news and information that may be of interest to you.

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If you would like to write an article for the magazine and are involved in a local club, organization or any other service that benefits the local community, please contact us at [admin@bardneygroup-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bardneygroup-pc.gov.uk) or telephone 07775 372170.

Please note: Opinions or claims expressed within articles or advertisements in this magazine are not necessarily the opinions of its Editor or Bardney Group Parish Council and they take no responsibility as to the validity or reliability of any information contained here-in.

## Council News

Here are just some of the activities that Bardney Group Parish Council have aided or participated in over the past few months:

### July 2022

- ◆ In July, we were alerted to a large depression that has appeared on the village green and after further investigation we determined that this was the location of an old air raid shelter. This area is still under assessment and being monitored.
- ◆ St Oswald's Edition of the Limewoods Magazine was published.

### August 2022

- ◆ In August, after providing grant funding to a community art project, we witnessed an amazing art display called Reigning Cats and Dogs held in St Lawrence Church, Bardney
- ◆ We spent many hours preparing posters and a special edition of the Limewoods magazine to promote our upcoming event
- ◆ Our Second St Oswald's Feast Day Event on Sunday 7th August proved to be a great success!
- ◆ We helped to promote the Warm & Wise Campaign from Age UK to assist with cost of living concerns from the over 50's

## Council News Continued

### September 2022

- ◆ In September, we supported a fantastic initiative from village children to litter pick on our community and surrounding land
- ◆ On the 8th September, Bardney Group Parish Council and the rest of the world learned of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's passing and expressed our condolences to the Royal Family
- ◆ On the 9th September, we implemented protocols including organising local books of condolence
- ◆ On Sunday 11th September, the Chairman made proclamations for King Charles III at a small ceremony on Bardney Village Green

### October 2022

- ◆ In October, BGPC were selected by the Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire to receive a single tree from the spectacular tree of trees sculpture in recognition of our positive impact on the local community.
- ◆ We prepared our Limewoods Magazine for the upcoming Armistice and Remembrance Day's and included a feature about Bardney's War Time History with the help of XI Squadron Association

## IX Squadron RAF Memorial



The WW2 Propeller memorial in Bardney has a detailed history. It was first unveiled on the 19th October 1980 with a very large attendance, including more than 300 people including some from Australia, Canada, USA and Norway. The unveiling ceremony also included flypasts by BBMF Lancaster PA474 and four other aircraft.

In the early 90's, due to the sale of the former Kitching's School, the War Memorial was relocated a short distance to the Village Green. Rededicated on the 14th April 1993 to mark 50 years to the day that IX Squadron arrived in Bardney. It was in this same year that Bardney Group Parish Council agreed to permanently adopt the memorial for maintenance and upkeep to help secure it's future.

With the assistance of IX Squadron Association RAF who originally commissioned the structure in 1980, we have obtained enough information to submit an application for listed status. We hope that in doing so, this will preserve the importance and history our war memorial for future generations. If our application for listing is successful, we will produce a more detailed report of the full history of the memorial at a later date.

## Remembrance Services



On Armistice Day, the 11th November at 11 AM there will be a short ceremony of Remembrance in Bardney Cemetery led by Mrs Corinna Langridge.

On Remembrance Sunday, the 13th November, the Church Service at St Lawrence Church in Bardney will start at 10.00 AM with the service led by Reverend Harry Jeffery.

Members of IX Squadron Association will also be in attendance including their President Air Commodore Nick Hay OBE RAF and their Chairman Air Commodore Ian Sharrocks OBE RAF. The Squadron Association will be on Parade. The service will move from the Church to the War Memorial for the two minutes silence, the laying of the wreaths and the reading of the Roll of Honour. Afterwards, there will be a formal unveiling of the Memorial Bench on the Village Green.

**All are welcome to attend!**

# Bardney's Wartime History

## Preparation for WW2

In the spring of 1941, the lives of families who farmed the fields near to the village of Bardney were thrown into turmoil when they were informed that their land had been identified as a possible site for a new wartime airfield. Soon followed workmen from William Moss to cut out the runways, and numerous lorries offloading Nissen huts.

The design of the new airfield was the standard pattern of three concrete runways with a perimeter track measuring 2.8 miles with 35 dispersals, a bomb store, three hangars; and a communal site constructed beyond a main road to the south east of the main airfield.

The Germans were soon alerted to its construction, with Luftwaffe aircraft photographed on site on September 12<sup>th</sup> 1941. When it became clear that German Intelligence were paying great attention to the site, a dummy airfield with real air-raid shelters was set up for greater protection. This too came to the Germans' attention with propaganda broadcasts declaring "we know all about the dummy airfield at Bardney."

## RAF Bardney

By April 1943, RAF Bardney finally resembled a usable airfield, at the same time the Air Ministry decided that RAF Waddington should be upgraded and resident Squadrons would need new homes.

It was decided that IX Squadron would be transferred to Bardney effective from 4 April 1943, resulting in lengthy preparations to make

# Bardney's Wartime History

the airfield safe and ready for operations.

On the night of the April 13/14th, seven IX Squadron Lancaster's left RAF Waddington for an operation on the Italian port of Spezia. F/L Robertson and crew were the first to land. The ground crews worked very hard and were able to have five Lancaster's serviced and bombed up for an operation on Stuttgart during the evening.

Operations took place on most evenings and on the night of April 30, ten aircraft set out to bomb Essen. Sadly Sgt. G.A. Nunez and his crew failed to return and were lost without trace. This crew was the first of many to suffer the ultimate sacrifice during IX Squadron operations from Bardney.

Some of the villagers were very concerned that an aircraft may crash onto the village and their worst fears were realised on the August 7 1943, when Sgt Davis and his crew were undertaking a night cross country exercise in their Lancaster.

It was reported by Bardney Observer that a Lancaster was on fire and flying towards the village. It was losing height and narrowly missed the village church. Finally, it crashed in a small field between some houses and a farm yard just off the main street, about 300 yards from the church. The resulting explosion killed the entire crew but luckily, no houses were destroyed or their occupants injured. Fate had been kind to the village, but it confirmed that the threat of an accident was always there.

## Bardney's Wartime History

### RAF Bardney continued

Some of the crews had operated against targets in Italy, and then flew to North Africa to refuel and bomb up before returning to Bardney. On many occasions the crews involved in these trips would bring back Bananas, a rare delicacy at the time, and the first seen in Bardney for many years!

During August 1943 problems occurred on parts of the runways and perimeter track which required repairs. RAF Bardney was closed down on the 26<sup>th</sup> August and IX Squadron were transferred to RAF Woodhall Spa about 8 miles from Bardney. They operated from there until the repairs had been completed.

### Life between operations

Bardney, once a dormant but very historic village was now the centre of a very active aviation area. The number of personnel based on the airfield almost doubled the population of the village and the five village pubs were full on most nights. The village Fish and Chip shop did a very good trade, but on some occasions the newcomers amongst the different RAF and Army units who were based at Bardney would sometimes end up fighting each other whilst waiting to be served.

There were various activities on the camp including weekly film shows and dances, the camp could boast of a very good dance band and some of the players had been in well know dance bands before the war. Local ladies were invited down for these activities which helped to form a relationship between the camp and the village.

## Bardney's Wartime History

A station party was organised for New Years Eve 1944. The party which also included Bardney people was held in the blacked out NAFFI building. Everyone was happy and having a good time, when some crews were called to report for a briefing.

It was during the New Year's Day attacks on the Dortmund Ems Canal that Flt Sgt George Thompson performed his amazing act of self-sacrifice that resulted in his death in late-January as a result of burns suffered while he saved the lives of 2 gunners amid the burning fuselage. George Thompson was awarded a posthumous VC; his citation read "His courage has seldom been equalled and never surpassed". He was 25 years old and the son of a Scottish ploughman. A month earlier he and his navigator had attended a service in Bardney Methodist Chapel where they met a local man who invited them back to his house for supper, they took him up on his offer and when it was time to leave the man said "call again when you can", unfortunately fate decided otherwise.

IX Squadron's final operation was on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1945 when 18 crews all carrying Tallboy bombs led the attack on Hitler's residence at Berchtesgaden.

The Second World War came to an end when Germany surrendered on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1945 and the following day was declared VE day.

We are forever indebted to the 452 plus IX Squadron aircrew that paid the ultimate sacrifice during the 27 months that RAF Bardney was operational.

Article adapted from original provided by

IX (B) Squadron Association Historian Richard James

## Children's Litter Pick in Bardney



In September, two of our younger residents, Charlie and Faith conducted a litter pick around the community land, the allotments and the playing fields. It showed great initiative and enthusiasm to help keep our local area and the environment tidy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their help as we always appreciate extra pairs of hands and new ideas.

If you or anyone you know would like to get involved or have any suggestions please get in touch!

## Community Art Project



Reigning Cats and Dogs was an art exhibition that took place in August in St Lawrence Church Bardney. It was a fantastic display of our younger resident's talent and creativity.

The exhibition was the brainchild of local resident and Art Teacher Kerry Thorpe to provide a positive outlet for children to get involved and create something to be proud of!

Donations from Bardney Group Parish Council along with donations from other organisations were able to help make this possible.

We encourage you to see how successful this event was and some of the amazing artwork on the Facebook page called:

**"Reigning Cats and Dogs ART for all"**

## A Special Gift for the Council



Bardney Group Parish Council has been selected by Mr Toby Dennis, the Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire to receive a very special gift in recognition of our positive and measurable impact on the local community. We are one of four nominees that have been successful in Lincolnshire.

The gift itself is an individual tree and pot from the spectacular Tree of Trees Living Sculpture that was placed outside Buckingham Palace as a centrepiece at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations in June. The original sculpture was an amazing 21 meters tall featuring 350 British native trees.

We are honoured to be nominated and to receive this gift as a symbol of gratitude for the efforts and contributions to the local community. We hope this tree will bring pride to our villages and inspire the next generation of tree planters!

## New Bench in Bardney



Bardney Group Parish Council have installed a new bench near the village green as a replacement to an older bench to improve longevity and to complement the other benches in the village.

Our community is very fortunate and appreciative to have this bench funded by an anonymous donation.

The original bench in agreement with the Women's Institute will be renovated over winter and reused at another location, also with the original WI plaque relocated to another bench on the mound opposite the butchers.

The bench will be formerly unveiled on Remembrance Sunday. In the meantime, please stop by to admire and use our new village bench!

## St Oswald's Feast Day Event Revisited!



The reason behind St Oswald's Feast Day was to provide an opportunity to showcase "The Best of Bardney", encompassing food, drink, music, demonstrations and stalls of many varieties. After the success of the inaugural event in 2021, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 saw the second edition of the St Oswald's Feast Day.

Prior to Sunday, teams had been marking out the car parking and display areas in preparation. The stage and toilets had been delivered, so all was set for the main event. The day dawned warm and sunny, which thankfully continued throughout the day. The set-up crew started work at 7.30 AM, getting the sound systems organised for the stage and preparing for the arrival of the stalls and other demonstration teams. The set up ran reasonably smoothly, and thanks to a very proactive crew, even the late delivery of some vital equipment only delayed the planned start by half an hour.



Further demonstrations by SBKBA and the Panthers continued throughout the afternoon, as did the music with performances by Bardney based The Bolt-Ons and Astra bringing the event to a close at around 7PM.

The stage, stalls and all other equipment then had to be broken down, which took until around 9.30PM, when many of the crew retired to the pub for a well-earned drink.

Feedback after the event has been extremely positive, and plans are already in hand for a larger event in 2023, over the weekend of 5 & 6 August. We would welcome anyone who is willing to give up a little of their time to come and help out.

If you are interested please get in touch via the Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/Oswaldsfeast](https://www.facebook.com/Oswaldsfeast) or email

[saint.oswalds.feast.day.bardney@gmail.com](mailto:saint.oswalds.feast.day.bardney@gmail.com)

Let's make St Oswald's Feast 2023 the best yet!!

Article by Tony Castle



## Cemetery News



Our expansion plans to create four additional rows of plinths in the cemetery to secure more burial plots for the future was provisionally approved by the Council earlier in the year. Work on these and an extension of the path to enable access to these new plots hope to be undertaken in the New Year.

This expansion will enable our cemetery to support new burials and interment of ashes for many years to come.

For further information about our cemetery please visit:

[bardney-group.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parish-information](http://bardney-group.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parish-information)

## Bardney Allotments



Gardening is a great way to keep active and can play a beneficial role in your health and mental well being. Well managed allotments are a great way to provide fresh fruit and vegetables for your family and friends.

Our allotments have generous sized plots and with regular care and maintenance you can reap and be proud of the benefits for all your hard work!

If you would like to be added to the allotment waiting list or would like further information please visit:

[bardney-group.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parish-information](http://bardney-group.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parish-information)

or contact the Parish Office on 07775 372170

## Local Crime Awareness



We are pleased that there has been a decrease in reported crime and anti-social behaviour over the past few months and we hope for this to continue.

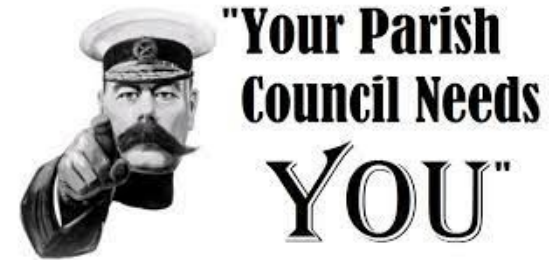
If you do have any non urgent concerns these can be reported to Lincolnshire Police on 101 or you can follow us and our local neighbourhood Police on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news.

[www.facebook.com/BardneyGroupPC](https://www.facebook.com/BardneyGroupPC)

[www.facebook.com/NettlehamPolice](https://www.facebook.com/NettlehamPolice)



## Parish Councillor Vacancies



Do you have a few hours to spare each month?

Why not become a Parish Councillor?

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, we would love to hear from you. If you're not sure of what is involved, please come along to a Parish meeting to find out more.

Alternatively, contact the Clerk on 07775 372170 or email [clerk@bardneygroup-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bardneygroup-pc.gov.uk) to have a chat about joining us.

We would be happy to hear from you!

# Councillor & Staff Contact Details



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