

BLEASBY NEWS



**Supporting our Lifeboat Crews at
the Waggon and Horses**

DECEMBER 2020

THE BLEASBY 2020 CHRISTMAS GATEWAYS & ADVENT SPECTACULAR!

GATEWAY

Don't hold back, decorate the front of your house in some way - be it your gate, hedge or windows



THE SWITCH-ON

Lets come together to light up the parish at the same time

SUNDAY | 6.12.20 | 6pm

ADVENT CALENDAR

24 days of discovery, a window a day! Check links below for a list of those taking part



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Bleasby Events Group
working on behalf of



WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER/CHRISTMAS/WINTER EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS AND FAREWELL

We are pleased to bring you this bumper edition of Bleasby News – the last we will be responsible for. Rachael has been a great partner in this enterprise – I can't actually remember why we persuaded ourselves to take it on, but it has been an interesting and sometimes frustrating role. However, I think that BN has developed during our tenure, thanks to our contributors and to our splendid printer, Martin of Unwins Printers in Farnsfield, who has been responsible for an excellent-looking newsletter for several years now.

Being editors, it has also given us both the opportunity to write about the things in which we are most interested – we are both ardent country lovers, especially passionate about trees, flowers, wildlife in general. Rachael specialises in farming – and you may have noticed that my particular interest is history, especially that of our parish. It will be good to see what we can discover about the new team's interests!

We are so pleased that we have a new team with new ideas – please give them every support. BN is one of the benefits the Parish Council provides to every household in the parish – free of charge – long may it remain so!

If you want to be reminded of deadlines for BN do sign up on the website at bleasbycommunity@outlook.com for reminders.

Barbara Cast

RELEASED FROM BLEASBY NEWS!

I am grateful to Lauren and the team who are taking over in the New Year. Many months ago as we stopped for a chat on the hill, Lauren asked if anyone had come forward to take over editing our village news magazine. "Just let me know if no one volunteers" she said. "I'm too busy so I'm not offering but we can't let it die!" Readers will be aware what is said about getting something done - "ask a busy person". So it was with a sense of relief that I learnt that a team was emerging. All the members of the new team are busy people bringing up small children and working outside the home, and/or already volunteering in the village and beyond. They have a range of skills between them and I have no doubt that they will do a good job. Bleasby News won't look the same or come so often but this shouldn't be a loss. It is time for a new look! The new team will bring a fresh approach, a younger, livelier perspective and a different focus. They might even persuade more people to contribute but I hope I will be allowed

to have my say from time to time. It does seem like a release after 12 years or more. It has been interesting and rewarding to be part of it but, be in no doubt, it has been *a very small part*, as it is Barbara Cast who has done by far the biggest part of the work with her technical skills, administrative experience and attention to detail. Please give the new team your support by contributing articles and encouragement. I wish them well.

Rachael Andrew

HELLO FROM THE NEW EDITORS

We would like to say a huge thank you to Barbara and Rachael for their dedication as editors of the Bleasby News for the past 11 years. We, the new editorial team, have big boots to fill - however we are excited at the prospect ahead of us and we wish them well.

We write to you in this December edition to firstly, say hello, but also to let you know that the next edition will be printed in April 2021, making up the first of our four seasonal issues. We will be making contact with all the regular contributors & advertisers but, in the meantime, you can contact the team on bleasbynewseditors@gmail.com if you have any questions or ideas for new content you would like to see in future editions. We plan to move to a full colour newsletter from April, so we are asking you to email us with your best spring photos taken in or around the parish to be included in our spring issue; a favourite will be chosen for the cover.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and here's to a brighter 2021.

Lauren, Alison, Sarah, Mike & Charlotte - "Team Bleasby News"



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Council has met twice since the last edition of Bleasby News, both times by Zoom. It is now up to full complement with Jo Dunsneath and Avril McCormick having become councillors. A number of planning matters were discussed at both meetings, as well as proposals for celebrating Christmas under Covid restrictions. Work being undertaken around the parish was also discussed at the November meeting including tree planting – it was noted that there was increase in trees being felled, including applications for those under Tree Preservation Orders, which, bearing in mind the importance of trees, including their role in ameliorating climate change, the Council regretted. A proposal to seek a further interactive speed sign in the region of Sycamore Lane was agreed.

Parish Council papers are available to view on the website, including agenda and minutes.

CHRISTMAS 'NOTICE'... FROM THE REVD PHIL

'Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat - please put a penny in the old man's hat.' Or, as someone said to me "yes and so will the people, if they eat goose"! Surely Christmas is about more than the goose!?! (or turkey or whatever). So, we know Christmas will be different this year (could there be hidden benefits to notice!?)

You will have noticed that there is no likelihood of the usual, amazing St Mary's, Christmas Eve worship? However, we are planning a Christmas celebration via zoom for 5pm on Christmas Eve, which you are very much invited to. It will include a bit of live action with recordings of carols (you can sing if muted!) and readings etc. A link will be posted immediately after it has finished for anyone of you to engage with at your own convenience, possibly with a few extra carols too. We are looking forward to it! There will be two other zoom worship opportunities; the Sunday before Christmas (20th) at 10.30am, again with carols and a Christmas focus, and Christmas Day at 9.30am a short Holy Communion. It would be lovely to see you, even just for those 'specials'. Ask me for an email invitation link at any time please. So many people have enjoyed being a part of the zoom community either live or via the link, it's a plus that has surprised us all.

I heard on Desert Island Discs recently the leading actor and director Samantha Morton. Her personal story began in Nottingham in a background of considerable difficulty and disadvantage. But she has

come through. As an actor learning her profession from an early age, she learned to observe and notice people, how they looked and moved. Noticing, observing and reflecting are key skills. It is not far from what a great man once said “consider how the lilies grow...not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these”. What an interesting thing to say? How much do we ‘notice’....thankfully? Or are we overly bothered with everyday concerns - what we should eat or drink or wear!? The same great man also observed that “life is more than food, and the body more than clothes” (possibly something transcendent? God even?!). But I confess I caught myself thinking (in October), “oh my goodness what will we eat, where and with whom, at Christmas?” (I still don’t know).

Samantha Morton added a surprise by saying what had really helped her in all her struggles was... faith! Faith, not in herself, her abilities or the kind people who helped her in life, but faith in the love of God which surrounds and guides her through every difficulty. A love that is always there even beyond rational understanding. I’m not sure I understand it, but I agree with Samantha Morton...it is there...if you want to notice it.

The rhyme about Christmas isn’t really about the traditional goose (turkey is a foreign import of course), it’s about noticing those who we can offer assistance to. Surely our life is about more than my food and my drink? Isn’t it also about what we notice and are prepared to give? Who is the ‘old man holding out a hat’ to us this week, and what might we do about it? It’s a Christmas ‘notice’

*‘If you haven’t got a penny, a ha’penny will do
If you haven’t got a ha’penny, then God bless you!’*

What the great man said is in Luke 12: 22ff

Blessings, The Revd Phil

M: 077 200 100 66: Email: phil_07@btinternet.com

Links to recorded zoom worship can be found every week at: www.beneficeofwesttrent.org For invitations to worship email me at any time please.

CHURCH NEWS

Services

We were able to reopen our churches in the benefice briefly for services in September. It was good to be there in person again and especially important for those who are unable to take part in “Zoom” worship. It was, unfortunately, short-lived and we are now back where we were previously, unable to offer public worship. The church remains open for visitors and

for private prayer on Sundays during daylight hours. It is warm and welcoming we hope, and there are indications that people enjoy and take advantage of the peace and tranquility. Copies of the Archbishops' prayers for the nation are available to take home.

Keeping in touch

Members of the church congregation keep in touch through regular telephone conversations and we are pleased to report that all are in good spirits in spite of current restrictions. That isn't to say that they don't miss the company of extended family and friends and there are many in the village who live alone and feel particularly cut off. The WI and others locally keep up their calls and Nicola Bennett's group of volunteers still offer a prescription collecting and emergency shopping service. Please let us know if you think anyone is in difficulties.

"Zoom" worship

"Zoom" services continue to attract more participants than our usual congregations and have become an essential part of our church life. It is likely that they will continue even after restrictions are lifted. For those who are too frail to turn out, especially in winter, and for those who for whatever reason feel more comfortable participating from home, these services are a "God-send". Details of how to join are given under the Vicar's letter on page 6.

Recordings

Our weekly services are recorded and can be watched at any time through the link provided or via the Benefice of West Trent website. On **Remembrance Sunday** a special service, including pre-recorded sections at each of the village war memorials and other relevant material, was viewed as a recording by more than 70 people, as well as those who joined at 10.30am. It is hoped to provide something on similar lines for **Christmas, including a carol service**, whether or not we will be able to hold actual services, which at the moment seems most unlikely. If it does prove possible, notices and the website will display times and venues.

At our benefice service in November we would normally remember those who have died during the last two years. Family members would be invited to light a candle as the name of their loved-one was read out. A recorded service "**Remembering Loved-ones**" was prepared this year using a similar format and filmed in St Mary's. Bereaved families were invited to view the recording.

Women's Refuge and Salvation Army Appeals

As a benefice we are committed to supporting the Women's Refuge in Newark on an ongoing basis. The church porch is a well-established collection point for various items according to need. So it is a great pleasure to join forces with the Women's Institute in support of their Christmas appeal. This includes the Women's Refuge and The Salvation

Army. Both organisations have requested donations of toiletries. Basic items are most needed. Collection points have been set up at Richardson's Farm in Gibsmere, in the Church porch and next to the newspaper drop-box outside Cherry Cottage. Lists of suggested items, including cleaning materials for the Women's Refuge, are displayed at each point and on page 17. Items should be in their original condition, ie unopened.

Bleasby School

We have missed welcoming the children to church for the usual autumn programme of services and activities. We hope that the children will be able to enjoy the Advent Crown making kit provided for them as an alternative to the workshop that usually takes place in church at the end of November. The school has launched a Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal in support of Netherfield Food Bank. We encourage you to support this worthy cause too, in whatever way you can. Please see page 15 for details.

Churchyard

As ever we are indebted to Ali Sutherland and the team of mowers, hedge trimmers, strimmers and leaf clearers. Thank you to them on behalf of all those who comment in passing or visiting graves that is a beautiful area at all times of the year.

Churchwardens, Rachael and Diana

Churchwarden

Diana Temperley has given notice that she will no longer be standing for nomination as churchwarden at the next Annual Church Meeting in April. Her service to the church has been and continues to be extraordinary. It will be impossible to replace her and all she does but, with some redefining of roles in the PCC and hopefully some "new blood", we will manage to steer the ship into the future. Ever hopeful, I invite anyone with an interest in preserving what we have and moving things forward to offer their talents. A new team has emerged to refresh Bleasby News so who knows what might happen. Please give it some thought.

Rachael

THE BLEASBY 2020 CHRISTMAS GATEWAYS AND ADVENT SPECTACULAR!

The Parish Council is planning a Christmas tree and lights on the Glebe Field but, with the ongoing uncertainty of lockdowns over the next few months, it has been impossible for the Events Group to commit to arranging any formal community activities this Christmas. So, after the success of VE Day, the scarecrows and support for the NHS, we believe we can still come together this Christmas by laying on a wonderful festive

display to help brighten up the Parish of Bleasby. We would like to invite all residents of Bleasby, Gibsmere and Goverton to participate in the Bleasby 2020 Christmas Gateways and Advent spectacular!

For the Gateway part, you are invited to decorate the front of your house in some way – be it your gate, hedge or window, whatever you've got, just make it look festive, involve the family, get creative, have fun and please don't hold back! We would like to have a Bleasby Gateway Switch-On so that we all come together to light up the parish at the same time – so, please save the date: Sunday 6th December at 6pm, but don't worry if you really want to switch on before then.....

Also, we have gathered 24 volunteers to create a Bleasby Advent Calendar throughout the parish. Each of these households will create a display which they will switch on around dusk on their allotted day. There will be a list published of the road in which you can discover the display for each day of advent – hopefully children, as well as grown-ups, will enjoy the adventure of finding them as they appear.

Keep an eye on the Community Website www.bleasbycommunity.uk , notice boards and Bleasby Village Facebook for updates.

We hope as many of you as possible will join together to help bring some festive cheer to us all this Christmas.

Bleasby Events Group, Bleasbycommunity@outlook.com

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO RUN BLEASBY COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Doesn't time fly! It is now two years since I volunteered to revamp the community website and integrate it with the Parish Council site. Since then the number of subscribers has doubled and I believe the website now acts as a valuable communication tool for residents and visitors alike. Alongside Bleasby News, noticeboards and the Village Facebook page, it is essential to keep the site current and I would now like to hand over the day to day management to someone who fancies taking this on for a couple of hours per month. I would be happy to provide training but the site platform provided by Hugo Fox is really easy to use and could be picked up quickly by anyone who is reasonably confident with use of a computer. Through volunteering for this role you will meet some lovely people, interact with various local interest groups, keep up to date with what's happening around the parish and have a good degree of freedom to develop the site further. The Bleasby Parish Council pages of the site

will continue to be administered exclusively by the Parish Council Clerk, so you would be solely responsible for the community pages. I will be stepping down at the end of December, so please get in contact by email. If you are interested to explore this further contact:-

bleasbycommunity@outlook.com

Mike Fryer

SHARED HARVEST

It's good to know that surplus produce is being shared widely through the village. Boxes of apples in gateways are a common sight and, in season, beans, lettuces, rhubarb, plums and damsons, not forgetting marrows, are freely available. Honey, marmalade, gooseberry jam and crab apple jelly also pass from house to house. More recently, we have been invited to help ourselves to free range eggs. So thank you to all those who take the time to make sure nothing goes to waste and make a walk through the village so much more interesting. While we are thinking how lucky we are to have such generous neighbours, maybe it will inspire us to respond to the Reverse Advent Calendar collection set up by Nicola Bennett with Bleasby School to provide Christmas boxes for the Netherfield Food Bank. Please see the information on page 15.

Rachael

BLEASBY WI UPDATE

October should have seen WI members celebrating our 98th Birthday with an evening meal at a local restaurant, but the continuing Covid restrictions meant that was impossible. Instead we held our first ever meeting via Zoom. Some 15 members logged on to hear local news and to take part in a quiz - many thanks to Lynda for arranging this. This was followed by a general discussion and suggestions were made for future topics for Zoom meetings. While not as satisfactory as a face to face meeting, it was very enjoyable, and helped us to feel part of the WI and village community. Earlier in the day all members had been given a goody bag containing a piece of birthday cake, some Celebrations chocolates and a birthday card, made or donated by members and their families. Many thanks to them all.

Notts County Federation have Zoom meetings planned for the next couple of months and our members are encouraged to take part. These include a Bingo evening and craft demonstrations for Christmas ideas. These are in addition to the courses and talks being provided by Denman, the national centre for WI courses.

The Book Group is continuing with email discussions on the current book being read. The two most recent books were *The Butterfly Room* by Lucinda Riley and *Once upon a River* by Diane Setterfield. Many thanks to Bernice for continuing to collect and return the books to the library when she can and therefore giving us some focussed reading.

Our December meeting would normally have included a Pretty Parcels competition with the parcels being donated to a children's charity. This year the WI is helping with the donations from the village which will be going to the Salvation Army and the Women's Refuge.

In this unusual time, contact between members is mainly by phone and email and I think we are all longing for the time when normal meetings can resume - although that seems to be a long way off.

Sheila Lewis

JUBILEE PONDS – “RENDEZVOUS WITH THE PAST”

Like many of you, Don McLeish (my local bird watching colleague of close on 50 years) and I decided to take our Covid-legal period of paired exercise around our treasured Jubilee Ponds – secured for us, and all who live here, in perpetuity. In the early seventies he and I had wandered around these, then recently excavated and flooded gravel ponds, on our regular Sunday morning bird count: at that time they lay within a vast area of gravel workings spreading from Bleasby to Hoveringham. Don and I reminisced and mused as we now, rather more sedately and unlike our erstwhile youthful stride and speed, ambled around a transformed landscape. We laughed at the thought that, 47 years earlier, Don had promised to buy me this land for a nature reserve if ever he won the pools! He never did, except a paltry £30, but better still the Parish Council acquired the land for me - and all of us - for one pound sterling, just five years after that promise!

We marvelled at the changes brought about by time and nature's hand. Trees now cloaked our early vistas over exposed lakes of sky-filled water, dark scrub covered our tummocky grassland, bare stretches of sand and gravel were greened, our marshland drained and yet . . . that harsh, windswept wilderness has agreeably transformed into a place of softened and tamed tranquillity and beauty – now annoyingly more appropriate and pleasing to a pair of somewhat less hardy and venturesome veteran bird watchers.

The wind blew chill as we broke out into an area more in keeping with our memories – though now more orderly managed with mown meadow, gravelled footway and planted, maintained hedgerow, punctuated with carefully selected and distanced standard trees. The sky was still grey and water-heavy but, was it not here that the teal and wigeon grazed and dabbled in the marshy pools? Surely the common snipe crouched here, breaking from cover with zigzagging flight and creaking shrieks of alarm as we stumbled over the gravel-plant ravaged land. Jack snipe even, bursting vertically upwards from the very toes of our boots and thrilling us by their audacity and sharp intrusion into our vision and composure. From here, had we not viewed vast rafts of pochard and coot, often one hundred plus strong? Where now was the goldeneye, the shoveller, the little grebe? Where too, those flocks of lapwing and golden plover, thrust into flight by a quartering owl? Gone!

But still, at slower pace, the subtleties of time and nature grow – the fungi, so small and once dashed in haste, now invoke a marvelling gasp, demanding eye and hand to revel in its form, texture and extraordinarily detailed beauty. Stooping, with slight twinge, to tie a trailing bootlace, reveals jewelled drops of water – near spherical – on furrowed grass, reflecting surrounding natural beauty back to the entranced beholder.

It's egrets now, both little and large, that take the stage, whilst cormorants and goosander feast on burgeoning fish stocks and the flocks of redwing and fieldfare gorge on prolific haws offered by the hawthorn ranks, advancing decade by decade where rough grasses once hid skylark and meadow pipit. Starlings in their thousands now fill the strutting pylons and coalesce into dusk time swirling, curving, transitory forms across the reddening skies. And then the geese – skein after skein of them, hundreds at first and then multitudes – canada, greylag and pinkfoot – these last two species scarce and exciting in our early days, but now score after score in cackling squadrons invoke the ghosts of Lancaster formations droning across our wartime skies.

“Time waits for no man” – nature fills the void.

Peter Cast



SALE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS IN AID OF THE RNLI

On October 6th we held a sale of Christmas cards and calendars in front of the Waggon and Horses in Bleasby. Thank you to everyone who came to support us and to Neil, the landlord of the Waggon. You bought £435 worth of cards and spent £215 on raffle tickets plus donations of £49. Congratulations to Jo Kirk of Fiskerton who won the raffle prize of a hamper filled with Christmas goodies. Your generosity will help to ensure that Lifeboats have fuel and are ready when the call comes. With an average of 24 lifeboat launches a day, there's most likely a lifeboat crew out right now saving lives.

Ann Buckley, Calverton Lifeboat Guild



LUNCH CLUB

I would like to reassure members that we will do all that we can to get the Lunch Club going as soon as restrictions allow and the Tea Shoppe is back to normal. In the meantime I can pass on the news that all members appear to be doing what they can to ride out the restrictions with good grace. Best wishes from us all to Caroline and Andrew. We miss our weekly gatherings and hope to be back with you soon.

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Reverse Advent Calendar

This **November**, grab a box and instead of receiving something each day, add an item to create a food hamper for a family facing a tough time this Christmas.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>1 Baked Beans</i> | <i>16 Dry Cake Mix</i> |
| <i>2 Mince Pies</i> | <i>17 Savoury Biscuits</i> |
| <i>3 Pasta</i> | <i>18 Tinned Tomatoes</i> |
| <i>4 Long Life Milk</i> | <i>19 Bottle of Cordial</i> |
| <i>5 Pack of Stuffing</i> | <i>20 Tin of Mixed Veg</i> |
| <i>6 Sweet Biscuits</i> | <i>21 Christmas Treat</i> |
| <i>7 Tea Bags</i> | <i>22 Spaghetti</i> |
| <i>8 Pasta Sauce</i> | <i>23 Tinned Fruit</i> |
| <i>9 Jam</i> | <i>24 Gravy Granules</i> |
| <i>10 Rice</i> | <i>25 Pack of Jelly</i> |
| <i>11 Tinned Tuna</i> | <i>26 Pack of Custard</i> |
| <i>12 Can of Soup</i> | <i>27 Christmas Pudding</i> |
| <i>13 Instant Noodles</i> | <i>28 Instant Pasta Dish</i> |
| <i>14 Box of Cereal</i> | <i>29 Porridge Oats</i> |
| <i>15 Fray Bentos Pie</i> | <i>30 Cranberry Sauce</i> |

Alternatively, you could just donate a few things in a bag – that'd be great too!
Boxes will be delivered to **Netherfield Food Bank** in the **2nd week of December**.

Please give donations to **Nicola Bennett** at the **bottom of the school drive** or leave outside **No. 2 Manor Close, Bleasby** during the first week of December.

If you are able to help out with a box or just a few bits, the people and families receiving support from the Food Bank this Christmas would be extremely grateful. Don't worry about the end date, we can take donations right up to Christmas Eve. Please contact Nicola Bennett on 07402 449863 if you need a donation picking up. Thank you.

HOVERINGHAM MAMMOTH COMING HOME

There has been good news of a home coming – the statue of a mammoth which long stood at the entrance to Hoveringham Gravel Co on the road to Hoveringham village is being restored prior to being reinstated near to the place it once stood. Some years after Tarmac took over the company the mammoth was donated to Nottingham Trent University and was placed at its Clifton campus. Hoveringham Vintage Vehicle Society began exploring the possibility of the mammoth being returned to its original site and, after several years' negotiating, NTU has given it to HVVS. We look forward to seeing it back.

BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Still no imminent prospect of meeting for our lectures – we do intend to consider zooming if we are not able to get together. Members of the Society have been receiving interesting snippets from other organisations from time to time, to keep them historically up to speed!

Barbara Cast, President of BLHS

WELCOME TO BLEASBY PARISH

We are pleased to welcome Scott, Hannah, Lily, dog Bean and three horses to Goverton, Jon Higman and sons, Jacob and Sam, to Langstone House and Beverley and Michael Ford to the 'bungalow' behind Wyngates. When the "lockdown" lifts we look forward to welcoming them properly at village events.

Victoria, Alex and dog Honey are returning to live in the Old Chapel and the Hill and Staniforth families are on the move but staying within the parish - also welcome news.

Bleasby Diary of Events
Let's celebrate this always special season - however odd the year has been!

WI and St Mary's Working Together

Women's Refuge and Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Our two organisations have come together to coordinate a collection of toiletries. Please see list of suggested items.

Collection points:-

Richardson's Farm (porch), Gibsmere,

The Church (porch),

Cherry Cottage (box near newspaper dropbox)

Ideas for donations include:-

For Women's Refuge and Salvation Army

Shower/bath gel
Shampoo
Hair brush/comb
Toothpaste & toothbrush
Soap
Deodorant
Hand cream
Tissues
Sanitary products
Babycare items
Nappies
A special/luxury item

For Women's Refuge

Cleaning materials
Laundry liquid/powder
Washing up liquid
Dishcloths
Scourers
Dusters
Brush and pan

THE NEW PEVSNER GUIDE TO THE BUILDINGS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – BLEASBY ENTRIES

A new, third edition, of Pevsner on Nottinghamshire has just been published and it includes a larger number of buildings in Bleasby Parish – well worth a look. Included this time are St Mary's Church; the Vicarage; the Crossing-keeper's cottage; Bleasby Hall; the Old House; Goverton House; Manor Farm Dovecote.

POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE



TRIBUTES TO THE FALLEN ON REMEMBRANCE DAY



CREATED BY LOCAL CHILDREN

POPPIES TO REMEMBER

Because of Covid restrictions, Remembrance Day services couldn't be held in the church, so many of the children of Bleasby, Gibsmere and Goverton heeded the call to produce painted stones to show their remembrance. The stones were painted with appropriate symbols to mark the occasion - poppies were particularly popular. The stones were carefully placed around the aircrews memorial and the churchyard war memorial. What a wonderful reminder to everyone of the sacrifices made by so many people during wartime for the freedoms we enjoy. The idea arose in local groups – photos show (top left) poppies still blooming in Bleasby fields: (top right) decorated lychgate and churchyard memorial: (middle) stones produced by a member of the First Trentside Scouts, Lowdham: (bottom) the stones painted by Bleasby children.



Trees in the hedgerow on Goverton Hill

BLEASBY FLOOD ACTION GROUP **TREES AND LEAVES EASE FLOODING RISK**

It might seem ironic, that after many of us have devoted time to clearing October's leaf fall from our own grates and gutters and, hopefully, having done 'our bit' to remove accumulating leaves from our nearest roadside kerb edges, drains and gulleys, that we should be actually so glad of the trees around our houses, properties and countryside.

Trees, along with hedgerows and grasslands, are really important in slowing water flow from hills, fields, roofs and areas of hard surface. Rain falling heavily on our hills (think High Cross) has to drain into the floodplain which, apart from Upper Goverton, we are all living in. In light rainfalls it percolates into the land, when not already saturated, and is slowly dispersed by field drains into ditches and dykes whence it is progressively channelled into the Trent. If, however, the rain is heavy and there are no crops in the fields, the water runs over the surface of the clay soils of the hills and, unless intercepted by trees and hedges running across the flow, would merely pour into settlements and dwellings. By retaining as much ground cover as possible, limiting hard surfacing to a minimum and allowing trees and shrubs to grow, we can assist in absorbing and dispersing the surface water created by increasingly heavy and prolonged rainfall – itself caused by significant climate change being created, in part, by deforestation globally.

Having met recently with Ross Marshall to discuss how best to deal with our current and long-term pluvial flooding risks, the Group is looking forward to informing and working with the drainage consultants being employed by the County Council to devise a long-term strategy of pluvial flooding risk management. The fluvial flooding risks to the parish are the responsibility of the Environment Agency and the Group continues to work with the EA and associated flood resilience bodies.

Now, those leaves that you have so diligently collected, can be packed into some container, heaped into a sheltered corner of the garden or mixed into the compost heap and left until late summer when you will have the most beautiful leaf mould to mulch those cleared garden beds and borders, keeping down the weeds, keeping in the moisture and improving the soil structure. At the same time, you have created an ideal habitat for all those invertebrates (creepy crawlies) which are drastically in decline, a winter home for our amphibians and reptiles, a safe place for the likes of butterflies to pupate and the perfect hibernation shelter for hedgehogs!

Don't curse those leaves! Claim them before anyone else does and, by helping yourself, you'll also keep our street drains clear to safely take that excess water away and continue to help the climate by not having to buy peat-based compost!

Peter Cast on behalf to BFAG

BLEASBY WANGER - READY AND WAITING

For those of you who are none the wiser, Bleasby Wanger was born in Glebe Field during October last year at the first ever Bleasby Apple Fest. Having collected apples from around the parish they were pressed into juice and then a quantity made into a cider, Bleasby Wanger, named after the apple wanging competition enjoyed by many at the event. The idea was to produce a cider in time for the 2020 Apple Fest and use it to raise funds via donations for a local cause and to help finance future festivals. After a year of fermenting and maturing, it has now been pasteurised and packed into bag-in-boxes to help ensure it will keep through to the 2021 Apple Fest. Based on feedback from the few that have sampled it, there is some comfort in hearing that it does resemble cider and it goes down quite well...the alcohol content is probably around 5-6%ish, so don't say you haven't been warned!

Due to Covid, the Apple Fest was cancelled this year and we now have a sizeable quantity of Bleasby Wanger without a home. However, we would still like to try and raise some funds in the meantime, so have hatched a plan. We have chosen two local projects where any donations will be split equally. In total we are hoping to raise over £500. **First** is to support projects at Bleasby School which have some synergy with the Apple Fest. They have just applied for 'orchard for schools' funding and plan to create two orchard areas with grass sofas and fruiting hedgerow. The Key Stage 1 classes were renamed this year: Apple, Pear, Apple Blossom, Pear Blossom - collectively known as 'The Orchard'. Following British Food Fortnight and a 'farm to fork' topic they are putting together a cookbook of recipes with ingredients sourced as locally as possible. Looking to the future there is great scope to get children involved with growing and collecting apples (and other fruits/vegetables) for the festival, scratting and pressing (we certainly can make more juice next time) along with generally building on the theme of using spent fruit to make produce. **Second** is to raise some funds to support future Apple Fests. Although supported by the Parish Council, we really could do with buying another marquee (two of the three we had last year were borrowed from Reach/Flower Pod), which in turn could also be used for other events. If these funds are ultimately not required for this purpose, they will also be donated to Bleasby School projects.

The immediate plan is to offer Bleasby Wanger on a collection only basis. We are suggesting a minimum donation of £3 per pint (or £6 per litre). The Wanger has been packed into 10 litre bag-in-boxes, so you can take on a full box or bring along your own clean container(s) to a collection point, fill up with as much as you like, make a donation and go and enjoy.....then return again, as many times as you wish. There are two ways of collecting; a little pre-taster can be had at the same time: you can email bleasbywanger@outlook.com and Mike will contact you to arrange a collection location and date (please include your name and a telephone number) OR Neil at The Waggon has kindly offered to keep some Wanger on tap ready for you to collect from the pub. As a little incentive, it is rumoured that Bleasby Wanger makes an excellent Christmas Mulled Cider – there are already a few fiery versions out there, so why not Wanger your way into Christmas, then send in photos and recipes to the above email address and we will publish as many as possible on the community website.

Thank you in advance for your support and please keep an eye out for updates via the website, Facebook, pub and Bleasby News.

Happy Wanging! - Mike Fryer & Bleasby Events Group

A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH

Sophie could hardly believe her luck when her tooth at last surrendered. The soup was too hot and, while she waited for it to cool, she piggled away at her loose tooth and, suddenly, the last bit of resistance gave way and released the tooth. It slipped out of her fingers and fell into her tomato soup! She had been working at the tooth with her finger and tongue for days but had just lacked the courage necessary to give it a good pull, but at last it had given in. She put her spoon in the soup, and carefully pushed it around until she found the tooth, and then put it on her plate, where she examined it. Not as big as the last one, so would the tooth fairy still give her £2? While she was pondering this, her Grannie came over and looked at the unusual occupant of the plate. "At last" was all she said, and then "Eat up the rest of your soup, and then you can have some flapjack. It's a bit hard and sticky, but I thought it might be needed to get that wretched tooth out".

Sophie laughed. She and her Grannie had a very special relationship. Sophie's Mum had died when Sophie was only a baby, and Mrs Avery had moved in with her son and granddaughter a few months afterwards as Martin had been unable to cope with the loss of his wife and had practically given up on life. Now in her late 70s, she was beginning to wish for a quieter life, but she loved Martin and Sophie with a fierce devotion which would not allow her to alter her standards or her activities. Martin was an antique dealer and well thought of in the trade. He had extensive knowledge, a very pleasant manner and was known to be fair and honest when discussing prices. Unfortunately his work frequently took him away from home, but he always tried to be around at weekends. Sometimes he would bring a few purchases home with him and explain what they were to Sophie. She loved these sessions and could now identify Moorcroft and Clarice Cliff "at a hundred yards", as Martin said proudly. His mother would sit in her chair, knitting or sewing, watching with delight as Martin's passion and love of his work was gradually being passed on to his daughter.

Later that evening, he arrived home with a scruffy cardboard box. He was very tired and asked Sophie if she would like to take the contents out, clean them carefully and arrange them on the table. He went for a shower before he had his meal and then came into the sitting room to see what Sophie had done. To his delight, she had sorted the contents of the box very methodically. Pottery on the left, metal items next, books and then all the oddities. His eye immediately fell on one of the latter.

"This, I suspect, is a unique example of *dentis feminica*, one of only about 20 to be found in the whole world. Extremely rare, but alas, not of great value." He looked at

his daughter, whose eyes were sparkling with mischief and laughter. “Would you think, Sophie, in the current climate, this could be worth - - - shall we say, £2.50?” Her face was a picture. “Oh Daddy, isn’t that rather a lot? It’s not as large as the last one!” Realising she had let the cat out of the bag, she clamped her hand over her mouth and her eyes were as big as saucers. Martin and his mother laughed out loud. He put the tooth down and picked up his little girl and hugged her. “Oh Sophie, you are a delight!” He put her down, and gravely put his hand in his pocket and brought out some coins. “You deserve it – you have arranged the items so well. Thank you”. And he gave her £2.50. Sophie went to bed a very happy girl. She had known the identity of the tooth fairy for some time now and, being a very honest child, had wanted to tell her Daddy, but hadn’t known how.

Several days later, Martin was attending an auction in Sussex. He was searching for some Georgian silver for a client, but wasn’t having much luck. One item in a box of oddments caught his eye, and he smiled. Nestling among the mixture of cutlery, broken ornaments and what could only be considered junk to anyone but the previous owner, was something that would be a perfect Christmas present for Sophie. Ignoring the amused looks on his fellow dealers’ faces, he bid for the box, and when it was safely his (for a very small amount!) he bore it proudly to his car.

On Christmas morning, Sophie was excited when the time came for opening presents. Several other family members were there – but only great-uncle George was asleep. Martin came to Sophie and handed her a parcel. He had already given her a present so she was a bit surprised, but then she noticed his suppressed grin and the twinkle in his eye. Rather suspiciously she opened the parcel slowly and, when the wrappings fell away, she started to laugh. Written in a shaky hand on the lid of a small box were the words ‘Dinosaur tooth’. When she opened it, a piece of very ancient-looking bony substance shaped like a tooth was revealed, and as she looked at her father, he just whispered – “a tooth for a tooth, you know!”

Diana Temperley

FARMING NEWS

It is a relatively quiet time of the year for most farmers, although winter sowing, hedging and verge cutting all need to be done. Cattle are now mostly indoors for the winter, the sheep have moved on from Manor Farm so there isn’t so much to admire in the way of livestock. Interesting crops of wild bird seed, have germinated along Shale Lane - some already breaking into flower.

Let’s hope the weather does what it is supposed to do and we manage to avoid delays to spring planting through torrential rain and long periods of drought, both of which have played havoc with the farming calendar and crop yields.

With the final push for a Brexit deal still in the balance, farmers remain in limbo as to how this will affect animal welfare standards and many are deeply concerned that imported meat, reared to less stringent standards than our own, will undercut prices.

Our government says this won't happen but, as yet, there are no statutory mechanisms to prevent it. As we sit down to Christmas dinners, albeit unusually quiet ones, let us not forget the effort made by farmers to ensure the quality of every ingredient before it reaches our kitchens.

Rachael Andrew

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SUE SADDINGTON

Christmas is now only a few weeks away, but I think we will all agree that 2020 will be known as not the best of years! Just as many of us started to gear ourselves up for a return to "normality", it appears for at least the next 6 months, life is going to remain anything but normal. However, we can only hope that 2021 will see us defeat the Covid "enemy". At County Hall we are working in a different way, but I am always available should you wish to contact me personally. Most Parish Councils have held their meetings virtually and, where possible, I have connected into them.

During the summer, I decided to write to Network Rail as I had acquired an email address for the Senior Public Affairs Manager. I have, for the last couple of years or so with Cllr Blaney, requested that Network Rail improve the performance of the barriers along the Newark-Nottingham line. Having accepted the crossing barriers are not as they should be, they have agreed to improve the performance and infrastructure. I arranged a conference call with them as we couldn't meet face to face and requested that they inspect every crossing along the line and repair as necessary. I requested reports regarding the crossings following the inspections and repairs, which I can take to the Parish Councils. Hopefully, this in turn will give the residents I represent more confidence and some reassurance of safety regarding the barriers. They agreed that on July 15th they would inspect Bleasby, Morton and Fiskerton. The inspections at Rolleston, Staythorpe and Newark Castle were carried out on 15th September. Network Rail wrote to say that the inspections so far have found the crossings to be in a good condition and that they are safe and well maintained. There are some minor maintenance interventions identified at each site which will be addressed in the near future. That includes some minor vegetation work to improve sighting at Morton, some small adjustments to one of the barriers at Fiskerton, and the jet-washing of the trespass guards at Bleasby and Fiskerton. This work will take place as quickly as possible. In September, I was pleased to have the update so far regarding inspections but I felt that was not sufficient, so my reply was: "I think where you refer to further improvements, you say you will attend to these as soon as possible, please could you report back when the work has been completed. To me, a layman, they could appear to be important safety measures."

It was reported to me that on Wednesday, September 9th, a market day in Newark, the barriers came down and stayed down for nearly 10 minutes. Meanwhile, on what should be a busy Wednesday, all roads around the cattle market island and beyond through Newark, were jammed with gridlocked traffic. I have also asked why, when the barriers stay down at Newark Castle Station, there is no one to help raise them or assist drivers more quickly, this is something they may address. I have now arranged another virtual meeting with Network Rail as, in my opinion, they need to

work faster to resolve the issues. For instance, ambulances cannot be diverted owing to barriers having stuck down - it is totally unacceptable. I will continue to press them for improvements.

This virus knows no boundaries and everyone without exception have been affected. During the last lockdown it was pleasing to see so many neighbours in all the villages I represent helping those who were unable to shop or collect prescriptions. I know many have said they met and spoke to their neighbours, possibly for the first time. I am sorry that all the lovely events usually organised, particularly at Christmas time, have been cancelled. However a Christmas tree in the centre of a village will add light to what appears a dark point in the year. I am happy to say I have contributed funding from my Councillors' Divisional Fund.

We must keep positive and protect our family and friends. We must all hope that in 2021 we can defeat the Covid "enemy", allowing us to resume a "normal" working relationship and generally "get our lives back to some normality." Although not the easiest of times, I wish you all a pleasant and safe Christmas. In the meantime stay safe.

My very best wishes to you all, Sue

NJN JOINERY

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AND
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UNDERTAKEN**



IN MEMORY

Doreen Wilson, late of Sycamore Lane, died in September at the age of 87. She moved to Bleasby on Maundy Thursday in 1977 ... it snowed that day. Born in Preston in 1933 she grew up an only child - her older twin sisters had died days after their birth. WW2 was a huge influence in her life: listening to the radio she recalled that she didn't fully understand what was going on (she was only 6) but she knew it was something bad. During the war she sold all her toys at a stall in her garden to raise money for the Red Cross. Her parents considered sending her to Canada as an evacuee but, because of the risks involved in crossing the Atlantic, they decided against it.

Aged 14, she left school and attending college, then starting work for the CEGB. A friend and colleague of 71 years remembers her incredible efficiency. Married in 1957, Doreen and Bill moved to Stourport. Three children later a promotion for Bill led to the move to Bleasby. "Severn House" became the happy home for the Wilson family. Doreen took up an administrative position at The Minster School in Southwell, revelling in the admission process and grappling with a computer. Doreen and Bill were always pleased to be invited to the various school and wider events held at Southwell Minster long after she retired, proudly taking up their reserved seats at the front.

Holidays became a big part of her life, forming wonderful friendships in France, Holland, Chile and Germany. She tried skiing much later in life than most, persisted with swimming and French and walked many a mile at Southwell Golf Club. Her interest in the Second World War continued throughout her life, reading every book possible on the Dam Busters, (the theme tune to that film ended her funeral service) on Lancaster bombers and Guy Gibson.

Whilst Bill mowed and strimmed the churchyard, Doreen was a stalwart of the Bleasby church flower rota, taking blooms from the garden which she loved as much as Bill did, apart from the vegetable patch which was most definitely his. She and Bill worshipped in Bleasby until Bill's death in 2015, after which she blazed a trail to the charity shops in Southwell to 'sort out those cupboards' and then, after breaking her hip, decided to move to Surrey to be near her daughter Karen. There she tested the library facilities to their full before dementia made its unwelcome presence known. Dementia may have taken away her ability to communicate in the last couple of years but she never lost her smile.

Friends and family (including her first great grandchild) attended the funeral under Covid restrictions. We sat two metres apart with masks on throughout. There was no singing and no wake but we enjoyed brandy and chocolate before the event instead.

With thanks to the Wilson family

ARTIFICIAL OR REAL? THAT IS THE QUESTION!!

It's that time of year again. The old debate of real Christmas tree versus artificial rears its head! I have wondered about this for some time - real trees are cut but new trees are planted in their place as they are mostly grown on plantations - also they will compost after the event. I still use the same decorations that I used when my children were small. My youngest is now 40!

Artificial trees are usually shipped over from China so have a massive carbon footprint before you consider that they are made of plastic and they don't recycle. However it seems this subject has been researched by the carbon trust. There are many issues to consider but overall their conclusions are:-

1. If you go down the artificial route you need to use the same tree for at least 10 years before the environment benefits.
2. The most environmentally friendly tree is one planted in a pot and reused each year.(although they become very heavy to move after a few years!)
3. The next best option is a locally sourced tree that is then composted.

This report is available on the Carbon Trust website if anyone would like to read it in detail.

Bobbie Debrulais



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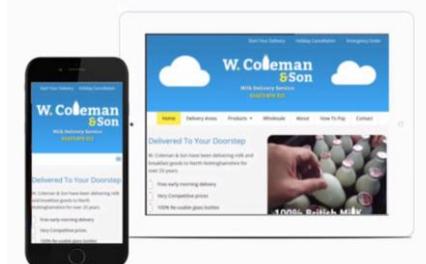
Have you ever fancied having milk (and other basics) delivered to your doorstep? Imagine doing this, whilst helping the environment and supporting local business. What could be better?

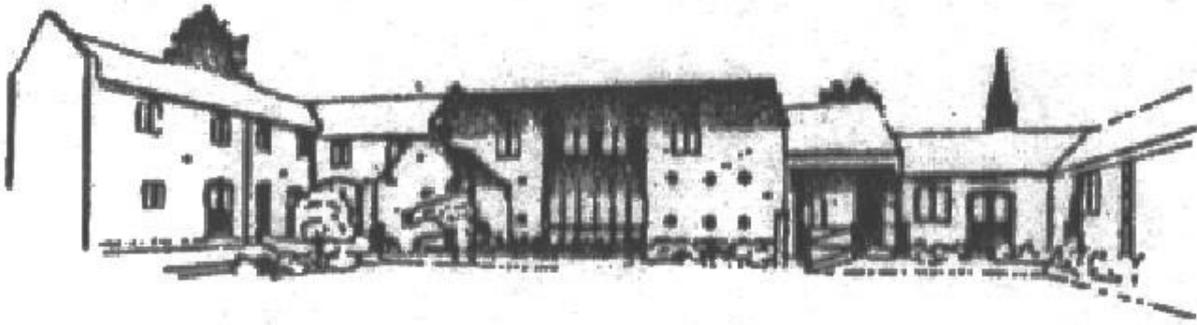
W F Coleman and Son is a family-run milk delivery business spanning three generations. Based in Eakring, Colemans have been delivering to local villages for over 30 years. Recent expansion of the business has meant they now cover areas like Southwell

and East Markham; further expansion is underway to extend the family business into Bleasby, Fiskerton and surrounding villages.

Colemans are very much a local business, dedicated to the service of local people. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, whilst many businesses have had to pause, the milk deliveries have continued. When local people have needed extra support with provisions such as bread, cheese, cream and eggs, this caring local business has extended its services to take on extra customers in lockdown. Colemans pride themselves on the personal service they provide to their local community, always being committed to putting their customers' needs first. They try to make payment as simple and painless as possible – by cheque, by cash, over the phone, by direct debit or through their website. Colemans deliver milk in reusable glass bottles, which is great for the environment. Once you've enjoyed the milk, just rinse and return. Nothing could be simpler.

Colemans is a local company based on strong family values. When you contact Colemans, you might speak to Bill, the proud founder of the company: or it could be Rob, Bill's son, the tireless owner and manager of the company: or you may talk to Kieran, Rob's son, who works full-time in the business, or to Katie, Rob's daughter, who helps out in the office. This is a true family business, with a genuine commitment to their local area. How refreshing is that! Call – 07599 293374 wcolemanandson.co.uk





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CHRISTMAS IN BLEASBY 1981

The winter edition of Bleasby News in 1981 contained an article entitled FAREWELL CHRISTMAS. Does anything strike you as familiar?

“Lovely Christmas card Christmas, holly berried and ivy wreathed, snow spread and ice painted, orchestrated with carol singing and perfumed with seasonal spirits. It came like a welcome friend, stayed for its usual extended New Year visit and left us, hopefully refreshed for 1982. The season was as busy as usual, several carol-singing groups, organisations held their Christmas parties and Bleasby was even more friendly and cheerful than usual. Both School and Sunday School carol services were devastated by illness, many children being unable to perform, but, nevertheless, both were successful and enjoyable events. Some really spirited performances at both Bleasby and Thurgarton churches. The Sunday School’s had taken the form of a Christingle service. This was well attended, colourful and also raised over £100 for the Church of England Children’s Society. Snow drift and flood, frozen pipes and fog, rail strikes and bursts! Quite a season! And is it over? But whatever the conditions outside, the editors hope that you have all kept ward, dry and contented in your homes this winter.”

No author given unfortunately



Princess Alexandra’s Christmas gift to the troops 1914

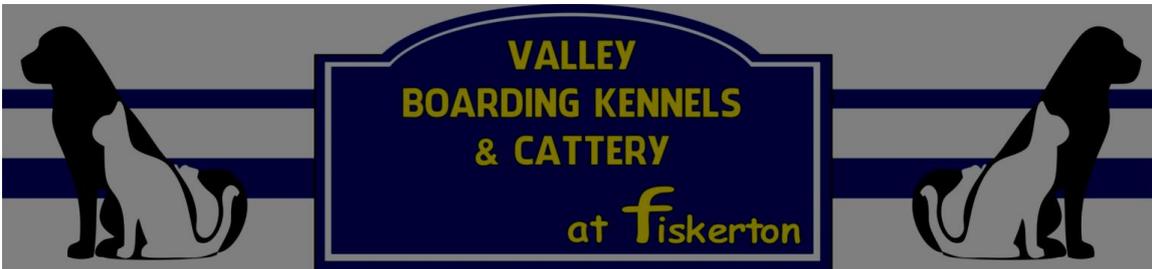
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BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT TIMETABLE

The timetable for the bus service, which runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Lowdham to Southwell and then on to Newark, is available to all.

Outgoing stopping point	1st service	2nd service
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	09.30	12.30
Lowdham, Magna Carta	09.33	12.33
Lowdham Station	09.34	12.34
Caythorpe, Main Street	09.37	12.37
Hoveringham, Main Street	09.41	12.41
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	09.48	12.48
Bleasby, Main Street	09.52	12.52
Fiskerton	09.57	12.57
Morton, Main Street	10.00	13.00
Southwell, Church Street	10.04	13.04
Southwell, Ropewalk	10.07	13.07
Upton Main Street	10.15	13.15
Newark bus station	10.39	13.39
Returning stopping point	1st service	2nd service
Newark bus station	10.43	13.43
Upton Main Street	11.00	14.00
Southwell, Church Street	11.08	14.08
Southwell, Ropewalk	11.11	14.11
Morton, Main Street	11.17	14.17
Fiskerton	11.20	14.20
Bleasby, Main Street	11.25	14.25
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	11.29	14.29
Hoveringham, Main Street	11.35	14.35
Caythorpe, Main Street	11.39	14.39
Lowdham Station	11.42	14.42
Lowdham, Magna Carta	11.43	14.43
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	11.46	14.46

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editorial team cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions in articles appearing in Bleasby News. The views expressed in Bleasby News are not necessarily those of the Editors nor of Bleasby Parish Council. Bleasby News is distributed by local volunteers to whom we remain very grateful. Printed by Unwin Print, New Hill, Farnsfield

Please remember that you can get up-to-date news of what's going on in Bleasby Parish by going to www.bleasbycommunity.uk – and to sign up for email alerts email bleasbycommunity@outlook.com

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR THANKS!

Just to say thank you so much to Rachael and Barbara for all the years of producing Bleasby News.

Best wishes, June

Hasn't it been wonderful over the years to have such an excellent village magazine, full of newsy things, information on the buses and trains etc, all the photographs that people have sent in to show what the different events have been like. Come rain or shine the open gardens, the village fete, the monthly coffee mornings (remember those when we could socialise) - the magazine helped us to remember the times and dates of the events. So just a huge thank you to both Barbara and Rachael for such a magnificent job, WELL DONE.

Wishing those of you who are taking over this task good luck in the future and long may it continue.

Brenda McLeish

Wishing Auspiciousness to all Bleasby Residents

Heena



The Old House, early 20th century



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Photo by Will Smith – Starling murmuration looking towards Gibsmere



Photo by Barbara Cast – Starling murmuration over Bleasby/Thurgarton boundary

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