

BLEASBY NEWS



We were here in the 1940s!

AUGUST 2018

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

Once again Bleasby is pulling out all the stops to hold a great event. Before our next edition of Bleasby News we will have experienced the dedication of the Aircrews Memorial. The creation and realisation of the memorial is a phenomenal feat and we have to thank Ken Ogilvie for his persistence in seeing through this project from fairly small beginnings to what is now a truly amazing memorial. The thanksgiving and dedication event will be a very special culmination of much work and all those involved in any way in this momentous venture should be very proud of their achievements. We hope that as many Bleasby people as possible will come along to the Glebe Field on 1st September to witness the dedication and to welcome our guests, some of which are coming from as far afield as Australia and Canada to honour their relatives. More about the memorial and its dedication on page 7.

Our cover picture is of Beverley Wright and his sisters and brother standing outside Forge Cottage, which became their family home. Beverley was a resident of Bleasby for much of his life until moving to Southwell a few years ago. He remembers the air-crash which happened in the vicinity of the current school.

Let us make the next edition of Bleasby News a very special one to reflect the events of 1st September! So please – your thoughts, photos, etc on the Memorial Dedication Day.

We will also be pleased to receive all types of articles, pictures, ideas and news etc – send all your items for the October edition by **Monday September 17th** to Rachael at prandrew74@outlook.com or Barbara at barbaracast@btinternet.com

Your editors, Rachael and Barbara

BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL

“Preparing the Way”

Life is full of opportunities that allow us to enrich our lives and that enable us to make our own chosen contribution for the benefit of others. This edition of Bleasby News carries within it such opportunity and it is hoped that you may, as a result, wish to participate in further enhancing village life.

You will find a copy of “Bleasby Reviewed and Renewed” with this edition of Bleasby News – delivered to every home in the parish thanks to village volunteers and produced by a Steering Group of equally committed villagers. This paper is made up of two components: the Bleasby Parish Plan Summary and the Bleasby Parish Plan Discussion Document. The former is a resume of the major findings from the analysis of questionnaire responses and, the latter, a more strategic document intended to recognise and highlight the key issues revealed. These key issues offer a basis for discussion and further contribution by parishioners at a series of village meetings planned to be held after the summer holiday period – so please keep your copy safe!

It is envisaged that the Parish Plan will evolve and develop over time. We want it to become a dynamic and responsive means of keeping pace with the perceived and changing aspirations and needs of the parish and not be a fixed document of limited lifespan and relevance.

As you may be aware a series of working groups has already been established to act within the working framework of the Parish Plan on specific issues and wishes revealed in your responses. These open groups have been formed initially from those of you who indicated in your responses a willingness to be involved in specific matters. Now they provide the momentum and model for further developments in other areas and we hope that more residents will choose to become involved in matters of particular interest to them.

The Events Group continues its commitment to enriching village life and will have completed its latest, highly original, Bleasby Bike Fest by the time you are reading this and will now be supporting the next major parish event on September 1st – the Aircrews Memorial Dedication. We are hoping that this will be a whole village event, a ‘showcase’ of Bleasby endeavour and pride. Many individuals and groups have been instrumental in the concept, design, fundraising, installation, landscaping and maintenance of the actual memorial and preparations are well in hand for a day which has now become acknowledged nationally as significant. The Queen’s Representative in Nottinghamshire, the Lord Lieutenant, will be attending along with other important guests and relatives of those who were killed in and over the parish of Bleasby. There are, indeed, still some residents who were alive when these events took place and witnessed such tragic happenings.

We hope to have the parish looking at its best by September and, to this end, many villagers and school pupils have been working hard to create floral tributes crafted in various forms. If you are able to help in any way to enhance our village or tidy up areas which are not so well kept, those endeavours would do the community proud!

Such is our place in history!

Peter Cast, Chair, on behalf of Bleasby Parish Council

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Dear All

The last time I went to an art gallery I recall seeing a young student standing in front of a work of art transfixed, taken in by the wonder of it. We might say ‘in another world’, but more than in a daydreaming state. Many people experience being ‘transported’ by music, theatre, nature, sometimes even our own back gardens. When taking groups to Kenya I would always invite them to come outside at night when there were no clouds or artificial light ‘pollution’. We would stand in the quiet and stare at the amazing sweep of stars, the size of the universe and our smallness. A moment of awe and wonder - I always felt anyway! Or watching my children being born - lots of examples.

I heard someone describe being on a motor board (don't worry it's a new sport) off the Californian coast. Whilst admiring the crystal clear sea, a whale surfaced off one board and seemed to deliberately take a look. It then dived under the board to remerge on the other side next to a second board. The whale took a second look before diving again under the second board and gliding off resuming its course up the coast. Imagine! Any sense of fear would be outweighed by the amazing intelligence and beauty of the whale in its natural habitat. A feeling of being small and insignificant - yet perhaps also connectedness to creation and the environment. Such moments of transcendence are not frequent but actually not so uncommon, be they in nature, amongst people, or in quiet and solitude.

Faith is not a necessary prerequisite for such moments of 'otherness', although faith can inform or even spring from such encounters. It is the root meaning of the word 'holy', set apartness or otherness, rather than saint-like behaviour. Is it part of what makes us truly human, that we know there is more to life than what we can see, feel or touch?

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
William Henry Davies

God called out to him from within the bush, "Moses, Moses!". "Here I am," he answered. "Do not come any closer, Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."...(Exodus 3:4,5, 'The burning bush')

Special events in August/September....

Sunday 19th August: Hoveringham, St Michael's (10.30am) Benefice Service with The Venerable David Picken (Archdeacon of Newark and Southwell).

Saturday 1st September: Bleasby, St Mary's (12noon) Aircrew Thanksgiving Memorial Service and the dedication of the Aircrew Memorial (1.00pm) in the Glebe Field.

Sunday 16th September: Bleasby, St Mary's (10.30am) A service of welcome to the new Headteacher of Bleasby CE Primary School, Samuel Mensah. Bleasby parents and children especially welcome.

Items for the Women's Refuge always welcome at any of the seven churches (non-perishables please). Thank you.

Best Wishes, Phil

phil_07@btinternet.com - www.westtrentchurches.co.uk – 07720010066

The Revd Phil can be contacted as above or via the administrator for the West Trent Group: Paula Carlin on 07419 176021 or at beneficeofwesttrent@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

Open Churches weekend

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to steward this event again. We had more people visiting us this year – 6 in total! We were very grateful to the Local History Society and Oak Class from Bleasby School for the exhibition of books and photographs which were greatly enjoyed by the visitors and the congregation on Sunday.

Sound System

Our sound system has caused us problems over many months and we had all but reached the conclusion that we would have to replace it. After a visit from Hilltop Audio Visual, it was discovered that the unpredictable crackle on the pin-on mic was caused by a tuning fault. By altering the frequency the engineer solved the problem in a few minutes. No interference since –long may it continue gremlin free!

Service schedule

Revd Phil is away in August and Paula our administrator has had some difficulties finding priests to take services on some Sundays. The 'usual pattern' will not apply on these Sundays. We hope we can stick to the schedule published in Bleasby News but it is always wise to check on the noticeboard for any last-minute changes.

Churchyard

Our grateful thanks go to the volunteers who have given extra time to the upkeep of the churchyard, car park and the adjacent part of the Glebe Field, specially in preparation for the dedication of the aircrew memorial.

Wedding

Robert Slade and Sophie Smith, now living in "Jessie's Cottage" in Gibsmere, were married in St. Mary's on Saturday 16th June. It was a joyful occasion and we wish Robert and Sophie every happiness in the future.

School – visit, club and end of term service

Oak Class visited St Mary's on Tuesday, June 12th, to learn about Christian signs and symbols. The afternoon included a treasure hunt when the children found many examples, some of which the adults weren't aware. Revd Phil explained the meaning of the various symbols found on the stonework, church furniture and fittings, kneelers, windows and books. On their return to the classroom the children, with the help of their teacher Miss Booth, made a book in which they were able to display their learning. Visitors to the Open Church weekend were able to see the results of their work. The monthly club at school, led by Suzanne Dent, a reader from Holy Trinity in Southwell, has been enjoyed throughout the year by a small but loyal group of 7 and 8 year olds. Several of these children will be moving on to other schools but, in the

next school year, we are hoping to recruit more rising 7s whom we hope will enjoy the Bible based activities and games on offer. If there is anyone who would enjoy working with Suzanne and the children please be in touch with Revd Phil. The end of term service took place on Friday 20th July when we said goodbye to the Year 6 children who were going on to secondary school and wished them well. There were more goodbyes to be said to younger children moving to other primary schools. Last but by no means least, we said goodbye to Mrs Ann Town on her retirement after 25 years of service to the school as headteacher. Sam Mensah, currently Deputy Head at St. Mary's C of E Primary School in Bulwell, has been appointed headteacher in place of Mrs. Town from September. We are looking forward to welcoming Sam at a Benefice Holy Communion service in September.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

LOCAL TRAFFIC CONCERNS AND MANAGEMENT

As a result of concerns about road safety and the condition of our roads raised by individual parishioners and through the Parish Plan Questionnaire, the Parish Council has been seeking means to address at least some of the issues raised and, as a consequence, a group of councillors undertook an initial survey of perceived danger spots along our roads and produced a discussion document intended as a starting point for a prioritised strategy of action to be shared with residents and then submitted to the County Council.

In a brief meeting on site with Joanne Horton, District Highway Manager for this area, and Councillor Sue Saddington, to discuss some of the concerns, this initial discussion document was handed over to them. It was agreed that this will be used in conjunction with a survey of the parish highways to be undertaken by a member of the Via management team. Ms Horton was able to inform us that interactive speed signs are to be erected on either side of Goverton to aid a reduction in speed between Thurgarton and Goverton and also from the level crossing to Goverton. It was also agreed that means be sought to improve safety on the dangerous bend at the Old Chapel where there are currently no warning signs or road markings at all.

This is a big step in the right direction and more is yet to come in future financial years. Watch this space in 2019/20!

Peter Cast, Chair of BPC

THANK YOU

At the end of June our family tortoise escaped from our garden and went on a five day walkabout around Bleasby! We are hugely grateful to our very kind neighbour who found Dimitri in her garden and took him to Radcliffe Animal Centre. The RSPCA could not give us any information about Dimitri's rescuer due to data protection so this is us saying a huge thank you for your kind deed. We are very happy to have him home.

Sam and Ian Bennington

BLEASBY AIRCREWS MEMORIAL DEDICATION – 1ST SEPTEMBER

A couple of years ago now, when first discussing the possibility of arranging a Dedication Event for the new Aircrews Memorial, we alighted on the date of 1st September 2018 as it was exactly 75 years to the day after the fateful mid-air collision of two Lancaster bombers in the night sky over Bleasby. The date also falls within the centenary year of the founding of the RAF. This date seemed light years away at the time but, here we are, almost there.

As you will have seen, the Memorial is now on site and the landscaping completed, although the lack of rain for the past few weeks has meant that we have had to water the new turf daily to get the new grass established. Plans for the Dedication Event have been ongoing for many months now. Over the past few weeks we learned that, subject to the completion of a risk assessment and sign off, the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottingham, Sir John Peace, is planning to attend together with Lady Peace, as well as other local dignitaries and representatives of the RAF, RCAF, RAAF and PAF. We have also traced over 40 relatives of the airmen who were killed and who will be attending, including two from Australia and two from Canada.

The Bleasby Parish Council Event Group has been developing detailed plans for welcoming and assisting these guests - car parking, logistics, floral decorations, catering, etc. - and Revd Phil White and the churchwardens have been planning the special Service of Thanksgiving and the Dedication of the Memorial. The Service of Thanksgiving in St Mary's Church will commence at 12 noon, followed by the Dedication Event at 1pm at the Aircrews Memorial site on the Glebe Field.

Refreshments are being provided for our guests at Bleasby Village Hall. Due to the limited people capacity of St Mary's Church and the Village Hall, admission to both the Service of Thanksgiving and the Guests' refreshments provision in the Village Hall has to be by invitation only. However, the Dedication Event on the Glebe Field is, of course, a public event, with a reserved area around the Memorial to allow those attending the Service of Thanksgiving to be able to see clearly the dedication of the memorial.

It will be evident from the above that Bleasby is looking forward and preparing to host the guests who are attending this once in a lifetime event, and we will be so pleased to welcome them to our village. We intend to give all the relatives of airmen a floral buttonhole to wear which will enable identification. Very few of the guests will know each other; representatives of the various air forces will be recognisable by their uniforms. So please say hello to any of our guests that you may meet, and give them a warm Bleasby welcome!

For safety reasons, Gypsy Lane will be closed (other than for access) from 11.30am until 6pm at the latest. It is possible that additional visitors will arrive spontaneously to watch the Dedication Event. The logistics team will do their best to plan for this eventuality, but the presence of an unplanned number of additional visitors may cause some degree of inconvenience with road congestion and parking difficulties.

Apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause on the day – but we hope that you will feel it will be worth it!

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we can all look forward to a memorable, reflective as well as an enjoyable day which will be of personal significance to most of our guests.

Ken Ogilvie

COINCIDENCES

We've all had them, haven't we – two apparently unconnected things occurring at the same moment, revealing an entirely unexpected connection. I remember travelling by train to a wedding in Axminster – it was a long slow journey, involving several changes. At the last station only two other people were left waiting for the connection – a young man and me. We both sat on the only bench on the platform. He took some paper out of his pocket and I realised that it was an invitation to the wedding I was going to. I produced mine – (it had all the travel directions written on it) and said "Snap!" We laughed, and he replied by giving his name – "My name's Temperley – what's yours?" Now, wasn't that a coincidence? He was a doctor from Belfast and had met our mutual friend while serving in the RAMC overseas.

But the coincidence I want to tell you about only happened a few days ago. I was browsing through a poetry book – "A Poem For Every Day Of The Year" – and, as I was also thinking about the forthcoming Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving, I decided I would look at what was on offer for 1st September. The short preamble started "The Second World War began on 1 September 1939". I paused, thinking that the date was wrong – and then I realised that of course the war actually started when Hitler invaded Poland, two days before we declared war. But the poem that followed was the real shock – it is called "Bomber's Moon", written by Mike Harding. A "bomber's moon" is an especially bright full moon and, of course, it enabled bomber pilots to see their targets better. Fighter pilots also benefited. This poem highlights the awfulness of war and, if you can find it, do please read it. The last verse is so appropriate for the dedication of the memorial when we consider the sacrifice made by so many in order to bring freedom and peace to the generations that have followed.

"No more - no more bomber's moons"

Diana Temperley

BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

James Wright, another of our local archaeologists gave a brilliant talk in June on the Revolution in Sherwood Forest ie how the Civil War affected the people in the Sherwood Forest area. The next lecture will be on Tuesday 25th September and it will be given by Paul Cullen and his subject is "Surnames in Nottinghamshire" – another 'not-to-be-missed' talk. Paul is a place-name specialist and, when last seen, sported a wonderful Mohican haircut! And then on October 23rd a welcome return from Rowena Edlin-White speaking on "Forgotten Authors of Nottinghamshire" and I know

that she will be mentioning our own published author, Katharine Morris! Our annual visit will be to Tuxford Windmill on Tuesday 9th October.

Do come along to our talks - all are most welcome – £2.50 for visitors and free to members for an annual fee of £10. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Barbara Cast - President of Bleasby Local History Society

TEMPEST AT BLEASBY SCHOOL

The Tempest by William Shakespeare and Friends

We have to congratulate Bleasby School pupils and staff for their amazing, colourful, tuneful and generally wonderful performances (over three days) of a skilful adaptation of The Tempest. The actors, singers and dancers all performed their parts with skill and evident enjoyment. Especially notable was that so many children had an opportunity to be involved with the main characters being portrayed by different children in different performances and also with many of the younger children being given really meaningful contributions. Well done pupils – especially well done Louise Carpenter and her team for their work in putting on a memorable and joyful presentation which involved, it seemed, nearly the whole school – Will Shakespeare would have approved!

Change and continuity at the school

We look forward to welcoming Sam Mensah as the new Headteacher at Bleasby from September. We are also pleased that Louise Carpenter has been appointed Deputy Head and that Sarah Smith remains as the Senior Teacher. Exciting new prospects are ahead!

Tributes have been made to the retiring Headteacher of many years, Ann Town, who did much to create the ethos and achievements of the school during her leadership.

CHRISTINE BRILL

We are saddened to hear of the death of Christine Brill of Sycamore Lane. Christine, with her husband Chris, had lived in the village for many years, bringing their sons up in Bleasby. Christine was a constant supporter of the British Legion – her input will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to Chris and the family.

IRENE RENNIE

Women's Institute Members were saddened to hear of the death of Irene Rennie, a WI member and lunch club volunteer for many years when she was living at The Hollies. Irene came to Bleasby when her husband Jim retired from the RAF, he was latterly Station Commander at RAF Newton. Christine Sharpe, Pam Brandreth and Rachael Andrew were pleased to represent the WI and lunch club at Irene's funeral which was held at Grantham Crematorium on Tuesday 3rd July.

WELCOMES

We are pleased to welcome the Eldridge family to Manor Close – we hope that they will be very happy in their new home.

Also a special welcome to Otilie Elizabeth Clark, a lovely sister for Violet and daughter to Lauren and Will.

AND FAREWELL



We were sad to say farewell to the Sheppard family who have now moved to Boughton.

Here are the boys in their new school uniforms.

Caroline and Gary are local kids grown up – they both went to Bleasby School, at that time with Gary living in Bleasby and Caroline in Thurgarton.

We wish all of them well and happy in their new home.

HOCKEY SUCCESS FOR LOCAL GIRL

Harriet Barker from Gibsmere, aged 14, has recently been selected to attend the Midlands U15 Girls England Hockey Player Performance Centre from September.

A former pupil of Bleasby School and now at Nottingham Girls High school, Harriet started her hockey at Southwell Hockey Club and Bleasby School before joining Beeston Hockey Club where she plays for the U15G first team as well as representing Nottinghamshire County.

The performance centres aim to maximise player development and to provide England Hockey with high calibre players for national age group squads. We wish her lots of luck in the future as she strives to achieve national selection.

John Barker

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BLEASBY PLAYGROUP

As we entered our fourth year of Bleasby playgroup we had seen lots of changes and welcomed plenty of new faces through our doors. Huge thanks to Jordanna for all her input over this time; she's been there since the beginning and has helped endlessly, not to mention having donated lots of lovely coffee and provided limitless snacks to all the children, especially mine!! You will be missed but we all wish you luck in your new job.

In addition to our usual friendly, informal child-lead play we have added a monthly 'messy' Monday which is a great sensory fun for all, from babies to pre-schoolers. We have also started themed weeks such as singing and dance and story week. For updates please

check out our Facebook page. If you would like to come along and join in the fun we meet every Monday (term time) from 9.15 to 11.15am, £2 per family including a snack for the kids. Equally if you would like to lend a helping hand you would be very much welcomed, be it getting involved with activities or story time, help setting up and packing away or just to come along and have a chat. You can always expect a nice cuppa and a warm welcome!

We will be back after the summer holidays on Monday, 10th September - we look forward to seeing you then.

Alison Collins, 07788738463

BLEASBY COUNTRYSIDE AND FOOTPATHS GROUP

Our most recent walk took us along the towpath from Hazelford, following the course of the Trent until we stopped to look at the two great stone columns which mark the loss of aircrews based at Syerston whose aircraft crashed in the parish of Hoveringham. After reflections here awhile we found our way across cow-filled fields and over hedges, then past the Hoveringham sailing lake on to the bridle-path and back to Gibsmere. Our time on these walks is filled with much interest and conversation. We would be delighted if you would join us!

NJN JOINERY

Phone: Nigel Newcombe
on
01636 525506
or
Mobile: 07837 235427

**ALL TYPES OF JOINERY
AND
MAINTENANCE WORK
UNDERTAKEN**



BLEASBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We thought we knew more or less what street pastors do but most of us were surprised by the extent of their work. This was described to us in graphic detail at our July meeting by Carol Henderson representing the Nottingham Street Pastors. This is a Christian organisation of voluntary workers based at the Malt Cross in the city centre. They operate in twos and threes between 10pm and 3am on Friday and Saturday nights giving "a little help to anyone who needs caring for" including defusing trouble that might otherwise lead to fights. What we see at 10.30 or 11pm as the weekend scene gets underway is the tip of the iceberg apparently. As the night wears on and the effect of alcohol and/or drugs takes hold the situation becomes more and more "lively". The contents of the bags carried by the street pastors gives some idea as to what they encounter - sick bags, wipes, space blankets, flip-flops (for the shoeless and often 'legless') water not only for drinking but for cleaning up, "she-wees" (look it up) and the all-important first aid bags. Yes, they are all qualified first aiders as well. Carol described the good relations they have formed with police, ambulance crews, bus and taxi drivers as they attempt to deal with those unable to help themselves and to get them home if possible. For some, of course, there is no home to go to but the street pastors also work with Emanuel House, the Friary and Framework to find shelter where possible. The city heroes, according to Carol, are the street cleaners who deal with the aftermath of the weekend revelry after 3am when things go quiet, so that by the next morning the public can walk the city streets without putting their feet in anything unpleasant. A small reward for their labours is the high regard in which they are held by the general public and city workers, not to mention a free meal at McDonald's at 1am! We expressed our grateful thanks to Carol for

coming to speak to us and to the team for the good work they do on our behalf. More information can be found at streetpastors@maltcross.com.

In June we discussed the WI's national resolution to give equal weight to mental and physical health.

It isn't all such serious stuff. Members enjoyed the county conference at the Royal Centre and lunch in May, croquet, a trip to Skegness in June and taking part in the area quiz, when the two teams "Bleasby A Team" and "Blisse By and Bye", did not cover themselves in glory but did reasonably well! In August we enjoyed our annual picnic by Gibsmere Lake by kind permission of Monica and Bob Richardson. The evening was beautifully illuminated by a low sun under dark clouds, making our surroundings magical. And the food was good too!

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in the village hall. Enquires to our president Christine Sharpe on 830143.

Rachael Andrew

JUBILEE PONDS – OUR PARADISE IN BLEASBY

Walking around the Ponds recently I chanced to meet a stranger whom I greeted and asked if she had any impressions or views about the Ponds (as I had already sought from some of the local walkers as well as a number of the anglers). "Just paradise", she said, "It is so calm, so peaceful and so lovely". She seemed pleased to hear that her comments would be the inspiration for an article in our Bleasby News and went on to say that she stayed periodically with friends in the village and was not only taken by the Ponds themselves but also by the warmth and friendliness of villagers and anglers alike who she met around the Ponds – paradise indeed!

The anglers who I had spoken to earlier were of exactly the same view and confessed that they were willing to pay the high price of membership for a place renowned in the local angling world for its perfection of location and its peaceful prospect for fishing – only to be matched by the friendly, interested and considerate locals that visited the JPs! Music to my ears!

There are some grand fish in the water but you only rarely see one caught – there is certainly much more appeal in the Jubilee Ponds than its prized and often individually named carp! Seeking some guidance as to their angling methods, skills and equipment, three widely-spaced patches of weed-free open water were pointed out to me, some 50 to 80 metres away from where we stood, with the angle between most widely spaced fishing lines being about 120° apart. But where were those bobbing red, white and yellow fluorescent floats of yesteryear? No longer used apparently! The friendly 'garden gnome' impression of fishing is clearly well out of date – except for the persisting friendliness! The idea that anglers fish the water directly in front of them is fallacious – on the contrary they try to place their lines almost as far removed from them as possible so that those canny fish do not associate the bait with the wavering form of an angler on the bank!

Others were taking fish rather more successfully – common terns screamed overhead and dived for smaller fry nearer the surface; a kingfisher skimmed low across the water, disturbed from its fishing perch; a heron struggled out of its reedbed fishing area and lumbered into ‘hang-dog’ flight, whilst a cormorant scoured the waters beneath it and great crested grebes fed their squawking chicks with bite-sized ‘fish fingers’.

After four weeks without rain, waterlife continued hardly affected by the heat which had turned the meadow and grassy areas into brown savannahs, only brightened by the odd purple-blue knapweed and dancing butterflies and hawking dragonflies. A late spring, following the Beast from the East, had turned to a short summer, already carrying autumn shades as the drought hastened the flowering and rapid demise of all shallow rooted plants. “Even this unfamiliar brown landscape would be declared beautiful by my Mom” explained one of our Bleasby Americans recently, referring to the landscape that was home to her. Paradise is evidently where you find it, make it, and - keep it!

Peter Cast

Going away?

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BLEASBY BIKERS RIDING HIGH

Bleasby Bikers, your local road cycling club, continues to go from strength to strength. The club now boasts 55 members and is attracting riders from surrounding villages. Regular rides leave the Waggon & Horses most Sundays, and ad hoc evening rides have started again in the summer evenings. The club also organises adventures further afield, with participation in 'Sportives' (large organised non-competitive rides for amateurs) including major events in Rutland and Warwickshire, and this year's annual gathering in North Yorkshire planned for September.

In May, six club members tackled the mountains of Mallorca (a regular haunt for pro-riders in training), enjoying fine weather and some challenging routes. And there was a good turnout for the ever-popular annual 'Pub Ride' that took us down into Leicestershire and for the Great Notts Bike Ride in June, with participants successfully completing the 50-mile and 100-mile events.

We cater for all levels of experience and we are delighted to have seen a surge in the number of ladies joining us. For further information, please contact Colin at bleasbybikers@btinternet.com



Bleasby Bikers' peloton on the Great Notts Bike Ride



An early coffee stop at Screveton on the annual 'Pub Ride'

BLEASBY

— BIKERS —



Your local cycling club, with over fifty members from Bleasby and surrounding villages.
We are a friendly road cycling club, enjoying weekly rides, Sportives around the UK, and annual events.

Membership is open to all men and women over the age of 18, and costs just £5 per year.

We are affiliated to British Cycling.

There are three levels of participation to choose from:

- ❖ The *Easy Riders* – out most Sunday mornings to ride 25 - 30 miles at a social pace. Rides are relatively flat, and there's always a coffee stop!
- ❖ The *Roleurs* – out most Sunday mornings, and will ride 40 – 50 miles. Suitable for more experienced riders, capable of enjoying more hilly routes. Members usually insist on a coffee stop too!
- ❖ The *Pros* – fast, competent riders who will typically cycle in excess of 50 miles (with as many hills as they can find) at a strong pace.

Weekly rides are usually organised via WhatsApp, and routes are typically decided informally on the day based on weather conditions and how much time people have available.

Most rides start from the Waggon & Horses, Bleasby.

If you're interested, then please email Colin at bleasbybikers@btinternet.com



YOUR LOCAL CYCLING CLUB



Bleasby Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday 27 th July	10am - 12 noon	Friendship Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Sunday 29 th July	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion	St Denis Morton
Sunday 29 th July	8.45am	Walk for Bungoma from Upton to Bleasby, taking in all 7 churches	From Upton St Peter and St Paul
Sunday 5 th August	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Sunday 5 th - 24 th August	Daily 9am - 4.30pm	Kelham Bridge closed for parapet repairs	Kelham
Sunday 12 th August	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St James Halloughton
Sunday 19 th August	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion with the Archdeacon of Newark	St Michael's Hoveringham
Tuesday 21 st August	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with Julia Davies on the history of Brackenhurst	Village Hall
Wednesday 22 nd - Monday 27 th August	Various times	Southwell Music Festival	Southwell Minster and various Southwell venues
Sunday 26 th August	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Friday 31 st August	10am - 12 noon	Friendship Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Saturday 1 st September	11am & 12 noon	Aircrews Memorial Service of Thanksgiving and the Dedication	St Mary's and the Glebe Field
Sunday 2 nd September	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Wednesday 5 th September		Schools resume	
Saturday 8 th September	All day	Ride and Stride event around churches	All local churches
Sunday 9 th September	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Sunday 16 th September	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion to welcome the new Headteacher of Bleasby School	St Mary's

Monday 17 th September		Bleasby News deadline	
Tuesday 18 th September	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with Gurcharan Manku on the Asian Community in East Midlands	Village Hall
Sunday 23 rd September	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Tuesday 25 th September	7.30pm	Meeting of BLHS with Paul Cullen on Notts Surnames	Village Hall
Friday 28 th September	10am - 12 noon	Friendship Coffee Morning supporting MacMillan	Village Hall

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DID YOU KNOW?

That the average age of those giving a regular amount towards the work and upkeep of our Church of St Mary is 76 years! What is going to happen when they are all pushing up daisies? For information on covenanting a regular sum to St Mary's contact one of our churchwardens – Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew.

August Church Services in the West Trent Benefice (HC = Holy Communion: MPE = Morning Praise for Everyone: EP = Evening Prayer)

August	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 5 th	10.30am MPE		6pm EP	9am MP BCP	10.30 MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE
Sunday 12 th		10.30am HC		10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE
Tuesday 14 th							10am HC
Sunday 19 th			10.30am Benefice HC				
Sunday 26 th	10.30am MPE		10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	HC 10.30am	10.30am with Methodists	10.30am MPE

September Church Services in the West Trent Benefice (HC = Holy Communion: MPE = Morning Praise for Everyone: EP = Evening Prayer)

Sept	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 2 nd	10.30am MPE		6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC
Sunday 9 th	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE
Tuesday 11 th							10am HC
Sunday 16 th	10.30am Benefice HC						
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am MPE		4pm Harvest Service	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am with Methodists	10.30am MPE
Sunday 30 th				10.30am Benefice HC			

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH BLEASBY EVENTS AND NEWS

Are you aware that you can sign up for email updates on local information from the following website www.bleasbycommunity.uk. The community website is maintained and monitored by Bleasby Parish Council. PC information can be found on the Council website www.bleasbyparishcouncil.uk.



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BLEASBY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Villagers will be pleased to know that this Group, formed to meet the almost unanimous request arising from the Parish Plan Questionnaire, goes from strength to strength and has been meeting regularly every month since March to determine its role, organisation and strategy. We have already been directly instrumental in the confiscation of a suspicious van and the further investigation of its driver and passenger and have been commended by the local police.

The effective operation of the Group partly depends on the comprehensive coverage of the parish and it is, therefore, our hope that everyone will wish to play an active, supporting role in keeping watch for anything suspicious and reporting it directly to the police on their 101 number. If, of course, a crime is believed to be happening or about to happen or has just been carried out, then 999 should be called immediately.

In an effort to ensure that Bleasby remains a virtually crime-free place to live, we are wanting to recruit local coordinators willing to act in the immediate area of their homes by alerting neighbours of any concerns made known to them by the Neighbourhood Watch Group. If you could undertake this role please contact Robert Wallin, Carol Standish or Peter Cast.

Please help us to ensure that Bleasby stays a safe and secure village.

The BNW Convenor Team

SEASONS

I'd like to spend the Springtime
Just walking in the wood
Where bugs and creepy-crawlies
Provide the blue-tit's food.

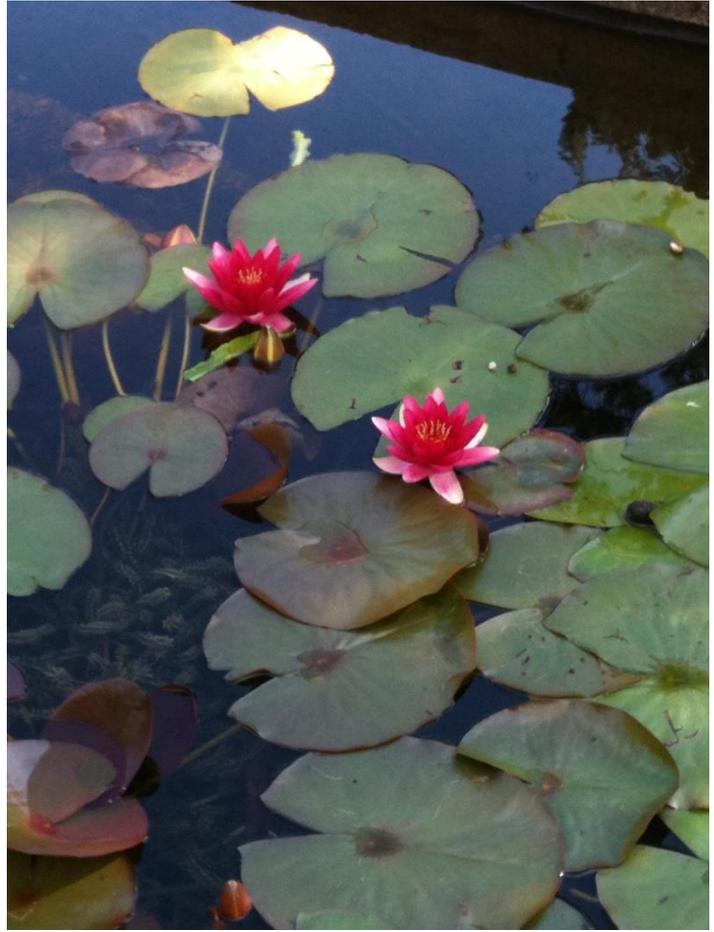
I'd like to spend the Summertime
In a deckchair in my garden
But never doing the mowing
A fault I hope you'll pardon

I'd like to spend the Autumn
In walks along the beach
And take along my children
And give a hand to each.

I'd like to spend the Winter
Just sitting by the fire
With a book I'll never finish
But with which I'll never tire.

A glass half-full of whisky
And coals that always glow
And all my wits about me
Until it's time to go.

Edmund Salter



KEEPSAKE

She sat back on her heels, wiping her forehead. It was hot and stuffy in the attic. Dust, disturbed by Penny as she started the heart-breaking and daunting task of clearing her parents' lives from their home of 55 years, floated in the beams of sunlight coming through the skylight. "Don't think, just get on with it" she muttered to herself, quoting her brother's glib comment on the phone last night. It was alright for him, speaking from the safety of several thousand miles away – he had no idea of the magnitude of the problem. She had already cleared some of the larger items – a doll's pram that had belonged to her cousin - never used by her and given to Penny in the hopes that she might enjoy it. Penny had used it for anything except dolls - the cat, the dog, garden tools. There was a cot, a tailor's dummy – and some small wheels with rotting rubber tyres. She smiled as she remembered the fun she and her brother had had on the cart their father had made until the day it disintegrated as they tested it down the steep hill. That expedition had ended up in A&E – and the confiscation of the cart. But Dad had kept the wheels - was he hoping to make Mark 2? Penny stifled a sigh – she would never know.

Her phone rang. “How are you doing?” Penny answered her husband’s question cautiously. “Fairly well – but I could do with some moral support.” “Go and have a look in the basket in the kitchen – that’ll help! And I should be with you in about an hour. Love you.” He rang off. Smiling, Penny left the attic and went to investigate. A large chocolate muffin, her forbidden favourite, was on top. What a delight! Her husband might be a man of few words but he certainly knew how to surprise her. Feeling fortified, she returned to the attic.

Resolutely, she opened the nearest trunk. Photo albums of summer holidays, a battered straw hat, and then – she became still. She was transported back to the magical Scottish holidays of her teenage years. She lifted the tin box carefully, and slowly opened the lid. A faded photograph of her brother holding a tiny trout fell out. The pride on his face said it all – THIS IS MY FIRST FISH! Then Penny found a golf ball; she picked it up and remembered the round of golf on the sheep-infested course. It had taken them all day to play 18 holes and they had never laughed so much. Several more reminders were unearthed, and then Penny found the small pink box. Savouring the moment of rediscovery, she gently took out the smooth striped pebble. The box slipped unnoticed to the floor as she held the stone between her hands, remembering the smoothness, the shape, the feel of it.

Penny had been sixteen, recovering from her GCSEs, and was relaxing on the sunny beach. It was deserted, except for a figure in the distance sitting on one of the rocky outcrops that framed the numerous rock pools. Penny was slightly annoyed – she considered them to be her pools, and now this stranger was in the way. Not to be put off, she picked up her towel and walked across the sand to the pools. They looked as cool and inviting as ever. She slipped into the deepest one and swam underwater through the arch into the next one, and came up gasping, partly at the cold and partly because she had bumped into something unexpected – a red headed boy who was as surprised as she was. They stared at one another, treading water, and then they both spoke at once.

“I never saw you coming – I’m so sorry” said the boy “Where have you come from – I thought this pool was empty!” Penny recovered first. She swam to the edge and tried to get out, but her foot slipped on a piece of seaweed and she felt the sharp rock grate against her shin. A helping hand pushed her upwards, and she was safely out. She looked in horror at the blood oozing from the graze. “Here, use this” said a gentle Scottish voice. She looked up to see Red Hair offering her a towel. “Thanks” she mumbled. He squatted down next to her, and smiled. His name was Rory and from that moment they spent every day together. It became an idyllic summer – they trudged the bogs and hills on wet days, they swam, laughed at the antics of the seals, gazed in awe as eagles soared above them, fished on the lochs and, fell in love. Penny was at the cusp of womanhood – still part child, but hovering on the threshold of a new and exciting yet uncertain future. Their first kiss was sweet, hesitant, and salty – they had come from the sea, and as she was drying her hair, he gently turned her face to his. They came apart quickly, and gazed at each other. “I have to go home tomorrow. I haven’t been able to tell you before.” Penny couldn’t speak. She was suddenly cold and shivering. Rory wrapped his towel round her and held her until she was calm.

Later that evening he had given her the pebble – they had found some beautiful ones when they went to Claggan Bay, and he had kept one. “This is a keepsake for you – remember me when you look at it, and be happy” was all he said. Afterwards she had wept a while, but her mother had understood and protected her from Martin’s teasing. Looking back to that wonderful summer, she smiled with the realisation that Rory’s keepsake had done just what he intended – looking at the stone, and thinking of him, had made her happy.

Her husband’s voice calling her name broke in on her thoughts, and he came into the attic. His hair was grey now, and no longer red. She held out her hand, smiling affectionately at him. “Rory – look what I’ve just found! Your keepsake!”

Diana Temperley

NOTTINGHAM YOUTH ORCHESTRA

♪ Joining Nottingham Youth Orchestra may be easier than you think! ♪♪

Nottingham Youth Orchestra, one of the country’s top orchestras for young people, is offering FREE taster sessions for youngsters aged 8-18 who may be considering joining one of their friendly orchestras: Training, Intermediate or Senior. Over the years Nottingham Youth Orchestra has welcomed many students from The Minster School and surrounding area. In particular all three orchestras are looking for brass and lower string players (viola, cello, bass), but are happy for any young instrumentalist to apply. Taster sessions will be held in September 2018 at the Becket School, West Bridgford, during rehearsals on Thursday evenings by appointment. All rehearsals are supported by a dedicated team of professional instrumental tutors and conductors.

NYO is an established part of the Nottingham music scene, regularly receiving praise from local press for its outstanding concert performances. Intermediate and Training Orchestras have just performed their end of season concert in Nottingham’s Albert Hall playing an exciting programme of classical favourites such as Chabrier’s *Espana* and Rossini’s *William Tell Overture*, plus film music from *Jurassic Park* and *Harry Potter*. Senior Orchestra are looking forward to their summer tour to Vienna and will celebrate their return with a concert in the beautiful St Mary’s Church, High Pavement, Nottingham on the evening of 3rd August. All three orchestras will be joining forces for a special concert in the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham early in 2019. When NYO performed their 30th Anniversary Concert at the RCH in 2016, William Ruff of Nottingham Post wrote: *“The Nottingham Youth Orchestra is one of the brightest jewels in the city’s cultural crown and its story is one of consistently high artistic achievement, determination to succeed and infectious enthusiasm. Thirty years is a long time to maintain such standards - but they show no signs of slipping.”*

If you know a youngster who would like to play their instrument with Nottingham Youth Orchestra, please send their full details (student’s full name, date of birth, school,

school year, home address, instrument, teacher, latest music exam results, parent/carer email address and contact telephone number) to:

administrator@nottinghamyouthorchestra.org or alternatively post to: Paula Watt, White Cottage, Main Street, Morton, Notts NG25 0UT. For more information about Nottingham Youth Orchestra visit www.nottinghamyouthorchestra.org

Catharine Lester

A LOCAL RESIDENT'S VIEW OF OUR ROADS

Potholes on local roads have become the bane of our lives. A safety hazard for all road users, with damage to tyres and suspension now a common event.

Nottingham County Council have responsibility for the upkeep of our roads, but the 2017 NHT Survey revealed that they spent £2,651 per km with the national average being £5,048 (only eight other authorities spent less per kilometre on their highway networks). Moreover, reported road defects have risen 20.6% in the last year, with Notts County Council admitting that 20% of the unclassified road network “should be considered for repair”. Of course, it will be a difficult cause to get more funds for road repair and maintenance in the immediate ‘post-austerity’ world, so some of us in the village have started to tackle the County Council on the *efficiency* of their spending. We have all seen Via East Midlands, the Council’s chosen contractor for remedial works and many other highway matters, repairing the odd pothole locally. But the quality of their work is often woeful. Lumps of ‘tarmac’ (technically, a product called ViafixQuick’) protruding above the road surface, not levelled at all in many cases and just left for local traffic to do the levelling. Adjacent potholes and cracks are ignored. And let’s not forget stretches of road like Gypsy Lane, the section of Station Road north of the level crossing and the appalling surface through Fiskerton, that simply do not get the attention they deserve.

Some of us are meeting members of the Council’s highways and contracts team to make the case for better use of taxpayer’s resources. We will report back in due course! In the meantime, have a look at our Facebook site ‘The Disgrace of Nottinghamshire’s Third World Roads,’ and feel free to upload images or add comments. You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/brokentarmac>

Colin Stump

MORE YOGA IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Louise Luiggi is offering a new early evening yoga class which starts on Thursday September 6th at 6:30 until 7:30pm. She is continuing to run her Thursday morning class from 10am until 11am and new faces are always welcome. Just go along or contact Louise on 07815 823155 or email louiseluiggi@immortelleyoga.com

BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT

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
Newark bus station	10.30	13.30
Returning stopping point	1st service	2nd service
Newark bus station	10.35	13.35
Southwell, Church Street	10.58	13.58
Southwell, Ropewalk	11.01	14.01
Morton, Main Street	11.07	14.07
Fiskerton	11.10	14.10
Bleasby, Main Street	11.15	14.15
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	11.19	14.19
Hoveringham, Main Street	11.25	14.25
Caythorpe, Main Street	11.29	14.29
Lowdham Station	11.32	14.32
Lowdham, Magna Carta	11.33	14.33
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	11.36	14.36

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.

Summary Train Timetable

20th May to 9th Dec 2018

	From Bleasby to Nottingham*	From Bleasby to Newark Castle **
Monday to Friday	6.22;6.55;7.52;9.52;11.52; 14.52;16.52;17.52;18.08;23.05	06.16;07.14;08.17;10.11; 12.16;15.16;17.11;18.39;19.41;22.45
Saturday	6.22;7.54;8.55;9.51;11.52; 14.52;16.51;17.52;18.06	06.17;07.14;08.19;10.14; 12.16;15.14;17.11;18.10;21.43
Sunday	9.41;11.54;15.01;16.59;18.46; 22.50	9.51;11.51;14.57;17.47;22.49
	From Nottingham to Bleasby	From Newark Castle to Bleasby
Monday to Friday	05.54;06.53;07.56;09.49;11.54 14.53;16.49;18.17;19.19;22.26	06.09;06.42;07.39;09.39;11.39; 14.39;16.39;17.39;17.56;22.55
Saturday	05.55;06.53;07.58;09.51;11.53 14.52;16.49;17.48;21.24	06.10;07.41;08.43;09.38;11.39; 14.39;16.38;17.39;17.55
Sunday	09.30;11.30;14.35;17.27;22.28	9.29;11.42;14.49;16.46;18.34;22.39

*Journey time approx 25 mins

** journey time approx 15 mins

Those who find it necessary to park in the vicinity of the school and railway station should be aware that it is illegal to park where there are central double white lines – they are in place to ensure a clear exit for vehicles coming over the level crossing - Highway Code 240

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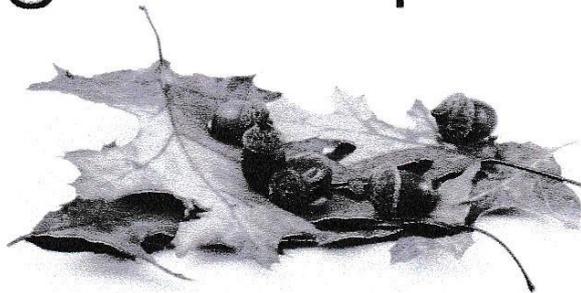
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Shadows of the drooping leaves
And wade their thin feet
Like twigs stirring the gathered pools.

Now the faded flowers can show their
Colours to the watery sun
And all is fresh, revived and new,
In this most welcome summer rain.

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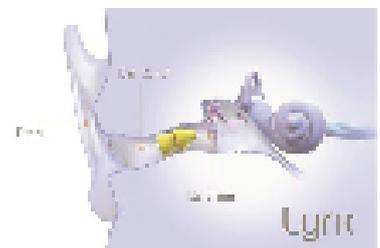
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A LOVE LETTER FROM A GRANDPA

This is a letter from Michael Morpurgo to his granddaughter Mia (and to share with all children)

Have you ever seen a picture of us from space? We are a bright blue bead spinning through infinity.

A beacon of life.

But the life of this world is as fragile as you are, as I am, as butterflies, as bees, as blossom.

If I have learnt one thing for sure in my long life, it is this. The earth is a living breathing being, and we must hurt her no more. We have to learn to love our earth again, love her as much as I love you and you love me. For you and I, we are a part of this living planet, the guardians, part of the earth's great family.

So I wish for you and for all children everywhere, a world, a new world without war and waste, where children like you will be able to breathe in good clean air, drink clear fresh water, grow and eat only what we need, no more, learn to share all we have, so that no one anywhere goes hungry.

I wish no tree ever to be cut down without planting three more in its place.

I wish for you a world where the elephant, the tiger and the orangutan can roam wild and free in their forests, on their plains, and left to live their lives in peace, where the whale can live the life of the deep undisturbed and the polar bear wanders far and wide in his world of ice and snow.

In loving the beaches, the butterflies, those busy bees, in planting trees, you are declaring your love for this earth and all that lives here. Go on loving, go on planting, live always in rhythm, in harmony with this wonderful life and all shall be well. But all shall be well, only if we make well. There is a lot of healing to do, a lot of planting.

A lot of loving...

With love and wonderful wishes

Grandpa

Ben Morgan

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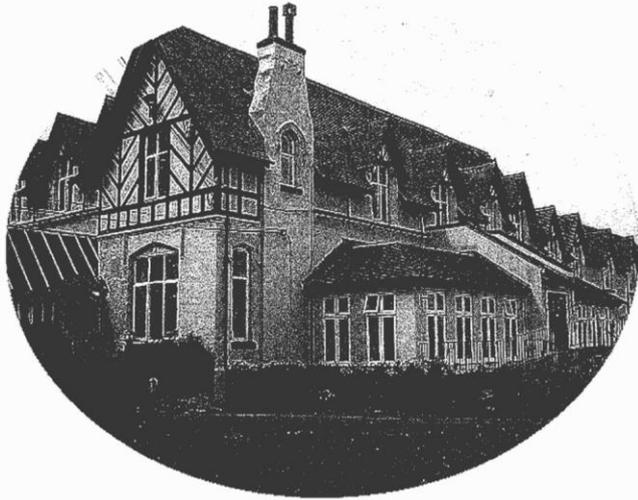
Nicola & Nigel Bennett, Goverton

"Ben has just completed our kitchen extension and done a fantastic job, I would highly recommend his services. He is highly skilled and professional with in depth knowledge of paint and products, ensuring our walls are wipeable and the paint will not fade. We feel this is money well spent as our decoration will stand the test of time in a heavily used kitchen."

Janine and Chris Ford, Southwell



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We pride ourselves in offering a home from home environment with an excellent ethos whereby our residents are involved in the decisions we take. We focus on our residents' aspirations, ideas, views and suggestions.

We have a person centred approach to the care of the residents: this approach is vital to ensure the best possible outcome and wellbeing.

Dementia care is a specialist area: we ensure with sensitivity that the resident is supported continually with person centred care planning, reinforcing daily the aspects of their lives they enjoy to ensure wellbeing and pleasures on a daily basis as, sadly, the previous day may be forgotten.

Our aim is to offer stimulating activities, with one to one time for those who may have dementia: we specialise in this area and our approaches create a relaxed harmonious environment for all.

Our bedrooms are large with views over the countryside and offer a choice of colour and furnishings, personalising them to suit our residents' preferences and choice.

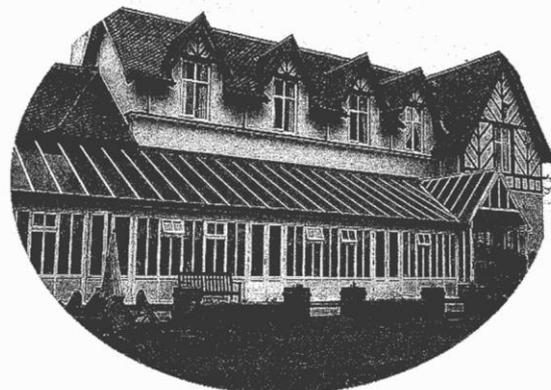
Please feel able to visit our home at any time – a warm welcome awaits you. We encourage families to also have an input into the plans the home may make. We hold family and friends of the home evenings.

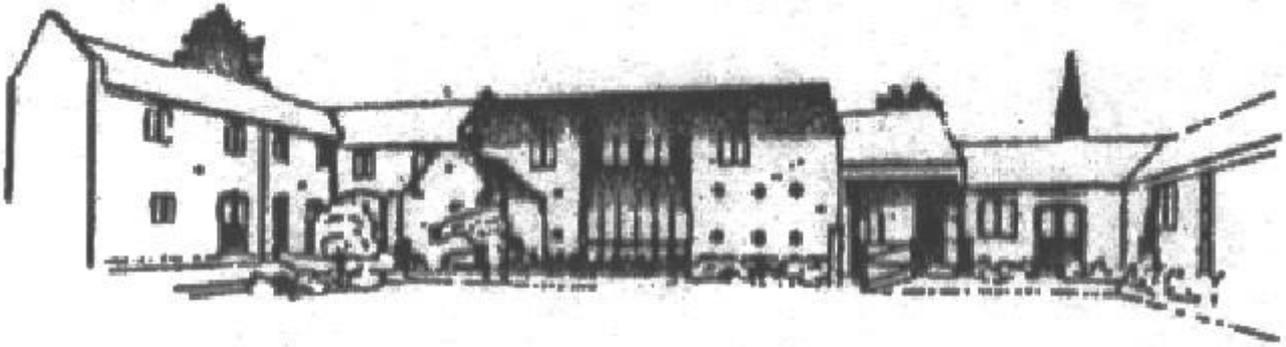
With spring and summer comes along a plan of social events: for the summer an annual garden party, summer fair and schedule of outings to various venues.

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Bleasby's tribute to the airmen who died over or very near our parish

The memorial is an abstract representation of a Lancaster, featuring its propeller and tailfins

Two Lancasters crashed over the hills above Goverton in 1943 and a Wellington came down somewhere near Station Farm or around the location of the current school in 1941 – all the three crews were killed - their names are inscribed around the propeller blades