

BLEASBY NEWS



Centenary Wood by Kevin Langley

JUNE 2020



Solo and virtual maypole dancing is quite possible in Bleasby!



WELCOME TO THE JUNE EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

Well, life has certainly not been normal since our last edition when we had to inform you all of the cancellation of many planned events, including those round the VE Day 75th celebrations. However, Bleasby Parish being the resilient community it is, put on a magnificent display of red, white and blue, plus rainbow, floral and other decorations, not to forget the scarecrows and manikins (apparently over a hundred!). The planned maypole dancing went ahead (virtually) and the remembrance at our two memorials was respectfully carried out, including the laying of wreaths, the all-clear siren and the bells. *You will find photos of some of the wonderful efforts throughout.*

And, of course, all the volunteer and support effort that has gone on – many thanks to those considerable number who have helped us all to continue to keep safe, have enough to eat and to thrive, despite the virus!

In this edition we are remembering six people from our parish, a much larger number than usual – we shall miss them all.

As always we will be pleased to receive all types of articles, pictures, ideas and news etc – send all your items for the August edition by **Monday, 20th July**, to Rachael at prandrew74@outlook.com or Barbara at barbaracast@btinternet.com

Bleasby News editors, Rachael and Barbara

PS don't forget that new editors are needed for 2021!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council met virtually in May, using a weblink as its meeting place!

As for every organisation, it is a difficult time for the PC but hopefully work goes on as usual, if less obviously. One of the responsibilities of all PCs is to consider and respond to the District Council on planning applications, of which there have been quite a few recently. We follow a checklist drawn up by PCs over the years which you may be interested in. Councillors consider the following when looking at planning applications:-

The impact on neighbouring properties; The impact on the community as a whole; Road safety issues; The Parish Council policy of promoting retention/increasing stock of smaller and less costly dwellings; Consideration of conservation area and listed building status; Safeguarding the historic built environment and individual buildings of historic or architectural interest, or features of such buildings; Safeguarding the special characteristics of Bleasby Parish as a series of discrete settlement areas with open land in between, the settlement areas being Goverton, Bleasby and Gibsmere, plus the minor settlements of Rudsey, the Manor/Granary Farms cluster and Hazelford; Safeguarding trees, hedges, watercourses and other natural or archaeological features;

Floodplain and flooding considerations; Impact on community safety; Employment implications; Appearance/design of proposal; Consideration of Notts and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan, the Local Plan and other relevant plans and policies; Whether a limitation on working hours is needed; Whether neighbouring properties have been notified and if they made any representations; Whether a PC site visit is needed.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in the Village Hall again soon. However, until that time, we will continue to attempt “business as usual”.

Stephen Andersen, Chair

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Copy/click this link to experience a recording of Benefice Zoom Worship. This one from Sunday 17th May.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xPJxJYPaqXpLUrOW12WAWPA9Mpvveaa80XcfqfRcnUoJKABRdeESF7f9FI_xION5

Password: 9L?44Y0^

If you would like to join in, let me have your email address to send you an invitation. If you would like to use the recording, the link is posted every week on our website www.beneficeofwesttrent.org

Relief....? *‘a feeling of reassurance following release from anxiety or distress... practical assistance given to those in special need...’*

Dear All, many people have said to me how grateful they feel. We live in lovely houses, in a beautiful location, within caring communities. We even have such things as zoom to meet friends or worship together. We are by no means unaffected by the virus but there are so many others who are worse affected. I know many also have the needs of others in their minds. Imagine though that there was no NHS free at the point of need, and no more than 2 or 3 ventilators within a 100 miles, and if you or your loved ones became unwell it would cost money you didn't have to get medical treatment of any kind. Imagine living so closely together there was no real way of isolating or distancing, nor even the facilities to wash your hands regularly. Imagine, the crops you depend on have been ravaged by locusts and food prices have shot up. Imagine how the virus could spread and its likely results...

People I know in Bungoma in Western Kenya face exactly this. I must say I am really worried about the devastation C-19 could bring to Africa. ‘Bungoma Calling’ is helping to provide a new food bank distribution to the needy through a local church we have known for many years. This has uncovered another problem faced by many older and sick people. Not just a lack of food but infestation of ‘jiggers’, the chigoe flea, which burrows into the skin of the affected. Watch the YouTube if you dare! We would like to provide jiggers treatment for 30 households being supplied by the food bank. This involves spraying, washing and treating the wounds properly by medical workers. If I can raised £1000 this will bring relief for the next 12 months for these people.

Would you like to help please? You could BACS a contribution to Bungoma Calling (40-40-22 a/c 11735667) or send me a cheque or ask for a gift aid declaration. View the Bungoma Calling Facebook pages for some picture stories of the food distribution.

So can gratitude for our own situations turn into relief for others? This is one way a 'drop in the ocean' can contribute to the ocean being made up of drops... Thanks
The Revd Phil

077 200 100 66

'Bungoma Calling' is a registered charity (no. 1137121)

*Can I see another's woe, and not be in sorrow too?
Can I see another's grief, and not seek for kind relief?*
William Blake

Zoom worship every Sunday at 10.30 and Wednesday at 7pm.
Email me for an invitation: phil_07@btinternet.com.

CHURCH NEWS

As you will all know the church building has been closed, as instructed by church authorities and government, since the lockdown began. This doesn't mean we have been inactive. We are working with the volunteer service initiated by Nicola Bennett and a regular phone call system, to church members and friends, is working well. Prayer materials have been pinned to the church door and replenished, suggesting that they are being used. On-line worship has proved popular (see below). An unusual number of funerals, the only form of service currently allowed, have been held in the graveyard and in crematoria with restricted numbers and social distancing. It is thought that none of these deaths was associated with the current virus. Family mourners have been creative in their attempts to make these gatherings meaningful, in spite of restrictions. Our volunteers continue to mow paths along edges and between wild flower patches so that the graveyards are easy to access while encouraging flowers to bloom and seed, thus providing sanctuary for other forms of wild life. We were able to make a small contribution to the VE day celebration by ringing the carillon, to the tune of "Now thank we all our God", which appropriately, has a German tune. Thanks to Viv Mayfield and Ken Ogilvie, the lychgate was suitably decorated and flowers put around the war memorial.

Rev Phil and Paula, our admin assistant, worked quickly to offer help in connecting to "zoom" so that Sunday morning and Wednesday evening virtual services could take place. Age is no barrier to the wonders of technology - many of those joining are in their eighties and a few in their nineties. Young families have also taken part and have no need to be anxious about inappropriate noise as the option to mute is always available, as it is for the rest of us who have clocks that chime, telephones that ring and papers that rustle! Numbers joining have steadily increased so that 70 or more 'attended' on Easter Sunday. It will be interesting to discover why some church

regulars don't join. Is it problems of technology hardware or confidence or that it doesn't 'feel right'? It will also be interesting to find out why some people do join zoom worship but are not part of our usual congregation. Although there has been some singing by individuals, singing together isn't an option because the output isn't synchronized so the results are not pleasant! Those wanting a more traditional form of service with congregational singing have been tuning in to the Sunday morning services on television.

If anyone would like to join zoom, advice is available from those who have already managed to download the app, from Revd Phil or from the website link. Once you have downloaded zoom (via zoom.us) you send an email to Phil and thereafter you will receive an invitation to join half an hour before each service. Packs of "Worship at Home" materials are available from Revd Phil or churchwardens. These contain printed copies of Sunday services and Wednesday night Compline, readings, prayers and basic instructions on how to join "zoom". Up to date information and materials, including recordings of recent services, hymns and music are available on the Benefice of West Trent website.

We have been in touch with the Newark Women's Refuge expressing our concern for them in difficult times. They reassured us that they are managing for the time being because of generous donations at Christmas and some government support. They know they can call on us if the need arises.

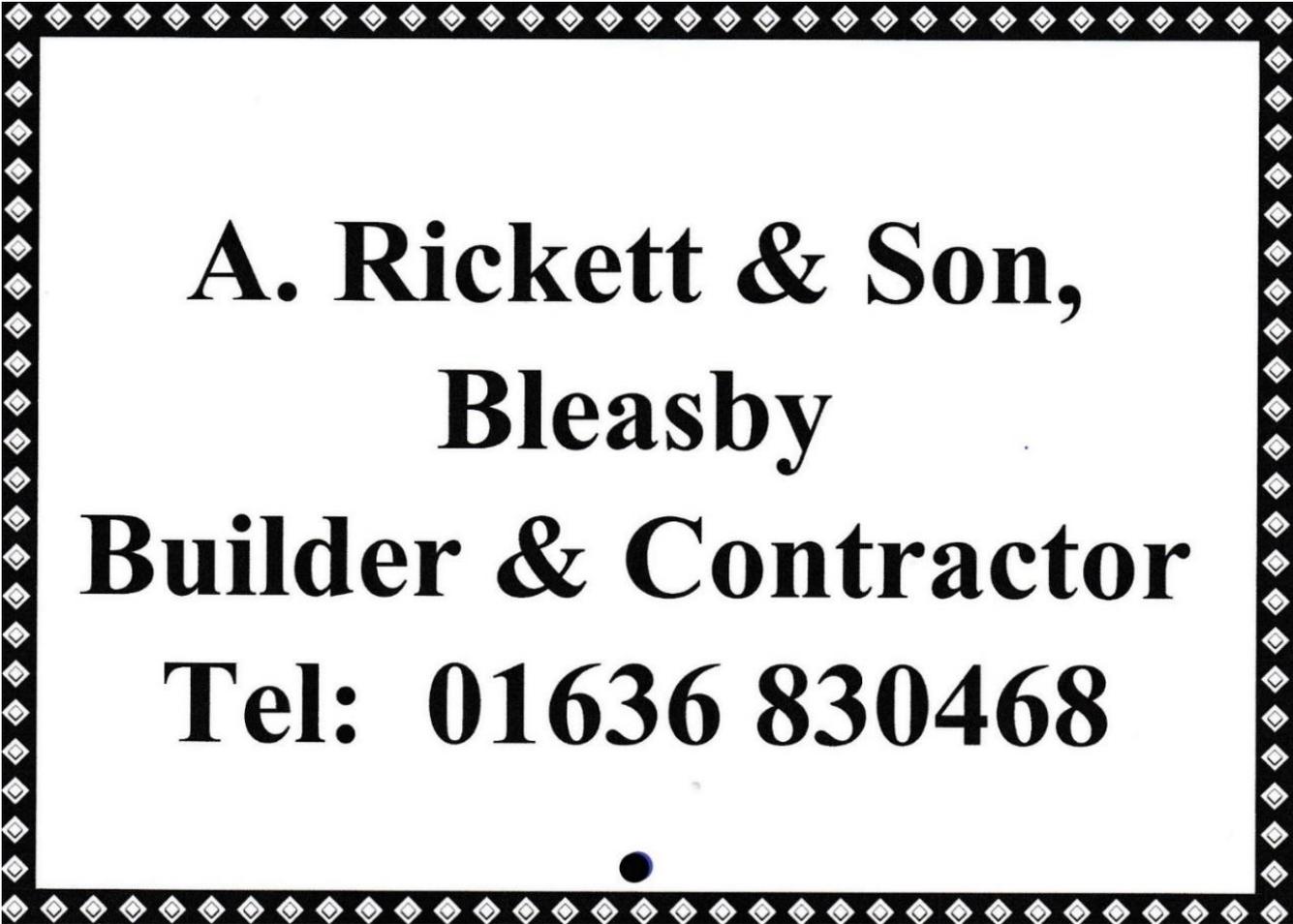
The situation in Bungoma, however is not so good. The lives of the community in the immediate vicinity of the orphanage are hard at the best of time, now made even harder with the invasion of locusts which you will have seen on the news and also the threat of Covid 19. Please refer to Revd Phil's article on page 3 to learn more and to see how you might help.

As a church we would like to commend the kindness and care shown by our neighbours and friends. Bleasby has always had a reputation for positive community response - in the current crisis it has been even more marked. It has proved invaluable to those who are alone, officially 'shielded' and elderly. The WI has also risen to the challenge by making blankets for the Covid end-of-life care ward at QMC as well as the more usual care and concern for members through phone calls and offers of practical help.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

WALKING IN LOCKDOWN

The ponds are looking good at the moment and the adjacent field has had the best show yet of cowslips, plenty of birdsong too. On alternate days we walk through the back of the churchyard and down to Ferry End then downstream for a short distance - what a great village to live in, aren't we lucky, and with plenty of other lovely walks to choose from as well. I feel very sorry for those less fortunate who live in built up areas or, worse still, in medium and high rise flats.



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WHAT WE DID ON V.E. DAY

Friday, 8th May, was originally planned to be a day of remembrance and celebration by the whole Bleasby community to mark the 75th anniversary of V.E. Day. However, with the Covid 19 virus infection risks, the Government “Lockdown” virus control measures in place and everyone told to “STAY HOME; PROTECT THE NHS; SAVE LIVES”, community activities had to be cancelled.

One of the activities that had been planned was for wreaths to be laid at both the Bleasby Aircrews Memorial and the War Memorial at St Marys Church in time to mark the nationwide period of two minute silence at 11.00am. Fortunately the original wreaths that had been laid at the Dedication Event in 2018 were still available. However, requests had been received from some of the relatives of airmen whose names are recorded on the Memorial for new wreaths to be laid for them, because, with lockdown, they were unable to attend to do this personally. With florists only having limited availability of flowers, one new wreath was made by Minster Florists in Southwell and two others were made by Viv Mayfield from fresh flowers picked from village gardens. In order to comply with the “social distancing” restrictions and avoid any form of public gathering, it was decided to ask some of our families which have children to take their period of family exercise at five minute intervals during which time their children would be given a wreath to lay at the Memorial. Participating families were asked to keep the planned activity confidential. Everyone arrived at the Memorial at their allocated time, the children received a short briefing, collected their

wreath, and then laid it with due dignity around the Memorial: social distancing was maintained throughout. At 11.00am, with the wreaths in position, two minutes silence was announced by the ringing of an ARP hand bell. Families who had remained at the Glebe Field stood in respectful silence. The “All Clear” was then sounded using an original air raid siren.

Families had decorated the Glebe Field fence with coloured decorations and messages that they had made. Eight stationary maypole dancers also witnessed the morning activities. The activity was attended by a BBC East Midlands television crew and several participants were interviewed, including some of the children.

It was a very moving and memorable occasion. Not quite how it was supposed to be, but nevertheless an unforgettable event.

Ken Ogilvie

Residents of Manor Close gathered together at the end of our drives to celebrate V.E. Day, we put bunting up, tables and chairs were brought out and placed correctly (at the right distance apart), china tea pots, tiered cake stands and china cups all saw the light of day. Cakes and sandwiches, wine and coffee, were all in evidence to make this day as special as we could. The weather, of course, was perfect for such an occasion - David had supplied the music and we all chatted together for two or three hours before going in to prepare our bells for the 7pm bell ringing.

It was a very good day - we all enjoyed spending time with each other which we haven't done before. It just goes to prove that every cloud has a silver lining. (We'll meet again 🎵)

Brenda McLeish



THANKS TO THE BLEASBY COMMUNITY!

Just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the Community who are doing their best to help fellow residents in this time of great difficulty. I think the message you are giving out is that no-one is alone at this time - and that is really heart-warming. It was so helpful to receive the leaflet with the assistance being offered, the meals and shopping service from the Waggon & Horses and the lovely colourful front page of the Bleasby News, beautifully prepared as usual, all evidence that we have a strong and caring community.

Thank you for all your efforts - very greatly appreciated and giving a lovely sense of people coming together at a time of need.

All good wishes, Dorothy

Trevor and I would like to express our thanks for the support given to us over the last weeks. The Bleasby Support Group has collected our medication from the Health Centre regularly and willingly. Friends and neighbours have helped to keep us cheerful and offered to help with shopping and tasks for us. We have arranged for a meal to be delivered from the Waggon once a week to enable us to make at least one evening feel a bit special. The scarecrow pictures on the website have cheered us even if we have been unable to walk round the village to see them for ourselves. Added together they have helped make the first six weeks of the isolation bearable. Thank you everybody. It make us realise how lucky, in many ways, we are to live in Bleasby.

Sheila and Trevor

Standing on our front porch, as we are high up we can hear the whole village clap for the NHS. It is quite moving.

A comment from Lauren in Goverton

THE RAM

Have you heard the one about the ram?

One afternoon early in April I was taking my daily walk down Gypsy Lane towards Fiskerton when I turned a corner by Valley Boarding Kennels and was confronted by a ram standing in the middle of the lane. I looked at him - he looked at me, did not like what he saw and ran straight at me. I was terrified, quickly backed away and fell into the hedge bottom landing on some stones. The ram stood glaring at me –yes, rams can glare! I remained still, hoping that he would lose interest which he did and just wandered off. I struggled to get up and hobbled to hide behind two wheelie bins near the entrance to the kennels. He ran back but was unable to reach me through the barrier which I had created. Again I waited until he lost interest. Although I had my mobile phone with me there wasn't a signal! When the time was right I crept around the hedge and rang the doorbell of 'Ashbeck'. My knight in shining armour - Hazel Grundy – appeared at the door to rescue me. She called Billy, tempted him into her garden with a feed bowl and locked him in. I could now walk home but, unfortunately, my ankle was painful and beginning to swell so Hazel – against all Government orders – drove me home. I later had a telephone consultation with a doctor who prescribed painkillers - thank you Jenny for collecting them.

PS. The ram is a pet and had escaped from a field behind the kennels.

Ann Buckley

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE FIELDS - A FARMING UPDATE

Now that so many of us are walking more regularly and noticing what's going on in the farming world, I thought it might be of interest to pull together information I have received from the farming community. One of the first things I noticed was an absence, soon realising it was an absence of yellow. In previous years the view from High Cross was dominated by swathes of yellow - this year only green. So what's going on? Apparently last year's oil seed rape crop was badly affected by cabbage stem beetle and, as the only effective pesticide is banned, growing it isn't a commercially viable proposition. It isn't easy to tell what the replacement crops are at this stage in the year simply by looking, but I am told that spring barley is the dominant crop on either side of the hill and over towards Morton. The grass and clover crops, more easily identifiable over the brow of the hill on both sides of the road, are for silage and have grown rapidly after all the winter rain. They have had their first cut and now wait for rain for regrowth, as does the grazing land which isn't producing sufficient grass to keep up with demand from the cows. Field beans and sugar beet are easy to spot and look good along the Thurgarton Road through Goverton. The wonderful weather we have enjoyed almost continuously during the lockdown isn't always good news for farmers and spring growth. The sight of irrigation equipment trundling through the village is confirmation, if we needed any, that we are desperately short of rain. It doesn't seem that long ago since we were bemoaning the winter deluge and watching the level of the Trent and dykes rise. Weather patterns show "wettest", "driest" and "hottest" becoming almost "normal" but tell of something else going on. We can do something about that if we have the political will.

It has been a pleasure to see the Jacob sheep and lambs along the road to Thurgarton and also the big woolly (South Downs?) sheep and lambs behind Thurgarton village hall. I haven't walked the Gibsmere paths recently but I am reliably informed that a successful lambing took place at Bob and Monica Richardson's farm, where their 10 sheep produced 15 lambs including quads. Remarkably, no bottle feeding was required, mother sheep somehow managing to keep pace with four hungry mouths! More sheep and lambs have provided walkers with much to admire in fields at Manor Farm, and cattle turned out to graze among the buttercups at Corner and South Hill Farms look well and appreciate a bit of conversation over hedges.

The question about how farmers might be managing during these changed times is easily sidelined, but the "scarecrow" farmer made by the Clarke family at Goverton crossroads is a timely wake-up call. Milk production at Halloughton, destined over many years for the creamery at Long Clawson, has had to be cut back because of a 30% drop in demand for Stilton, much of it traditionally intended for hotels, catering and export. How do you tell a cow that it needn't produce as much milk? Not easy to understand for those of us who take milk and dairy products for granted but it is a complicated process with an inevitable loss of income. Perhaps we should pay more attention to the food on our plate and the effort and care that goes into its production.

I don't think I can be the only one who felt frustrated when supermarket delivery slots were not available. It has been a challenge to plug the gap and an education too.

What, no flour, yeast, eggs, milk, etc? This should be a wake-up call about the fragility of the nation's supply chain. Enterprising and helpful farm shops, pubs and farm-gate sales soon came to the rescue, leading us to think differently about what to buy and about producers. We are accustomed to the Thursday thank you for the NHS, but let's not forget other essential front-line workers including farmers.

An important addition from Lauren Clarke, explaining the ideas behind the scarecrow:-
"Will and I are passionate about supporting British agriculture and food. As part of a potential trade deal with America, our animal welfare standards could be watered down by allowing food imports that have been produced to a lower standard and undoubtedly at a lower price for consumers. We want everyone to be encouraged to buy British food and support our farmers who, despite a pandemic, continue to feed the nation. This will also protect our beautiful countryside and wildlife too. Without farmers managing the land, it would look very different and would struggle to flourish."

With thanks for information from the Elliotts, Hammonds, Richardsons and others who know about these things

OUR SO VERY USEFUL WEBSITE

We have received the following request:- "Would you please include these comments which I forwarded to our Website Volunteer so that, despite his modesty, he gets the acknowledgement he well deserves. If we were to lose this facility and Bleasby News, the parish would suffer two significant and substantial losses!"

So here is the well-deserved acknowledgement – "Dear Community Website Volunteer, I do not imagine that you get very much feedback or, indeed, thanks! I, for one, really appreciate all the time, thought, effort, commitment and, yes, frustration that is yours in binging so freely and willingly this invaluable service to the Parish of Bleasby. You not only bring information and news but also forge community cohesion, endeavour and identity and bring colour, interest and inspiration to all those fortunate to access this website. To have a facility like this – especially at such trying times is a vital means of keeping us all in touch and keeping our spirits high. I am sure that these sentiments would be shared by all users and I feel that you should be made aware of our gratitude."

PHYLLIS HASTINGS

Our mother, Phyllis Hastings, was born in Glasgow in 1929 - one of 5 siblings who stayed closely connected throughout their lives. She trained and qualified as a speech therapist, then married Gordon in 1952 leaving Scotland to follow his work as a Baptist Minister in Northampton, Coventry and south London. They moved to Leicester in 1972 when Gordon entered teaching and she resumed her career in speech therapy, working with a wide range of patients, with a specialism for helping stroke patients. As well as her own career - where she rose to a senior role and co-authored a book on Language Development - she was a full partner in Gordon's work in the Ministry, where her interest was always to provide practical support for other people.

They retired in 1989 to a village near Scarborough and came to Bleasby to be nearer family after 7 good years in Yorkshire. They lived happily here for longer than anywhere else. In Bleasby she never seemed to stand still, as she pursued hobbies, developed new interests and supported many good causes, making a wide circle of friends in the process. She had genuine passion for the poor, dispossessed, refugees and asylum seekers and in their support she gave of her time and effort, not just her money. Her grandchildren joked they needed to make an appointment to visit her because she was always so busy, but the reality was she supported each of her 3 children and 8 grandchildren with love and keen interest to the end of her life. One of her grandchildren tellingly reflected that “she taught me that compassion isn’t a spectator sport”.

Since her death we’ve been touched by how many village friends and neighbours have paid tribute to her practical kindness and we have a real sense that she leaves a big hole in life in Bleasby. In her last years when she became frail and, in the hard times before she moved to Southwell Court care home, the local community paid her back with countless acts of support and kindness for which we are immensely grateful.

Tim Hastings

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Katharine Morris, VAD nurse, and her brother Robert, Sherwood Foresters – unfortunately it wasn't possible to welcome Robert home

Bleasby Diary of Events

What can we say? Not much happening still - apart from supporting each other and enjoying our wonderful gardens and landscape

TONY BUCKLEY

As reported in the previous edition, Tony Buckley died in March just before BN went to the printers. As promised, here is a little more about Tony.

He was born in January 1940 but, being wartime, the family was somewhat spread around, Barbara, his big sister evacuated to Norfolk and Tony safely in Lancashire at his Grandma's house. They were all reunited when Burt Buckley, his dad, a builder by trade, was moved to Shropshire to build munition factories. A change in Burt's profession brought a move to Nottingham, the family living in Nuthall, but without Barbara as she had moved to North America. During his teenage years Tony found the joys of rock and roll and his screen idol, James Dean. After a number of forays into work he joined the family firm of Burton Buckley Ltd.

In August 1964 Tony and Ann were married and started their married life in a Burton Buckley house in Mapperley, later moving to Calverton where his work is well represented, including by the Catholic church of St Anthony – one of his greatest achievements.

It was a good move when they came to Gypsy Lane in Bleasby – in a house Tony built! Tony has been very active in the village, willing to help in any activity, including being one of the flood team and churchyard mowers. Amongst his social and community activities, Tony was an active member of the Plough Boys folk group who performed the Plough Play each year – well remembered in Bleasby.

Tony will be much missed by his friends, his children, David, Robert and Helen, and their families and, of course, by Ann.

With thanks to Ann and his family



Some of our 'scarecrows' – which is probably not the best way to describe such wonderful creations



SCHOOL NEWS IN LOCKDOWN

On VE Day we think about the incredible bravery and sacrifice of the Armed Forces and the public during that time in our history. It was a special day and all the community in Bleasby came together in spirit to celebrate this special occasion. Pupil of the week – Olive Dunsworth -researched and wrote a superb presentation all about VE Day. Well done Olive.



Abigail Hill writes about VE Day at the Aircrews Memorial

Zoom VE Day Choir - It was lovely to sing some classic wartime favourites and contemporary songs. Thank you to all who joined in and thank you Mrs Dunning for organising it. Well done to Eleanor Sheikhsain and Harry Spencer for their excellent readings and poetry at the beginning of the choir event.



Thank you Katherine Drake and her family for this great picture of the Bleasby scarecrow they have constructed, it is super.

Sam Mensah, Headteacher

WELCOME

Welcome to Gary, Rosie and Ted who have moved into Spindleberry. We hope they will be very happy in Bleasby.

JUBILEE PONDS

What a gift, a veritable “godsend” to the villagers of the parish in times such as these! Very few communities could boast their own nature reserve, freely accessible to them and literally on their own doorstep! The Ponds have been a veritable haven for those of us needing our prescribed period of exercise without the forbidden car journey getting there to find it. Others may have been able to seek it out as a sanctuary of quiet and peace, contrasting with the clamour and demands of a ‘contained’ family home, whilst some may have needed to revel in the change of scenery and activity made possible by its open and inviting setting.

It has been looking particularly beautiful and well kept – thanks to the glorious weather granted in compensation (and much appreciation) for nearly two months of imposed or voluntary seclusion..... but also thanks to the concerted efforts of the Bleasby Carp Syndicate to keep it looking at its best with mown pathways and open areas, even surfaces, safe trees and managed margins and verges which allow for easy and comfortable passage.

Perversely the “virus” has brought us benefits such as clear skies, pure air, less noise, less crime and more community spirit and 2 metres distanced social interaction with parishioners who we may never otherwise have even met!

Birdsong has been gloriously and beneficially offered, now more distinctly heard and consequently more fully appreciated and valued. For those that choose, individual specie song could be distinguished and learned and the meaning of their calls more readily realised be it the plaintive calls of young, the penetrating calls of alarm or more gentle calls of contact or contentment.

Let us all breathe a sigh of relief and be grateful for those gifts and pleasures, perhaps rarely discovered or re-found, which help to keep our troubles in perspective. Walking around the Ponds has no cost – but it is of enormous value.

Peter Cast

TOM SANGWIN

With sadness we mark the passing of Tom Sangwin of Main Street. Tom’s early career was with the RAF and, later, he became a train driver with East Midlands Railway. Tom always continued with his interest in the RAF, researching its history and becoming a very knowledgeable RAF historian. He was also a keen genealogist, researching his own and others family history. Tom lost his life to cancer at the far too young age of 65. Our sympathies go to his wife Marilyn.

BLEASBY’S COUNTRYSIDE AND FOOTPATHS GROUP

Although we have not been able to enjoy our very sociable monthly footpaths walks owing to the coronavirus restrictions, we can honestly say that never before have so many people walked so many of our footpaths in a period of two months. Many people

have realised what a valuable and appealing facility the parish possesses in its network of rights of way, allowing exercise and release in grand countryside – also enabling safe and agreeable shopping visits to Fiskerton – even Southwell for the more robust! It is another of those silver linings to the Covid 19 cloud that has been discovered and which should enable us to value and use more and to ensure that this other part of our parish inheritance remains available to all. Certain walking ‘circuits’ have become particularly well established and used – often early in the morning when much interesting wildlife has been encountered in the stillness of our countryside.

The three yellow maps covering the parish, extending both ways along the Trent and including the major settlements of Lowdham, Southwell and Farnsfield have proved a real boon and the Group’s copies of these have been referred to and loaned to many residents during this period. For those who prefer to have their own copies, the Bookcase in Lowdham can supply these – during the lockdown, orders can be made by email or phone.

Peter Cast

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JOHN DAVIES

We are very sorry to hear of the death of John. Born in Beeston in 1938, John attended Beeston Rylands Junior and Henry Mellish Grammar School. It was at school he developed his life-long interest in rugby and he became a supporter of Leicester Tigers. He joined the Nottingham Cycling Club and enjoyed weekends

cycling all over Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the Hanover district of Germany, where he was stationed as a Senior Aircraftsman during his National Service. After RAF service he was employed in the advertising department of Raleigh until he joining his uncle's bakery business, F Richardson's, in Nottingham. Married in 1965, John and Lilian eventually settled on Manor Close where daughters Suzanne and Elizabeth grew up. John had always been interested in helping anyone who was prepared to learn and found fulfilment in his role as a Training Manager at Sutton in Ashfield Training Agency.

John involved himself in village life, volunteering with the management of Jubilee Ponds and later putting together Bleasby News for several years. Gardening became more and more enjoyable to him when he retired. When John was diagnosed with Alzheimers he became less active but he was still interested in the people around him. In his last few months he would regularly walk down through the village and rest at the Aircrews Memorial in Glebe Field or the Waggon & Horses for a cider before walking back home, but he was unfortunately unable to remember the people he had been pleased to talk to! He certainly loved the simple things in life and made the most of every day.

(with thanks to Lilian Davies)

BLEASBY WI



Although the WI has not been able to meet since lockdown began, members have still been keeping in touch with each other via phone calls and e mails. This has helped us support each other through this strange time.

We have also been asked to make keepsake blankets and hearts for the Covid end of life ward at QMC. Closer to home, we are still supporting Hazelford, not by our usual trolley visits but by sending cards to cheer the residents and staff in this difficult time. The residents will have had no visitors for some time now, and the staff themselves are under great stress while caring for them.

Hopefully, very soon, we will be able to resume our usual meetings as life returns to a semblance of normality.

Sheila Lewis

Take me to your leader – Oh! it is our leader!

JANICE GIBSON

Janice Gibson, wife of Robert and mother of David and Matthew, formerly of Manor Close, died in Hazelford Residential Home on May 9th. She was, for many years, the “lollipop lady” and lunch time supervisor at Bleasby School, known and loved by numerous Bleasby schoolchildren, many of whom will now have children of their own. Having grown up as one of eight siblings, supervising children came naturally to Janice. Every morning and evening, she became almost a fixture opposite the school entrance and was awarded a 25 year long service award by the County Council for her work.

Growing up in Aspley, Janice trained as a short-hand typist and developed her talent for drawing and painting, becoming a talented artist with a mischievous sense of humour. After Robert and Janice moved into Manor Close, as two of the original residents, Janice was able to indulge her love of gardening and needlework. When she joined Bleasby school staff, a job which fitted in well whilst bringing up her boys, she used to her artistic talents to good effect when drawing affectionate cartoons, particularly of other staff members.

Rarely without a smile, Janice soon found her way into the hearts of the care staff at Hazelford and, even when robbed of language, engaged her family and visitors with her lively eyes and laughter. A visiting baby is always a source of delight at Hazelford and the birth of Evelyn, her granddaughter last September, brought pleasure to Janice, other residents and staff.

The Gibson family spent many happy times on their narrowboat at weekends and school holidays, exploring the Trent from Cromwell upstream towards Nottingham and into the canal system. It seems fitting that Janice spent her last days so near to the river.

(With thanks to Robert Gibson)

BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As with every other organisation BLHS cannot meet for its usual lectures and we have had to postpone our wonderful speakers. But we do hope to have them along as soon as possible.

In the meantime we hope that this historic time is being recorded for posterity in your diaries and letters (emails) so that we can look back upon this most extraordinary of times!

Time to remember again the people of Bleasby Parish in 1604 when something up to a third of the population died. For those who weren't aware of this event, which we commemorated in 2004, here is what happened - information taken from the parish register for that year.

Towards the end of March 1604, Agnes Crampton, the daughter of Richard Crampton, took ill and shortly after so did little Olyve, her four year old sister. At the beginning of April they died and, by the end of that month, their brother John had joined them. The three Crampton children were the first victims of an epidemic, almost certainly bubonic plague, which wiped out something like a third to a half of the population of this modest parish. How the Cramptons caught the disease who can tell? Many people crossed the river here at Hazelford, and the Trent was busy with traffic between Newark and Nottingham: maybe a stranger stopped to have his horse shod by their blacksmith grandfather John and left behind a deadly legacy. Maybe the river was to blame for bringing the plague to Bleasby for it is certainly true that the hamlet of Gibsmere, lying nearest the river, was hit hard in those early days. Next afflicted after the Cramptons were the Alcocks and Baylies, Gibsmere folk linked by marriage: Anne, John, Anne's tiny daughter Elizabeth; Mary, just eighteen. Later Edmund Alcock, yeoman farmer, followed Anne his wife and their baby.

As the plague took hold, all the parish was affected; people from Bleasby, Notown, Goverton as well as Gibsmere succumbed. Binches, Carvers, Baguleys and Peppers: Horspooles and Ferimans; families living here for generations; all were struck and their losses were great.

Of neighbouring villages at this time there is little evidence; two cases were recorded at Morton, two more were suspected at Linby and the victims shut away. Car Colston had a severe visitation in the same year as Bleasby, as did Colston Bassett. The bigger towns of Newark and Worksop had bad outbreaks in this early seventeenth century epidemic.

But why little Bleasby was so badly affected no-one can say. Young and old, babies, widows, men in their prime, mothers following children, husbands their wives, daughters following fathers, neighbour after neighbour, until, by the end of that fatal year, there were one hundred and four names in the parish register, all buried that year.

In 1602 there had been four burials in Bleasby churchyard, in 1603 five. There were to be five in 1605 and four in 1606. In 1604: one hundred and four. Annus horribilis.

Barbara Cast, President of BLHS

BETTY BATEMAN

Our beloved mother and grandmother, Betty Bateman, passed away on 17 April 2020 at the age of 94. Her funeral took place on a beautifully warm and sunny afternoon.

Betty, of Kibworth Beauchamp for many years and then of 25 Orchard Close until 2017, grew up in Newcastle before joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service at fourteen because she liked the idea of adventure - she was posted all over the UK and Europe and was in Germany when the war ended on VE day in 1945. She often said that, in many ways, the war was the best time of her life. Once the war was over Betty went

on to train as a nurse and later as a midwife. Having learned to drive in the ATS, Betty pursued a career in driving after retiring from nursing, which involved delivering cars all over the country.

Betty lived abroad in the 1950s when her husband was posted to Kluang in Malaya with the British Army. An intrepid adventurer until her late 60s, Betty made many trips abroad and was also very active, loving sports and dancing - a keen golfer well into her 70s and learning to ski at 60.

She leaves behind her daughter, Lesley Hamer, and son, Charlie, and her two granddaughters, Claire and Laura. She was a strong, independent and forthright woman who lived a marvellous life and is greatly missed.

Claire Hamer

Summary train timetable

	From Bleasby to Nottingham *
Monday to Friday	6.21;6.55;7.52;9.50;11.52;14.52;16.53;17.52;18.11;23.05.
Saturday	6.22;7.54;8.55;9.51;11.52;14.52;16.51;17.52;18.09
Sunday	9.41;11.54;15.07;16.58;18.46;22.50
	From Nottingham to Bleasby
Monday to Friday	05.54;06.53;07.56;09.49;11.51;14.50;16.50;18.17;19.19;22.26
Saturday	05.55;06.53;07.58;09.49;11.53;14.50;16.48;17.47;21.24
Sunday	09.30;11.30;14.35;17.27;22.28

*Journey time approx 25 mins. Note that it is likely that there will be a temporary reduced timetable as the number travelling declines.



BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT – UPDATED 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

BLEASBY FLOOD ACTION GROUP

One might assume that after such a long period of dry weather since our February floods that there would be little to report but now is the time when we should “take stock” and reflect upon just how close we came to significant flooding in the parish only three months ago.

As you can detect on the Environment Agency Flood Risk maps, particular areas of the parish are especially vulnerable, whilst others are at less risk but with a 10% global warming factor now being added to the Agency’s own calculations, there are not many of us that can afford to be complacent. The extreme and unseasonal weather patterns which are now becoming accepted and even expected on current predictions can only

become more significant and we, living in the Trent Valley floodplain, must prepare for a more frequent possibility of flooding and to do our utmost to avoid exacerbating the situation.

We can do this by keeping all our drains, dykes and ditches clear and free of rubbish – and definitely not filled in to extend gardens or frontages. If you discover an obstacle or blockage please remove it or report it to one of the BFA Group so that the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board can bring in equipment to address the problem.

Please avoid installing areas of impermeable surfaces for carparking or easy maintenance. If you feel it necessary to install such surfaces, always seek planning advice and, if it is impermeable, planning permission – this is a requirement for any area greater than 5 square metres – about the size of one standard car!

Our surface water from our roofs and hard standing is channelled into our drainage systems with almost immediate effect and, as a consequence, the vast volume of water from storms can overwhelm our drainage systems, causing flooding to others, if not to you. It is absolutely critical that nothing but human waste and toilet paper is flushed down our toilets as the blockages caused by the combination of fat, food debris, wipes etc causes the flooding of homes and gardens with effluent of the most unpleasant and ‘evicting’ kind. It has happened in the parish, causing much distress, inconvenience and expence.

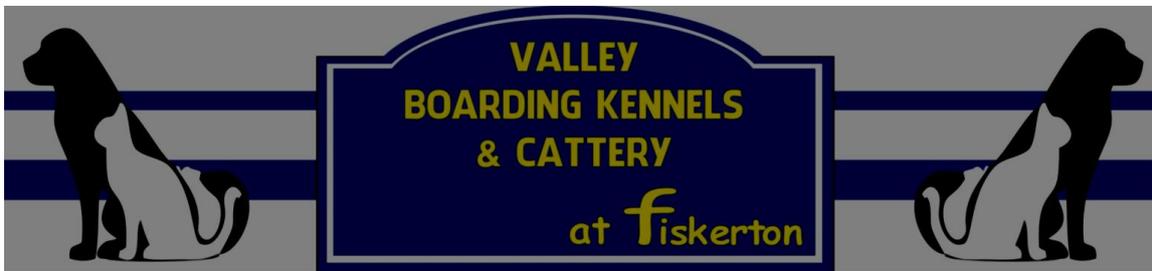
Please think “flood risk”

Bleasby Flood Action Group

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





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A HUNDRED YEARS AGO – MARCH 31st 1920

“A serious outbreak of influenza at Coddington gives cause for the fear that the virulent type of disease experienced in the past epidemic has returned, and every possible precaution should be taken. Every individual must recognise his or her duty to the community and do everything possible to prevent the spread of infection.”

from the Advertiser



BLEASBY EVENTS GROUP - TURNING A DISAPPOINTMENT TO A DELIGHT

After all the planning of the VE Day celebrations had been completed and was excitedly anticipated, the emergence of the virus came as a blow with the subsequent obligation to abandon virtually all that had been planned. However, the event was registered, recognised and celebrated in a successful but totally unexpected way.

The planned early option to participate in Bleasby in Bloom and, especially the coincidental and spontaneous NHS/Key Worker rainbows, palettes, scarecrows and fence decorations, all provided a wonderful lead up and extraordinary focus for the day itself.

The children's wreath laying on VE Day, the two minute silence at 11am, the loyal toast at 3pm, the front-of-house picnics, the siren call and the 7pm ringing of church bells, all went ahead as planned – but with the unexpected addition of BBC Midlands television coverage – all made for a rather greater focus on the parish of Bleasby and upon VE Day celebrations in particular.

Thanks to Orchard Close's enormous community effort in producing lots of scarecrows plus rainbows – all acknowledging the work of the NHS and Key Workers – when Quentin Raynor stumbling upon it all earlier in the week, the spotlight was then turned on not only the Orchard Close efforts but also on the whole parish's efforts to celebrate VE Day on 8th May, despite the lockdown. The final coverage and broadcast was comprehensive, representing the more moving morning activity on the

Glebe Field and afternoon's fantastic celebratory front of house picnics, 40s music, decorations and displays – including a giant house-sized Union Flag!

The community spirit and pride was reflected throughout all parts of the parish, bringing the event of the day into a cohesive combination of community effort and spirit.

Well done everyone – and thank you!



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Derek and John practise mower-maypole-dancing – our thanks to our faithful mowers!



The Centenary Wood – thanks to the Angling Syndicate for keeping it beautiful.