

All Saints Church

Although there are no great festivals during the summer months, there are reminders of what remarkable people some of the early Christians were, by delving into the histories of those commemorated by the "Saints days".

In July there are 2 Saints commemorated - St Thomas the Apostle and St James the Greater.

On 3rd July we commemorate St Thomas the Apostle, to distinguish him from St Thomas Aquinas and St Thomas More. The apostle St Thomas was one of the 12, and he was the one who had to see with his own eyes, the wounds of Jesus before accepting Jesus's resurrection; this earned him the unenviable title of "Doubting Thomas". That said, he was a devoted follower, who preached the gospel very far and very wide. Born in 1AD in Galilee (now in northern Israel), he travelled far beyond the Roman Empire. Firstly, towards Persia (Iran) and probably using the established sea trade routes between the Middle East and India, he travelled south reaching the southernmost part of India now called Tamil Nadu and the Kerala State by AD52. He remained there for the rest of his life preaching to the Tamil population. He was instrumental in introducing Christianity to India and he is recognised as the Patron Saint of India. His preaching of the gospel in a predominately Hindu land was largely tolerated, but obviously not by all, as he was killed, probably in 72AD. Thomas was buried in Chennai (Madras), the capital of Tamil Nadu, in a shrine in what would become the Cathedral of his name. In 1258, it is thought that some of his relics were brought to Ortona, in Abruzzo, Italy, where they are now held in the Church of St Thomas the Apostle. Some journey.

Next Service
Holy Communion
10.30am Sunday 21st July
Please join us

Richard chapwin@btinternet.com

Mid-Summer Coffee Morning

A very big thank you to the Flower Group for organising and helping with the very successful, Midsummer Coffee Morning in the Village Hall and to all friends and villagers who came and brought delicious cakes and biscuits and who generously donated to our Church Tower Repair fund. You raised a magnificent £257.38



Cherry Crop 2024



All Saints Church – West Window

The Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology 2024

The Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology returns in July 2024 as part of The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) festival which has events nationally. Over 100 heritage events will take place across the two counties. The festival includes, talks, walks, exhibitions and workshops. This year, the Festival will be held between Saturday 29th June and Wednesday 31st July with a number of events local to Keyham:

A TOUR OF GUMLEY Wednesday 3 and 17 July: 11am

Details of where to meet will be sent out during booking

Join Bob Gale of the Oadby & Wigston Fieldworkers (the archaeological group who have been visiting Keyham) for a walk around the old village of Gumley in south-east Leicestershire. You will have the opportunity to explore its Mercian roots, as well as its Medieval and Georgian history.

Adults £5. BOOKING ESSENTIAL, contact Bob Gale at email owfieldworkers@gmail.com

GUIDED WALK OF BURROUGH HILL IRON AGE HILLFORT Friday 5 July: 2pm

Meet in the car park at Burrough Hill Country Park, Somerby Road, Burrough on the Hill LE14 2QZ

Burrough Hill is Leicestershire's finest hill fort. Join John Thomas and Andy Hyam of University of Leicester Archaeological Services for a walk around the ramparts and hear the results of recent excavations by the University of Leicester, which John and Andy co-directed. Adults £5; children FREE. Car parking £2.50. No booking required

A TOUR OF INGARSBY DESERTED VILLAGE Friday 12 July: 2pm

Meet in the farmyard, Ingarsby Old Hall, Ingarsby Lane, LE7 9JL

Join archaeologist Peter Liddle for a walk around one of the best preserved deserted villages in the country. In 1469 Leicester Abbey turned the parish over to pasture and cleared the village to be replaced by a grange farm on the site of the present Ingarsby Old Hall. Adults £5, children FREE. No booking required

A TOUR OF HAMILTON DESERTED VILLAGE Saturday 13 July: 2pm

Meet at Pick's Organic Farm Shop, The Cottage, King Street, Hamilton Grounds, Barkby Thorpe LE7 3QF

Join Peter Liddle for a walk around one of Leicestershire's finest deserted medieval villages. While Hamilton may now bring housing developments and supermarkets to mind the original Hamilton was a small village with its own chapel that disappeared in the early 15th century. Adults £5, children FREE. No booking required.

EVINGTON MOAT GUIDED TOUR Friday 19 July: 7pm

Meet at the Church car park in the centre of Evington village, LE5 6FA

Join Peter Liddle and Chris Hossack to visit 'Piggy's Hollow', one of the best moated site complexes in Leicestershire next to Evington Parish Church, which will also be open. The complex includes the site of the manor house, fishponds and a mill dam. A hidden gem! Adults £5, children FREE. No booking required

LAUNDE ABBEY GUIDED WALK Friday 26 July: 2pm

Launde Abbey, near Loddington, LE7 9XB

Join Peter Liddle on a walk around Launde Abbey, a very fine Jacobean mansion on the site of, and incorporating parts of, a medieval Augustinian Priory. Peter will be sharing the results of recent research into the site. Launde does very fine lunches, which need to be booked on 01572 717254. Coffee or light lunches can be catered for without booking.

Adults £5, children FREE. No need to book

As well as these official events, there could well be an 'unofficial' walking tour of Keyham's history in aid of the Church Tower. Details to follow.

For a full list of events visit: <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>

Steve

A Dutch Adventure – 11 Cities in One Day!

So, back in the autumn, having cycled to Ireland and planning to cycle to Africa, Geoff obviously thought he didn't have enough cycling projects. Having joined Audax UK, he spotted the heavily oversubscribed 11 Cities ride in Bolsward, Friesland, Netherlands. "That looks fun" says he, about a day riding round 11 towns in Friesland – 235 kilometres (or 146 miles in real money). "Lovely" say I, thinking it unlikely he'll get drawn from the ballot. "Of course I'll come with you, it will be fun to have a few days in Europe", thinking that this would be the last I heard.

Well, you guessed – he got an entry and in mid-May off we went from Hull to Rotterdam and then drove up to the very north of the Netherlands to Friesland.

The ride took place on their Pentecost bank holiday Monday and so the whole weekend had a fantastic party atmosphere. Marching bands, children on the canal in inflatable balls, canal paddle boarding and several other cycle rides and events.



On Monday morning between 5am and 8am, over 14,000 cyclists set off from the Stadhuis in Bolsward, Geoff's departure time being 06.10am. They left along the canal, preceded by flag bearers in traditional costume, marching bands and majorettes and headed out of town. All sorts of bikes – super racing bikes, tandems, folding bikes and unicycles participated in truly wacky Dutch spirit.



KEYHAM NEWS



The ride is in two loops with Bolsward central as the start, finish and mid-way point. It was great fun to watch the cyclists come in and out as they completed their midway check in and finishing point – a heavy downpour halfway through did not deter them.

And after 12 hours, Geoff arrived back in Bolsward, having completed the whole 11 Cities/146 miles, to receive his medal. Tired, wet and cold he soon revived (after food and beer!) and started talking about returning next year.....

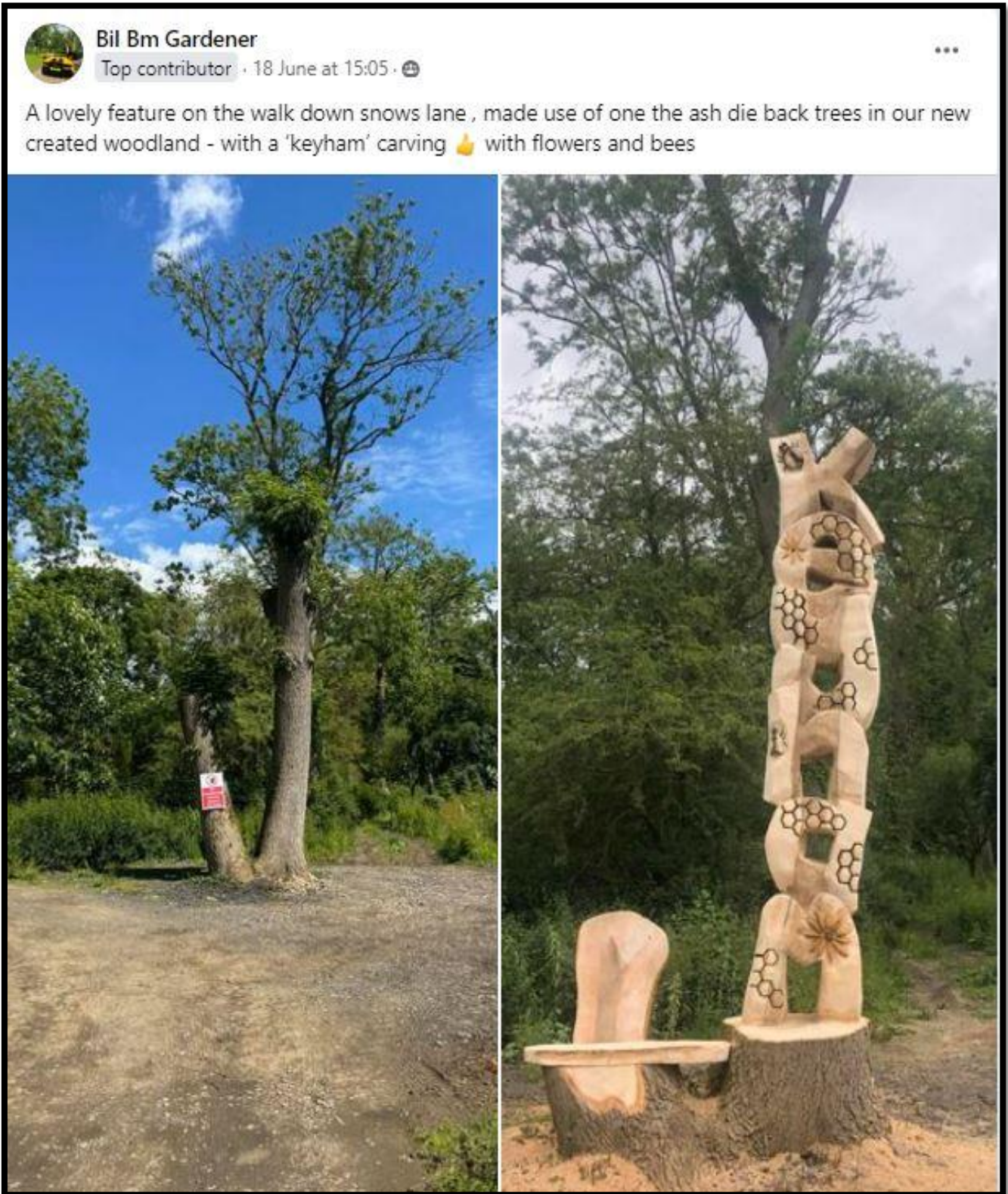


Bolsward is a lovely town charmingly situated on the canal and well worth a visit although is likely to be much quieter during the rest of the year. The locals were incredibly friendly and helpful and even if you have no interest in cycling, it's worthy of a visit during the weekend of the ride if you enjoy a party and a Dutch spectacle.



Sue – Cyclist Support Team

From Keyham facebook page.....



.....at Keyham Retreat, Snows Lane

MEGALITHS

Carnac in Brittany is the place to go to see probably the most extensive megalithic monument in the world, the alignments of standing stones, 3000 of them, extending in rows for four kilometres.



These are local granite, some as high as four metres. Why there are there no one seems to have come up with a definite answer. There are local legends; a Roman legion turned into stone by Merlin, or an army of pagan soldiers given the same treatment by the Pope, but there are several tumuli covering stone burial chambers around and it seems likely that the alignments had a religious significance.

How did they get there? Well, the stone is local and all it would need would be multiple teams of strong men with rollers and pulleys. Or perhaps.



Anyway, whatever the purpose of these huge engineering works it is so impressive to wander around this huge site and admire something that has endured for more than 5000 years.

Edna and Richard

Horseshoe Cottage Update

Horseshoe Cottage is now fully restored! See our before and after photographs below.

It just needs a good clean and all retrievable contents bring back out of long term storage. We are hoping to move back in very soon.

It's been a long road, 7 1/2 months and whilst we now have a completely restored cottage with lots of new stuff, it has been very stressful and frustrating.

Thank you for all of the support we have had from the village, it has been a great comfort to us and we are really looking forward to being back permanently.

Vicky and Anthony



Manicure

Gripping round the subject
the fingers of his argument
had the longest nails of logic
with cuticles of theory
covered by suggestions
which needed pushing back
to expose the speculations
lying at the root
and the nails then neatly trimmed
to make his hand presentable.

Shy

The silhouette you see
as a shadow on the floor
has every detail hidden
until a little beam
refracting through the figure
reveals its true expression.

The Coach Company

As a public transport
the omnibus of death
always stops for you
even if un hailed
so when the next arriving
has your number on it
watching for the step
pay your fare and board
though the aged travel free
as its scheduled service
which will have conductors
with tickets for return
and calling out the stops
while some are just an outing
and have a driver only
so be careful what you catch
as it may be a surprise
and not the trip expected
but a mystery tour instead.

Oddly

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report this month.

Tony Johnson
Chairman, Keyham Parish Meeting

Garden Get-Together #1 at Ashlea

Many thanks to Rebecca and Michael for hosting Keyham's first "Garden Get-Together".

Plenty of food, drink and lively banter were enjoyed by all; so entertaining, in fact, that we forgot to take photographs for KN. However, Michael's photograph below reminds us of our evening in his beautiful and colourful garden.



The garden at Ashlea

Keyham News Deadline

The deadline for
KN August edition is
Wednesday 31st July
Articles and photographs to
The Lodge or keyhamnews@btinternet.com
@copyright Keyham News 2024
[Keyham Village Website](#)

Garden Get-together #2 The Cottage, Sunday 4th August

Join us for a relaxing time with neighbours and friends from 6pm onwards.

Supper provide at The Hungry Hedgehog 'Chillin & Grillin' on the lower terrace from 7pm



Bring your own tipple and anything specific you want to throw on the grill, shared cooking is always welcomed!

Family and friends welcome too, the more the merrier.

Gazebos will be up if the weather looks a bit iffy but fingers crossed we'll have a warm night to relax and while away a Sunday evening together.

Please do drop us a message on here or pop round to let us know if you will be coming.

Samantha & David

D-Day Flag



D-Day Commemoration Flag flies at the Village Hall

Flags in Keyham

I noted with interest the recent article in Keyham News about flying flags over Keyham and at the Village Hall, and wondered if other villagers would share an interest in discussing this subject going forward, perhaps at the next Parish Meeting?

I for one am very supportive of flags being flown in the village, whilst acknowledging that others may well feel the opposite. Personally I think flags can add to the atmosphere and sense of beauty of a village, depending on what they symbolise. Spending time in Sweden, it is noticeable that every small village or hamlet has Swedish and provincial flags flying from most houses and public buildings, often in the shape of pennants. It is very attractive indeed and certainly appears to unite people in the locality.

Obviously private homeowners can fly whatever flags they wish to outside their homes. I do feel that for the village hall, though, we should try to be as non-partisan as possible in terms of any symbolic flags flown there, with it being a community space. Not everyone in the village is of the same mind on religion, sporting allegiances, political views or even attitudes to world events or local, national or international causes.

I think it would be interesting to agree some criteria for the content of any flags flying in our name on the village hall. For what it's worth with my own two-pennyworth on this, I think that it would be great to have a Keyham flag design, unless anyone knows if one already exists? Perhaps we might rotate that with a Leicestershire flag? Other people may have ideas of what could be included in any rotation. Whatever we chose it would need to be something that speaks for us all, in my opinion.

Jez

Summer Community Litter Pick

Well done to all those who took part in the litter pick on 9th June; verges and lay-bys are looking good for the summer. See you in the autumn.

Richard

Mayfield Natures Notes

Tony tells KN "The [swallow] chicks are flying for the first time as I sit outside the garage! [at Mayfield Cottage]"

Perhaps this is one flying "Somewhere over the Rainbow" at Mayfield Barn.



Photos from Chris at Mayfield Barn



BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT 2024

Last year 95,000 people in the UK took part in the Big Butterfly Count. Conducting 136,719 Counts in gardens, parks, school grounds and the countryside.

With favourable weather in 2023 for breeding, there were positive findings in that over 1.5 million butterflies and day-flying moths were recorded. The highest number in four summers.

Red Admirals were the most recorded species with 248,077 sights, representing a 338% increase. The increase being due to the number of record breaking summer temperatures over the last few summers.



The second most spotted were Gatekeepers with Large and Small Whites the 3rd and 4th most spotted.

Unfortunately these positives mask the worrying decline in numbers in many other species over the last 13 years of the Big Butterfly Count.

Dr Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation, explained the decline in species as being due to habitat loss.

“While the weather certainly has an impact on numbers from year to year, butterflies, moths and many other species can generally cope with variable weather. What they can’t cope with is habitat destruction.”

He goes on to encourage people to create Wild Places by leaving a patch of long grass in their garden or planting a small selection of nectar rich plants

To get involved in The Big Butterfly Count 2024 all that is required is to conduct a 15 minute survey of butterfly species in your back garden at some point between 12th July and 4th August.

Details can be found at

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Along with identification charts and phone apps.

Currently things do not look very promising, as there are very few butterflies around, even now one of their main food sources, the buddleia is out in full bloom.

The wettest spring on record with rain on most days during April and May has probably had effect on numbers as it has for bumble bees.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, have reported low numbers in May from their Bee Walks and, more concerningly, Buglife the charity dedicated to protecting insects and bugs, has report a 78% fall in bumble bee numbers since 2004 and that this year had been the “perfect storm for insect declines”.

Steve

KN Birdwatching Special

More and more people are using the (free) Merlin App on their smartphones to identify birdsong with some interesting and unusual results.

We can all sit in the garden and hear all of the usual (and visible) birds such as blackbirds, sparrows and robins. But what Merlin will do is tell you what else is out there; hidden in the bushes or further afield and sometimes with surprising results.

Peter has compiled a list of the species Merlin has identified from his garden in Keyham over the past few months (see opposite).

The standout “spot” is, of course, the Osprey which was picked up by Merlin in September of last year. The romantics amongst us will hope that this is Maya en route from Rutland Water back to The Gambia for the winter.

I have added some of my results (in italics).

The other morning at about 4am I awoke to a cacophony of birdsong so on went Merlin and picked up a curlew and wigeon (duck). The other evening it picked up a little ringed plover and a tawny owl (in broad daylight).

The habitat for some of these birds is not really found around Keyham so are some of these “mis-identifications”?

It seems that Merlin doesn't always get it right but has accuracy of over 90%. So.....

Is Merlin right?

Has Merlin got it wrong?

Is Percy Edwards* hiding in the bushes around Keyham?

You may like to “join-in”. Sends us your Merlin “spots” from in and around Keyham.

Peter and John H

* Google-it, kids

MERLIN APP

List of birds identified in Keyham



grey wagtail, pied wagtail

mallard, wigeon

blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush

jackdaw, carrion crow, magpie

wood pigeon, collared dove, stock dove, rock dove

blue tit, coal tit, great tit, long tailed tit

robin, chiffchaff, black cap, nuthatch

goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch

house martin, swallow

osprey, buzzard, red kite, tawny owl

ring neck parakeet, rose ringed parakeet

green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker

house sparrow, wren, dunnock, goldcrest

spotted flycatcher, short-toed tree creeper

meadow pipit, willow warbler, skylark

curlew, little ringed plover

47 in TOTAL