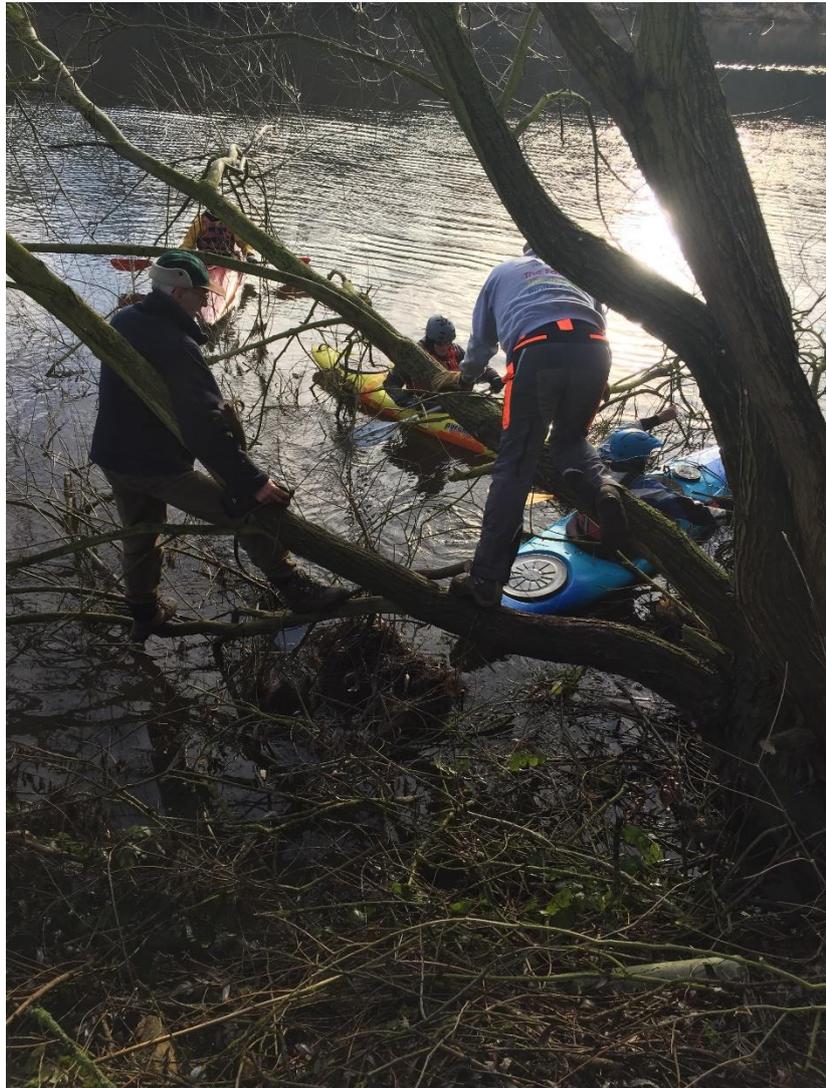


# **BLEASBY NEWS**



**VOLUNTEERS WORKING AT FERRY END**

**APRIL 2019**

## WELCOME TO THE APRIL EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

We have been enjoying a wonderful blaze of colour this spring – daffodils, crocus, violets, primroses – all in their glorious shades of yellow, purple and blue.

As the spring weather turns our minds to gardening, it reminds us to ask all of you gardeners of every kind of garden to consider opening them to our eager visitors on the forthcoming **Bleasby Open Gardens and Church** on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We have selection of gardens already but would love to have a few more open – tidy, wild, children's, low maintenance, high maintenance – even no maintenance – all give a good variety to admire and from which to get gardening ideas. And if anyone is an avid vegetable grower that would be a bonus, We are also planning a grand floral display in St Mary's which will be open all day – flower arrangers of any ability are very welcome to help make the church a particular attraction on the day.

Please give serious consideration to the forthcoming **Parish Council elections**. Bleasby Parish Council needs some fresh blood. If you think you could make a contribution to parish life have a word with any councillor or contact the Parish Clerk on [bleasbyparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:bleasbyparishcouncil@outlook.com) Nominations are required by Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April!

On a more down to earth level, have a look at what is offered in the following pages for your enjoyment - regular meetings of the various village organisations and clubs, events in the village hall, outdoor activities for bikers and walkers, concerts, church services and seasonal events. It takes participants and, for some, audiences to keep them flourishing. Our community would be the poorer without them. How might you play a part?

We will be pleased to receive all types of articles, pictures, ideas and news etc – send all your items for the June edition by **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May**, to Rachael at [prandrew74@outlook.com](mailto:prandrew74@outlook.com) or Barbara at [barbaracast@btinternet.com](mailto:barbaracast@btinternet.com)

*Bleasby News editors, Barbara and Rachael*

## BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL – TAKING A PRIDE AND COMING OF AGE?

I consider myself very fortunate in often being at the 'interface' between visitors and one or another of our parish features, events, sites or scenes, feeling a modest pride welling up when, inevitably, they are so complimentary about our village and envious of having the good fortune to actually live in such a lovely place with so many desirable features and assets – let alone such a palpable sense of community spirit.

For over a year now, the Parish Plan has been the focus and direction for much activity, development and improvement – largely undertaken by groups of parishioners who have come together with some common interest or purpose, and building sometimes on what has gone before, often what has been overlooked or neglected and, at times, acting merely on intuition and initiative.

We now need to reflect upon how we are to sustain all this flurry of enthusiasm and progress, ensuring that opportunity is always offered and available to newer residents, youngsters and those of a more reserved or cautious nature. We need to actively encourage and value everyone's contribution so that the parish can run as a body with a continuum of involvement by all 'ages, stages and natures' of people, thereby ensuring the future viability, appeal and enhancement of our beloved parish of Bleasby.

Many of our village groups and organisations are dependent on the "young-at-heart" who are now attaining a 'certain level of maturity' and it could be that some of these stalwarts would quite like to hand over some of the reins to those who cannot talk quite so confidently about the Queen's Coronation or those wild years of the 60s!!

An opportunity for getting us all involved and making a contribution (even in our own quiet and small ways) individually or with neighbours, within groups or possibly by joining the Village Volunteers, is by taking part in ...

**"The Great British Bleasby Spring Clean"**  
From Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April

During that period we invite you to spot, identify, locate and report any features or areas of the parish which we could set about improving during this focus week and, if necessary, into the future by contacting the Parish Council by word of mouth, telephone, text, email or letter. Our newly appointed PC Clerk, Karen Green, and any councillor will be pleased to receive your suggestions. So, please – play your part in helping to enhance your parish and invest in its future - then we can all take pride in what we have all achieved.

*Peter Cast, Chair of the Parish Council*

**FROM THE REVD PHIL - 'THINGS AREN'T AS THEY WERE'**

Dear All, my daughter is 41, has two lovely children of 5 and 2, has married a good solid citizen (I overlook the football team he supports), she is popular, generally unselfish, beautiful and..... has breast cancer. This is not an uncommon experience of course, but it is for me. I get emotional only when she is referred to, or I think of her as 'my baby'....Well you would, wouldn't you? And I'm sure many who read this know all about facing such challenges.

I can wish it hasn't happened. I can think of the past and how it was cancer free. I can regret not being able to prevent it. I can give up the idea of having faith in a loving God. But I can't change anything! Things aren't what they were.

Isn't it easy to spend time and energy, wishing we were back in the past? Or thinking things were better back then? Would we really want to go back, and freeze things in time to try and preserve them? If we did, we are surely not 'fully present' in today. Since there are no guarantees for tomorrow, shouldn't we be embracing the present moment?

As to the nature of faith (in a loving and present God), it is a mystery. I'm not quite sure how or why I have it. It doesn't provide all the answers I would like and it certainly doesn't produce the life insurance for a smooth, transition-free cruise into eternity. But I wouldn't be without it or the sense of there being a new spirit ready for each approaching moment. Things can't be as they were. My baby is a mature woman with her own future and her own faith. I am blessed.

*Best wishes, The Revd Phil*

PS The day after I originally wrote this this, Ruth was declared clear following post-surgery tests!

phil\_07@btinternet.com - [www.westtrentchurches.co.uk](http://www.westtrentchurches.co.uk) – 07720 010066  
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](mailto:beneficeofwesttrent@gmail.com)



**JOHN MCMEEKING MBE,**  
**MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> 1929 –**  
**FEBRUARY 12<sup>th</sup> 2019**

John McMeeking died peacefully at home in Goverton in February with his family around him following a short illness. John and Jean moved to Bleasby from Nottingham soon after getting married over sixty years ago.

In a long and productive life he ran Nottingham lace making firm, AC Gill Ltd and was a past president of the Nottingham City Business Club.

However his real passion was for Nature Conservation and Bird Ringing. John was a founder member of the Notts Wildlife Trust at its inception in 1968 and spent many hours working towards the preservation of areas of

ancient woodland and other havens for nature within the county. He became Chairman of the Trust from 1989 to 1994, during which time he was awarded an MBE for services to nature conservation. In 2001 he was presented with the Treswell Award by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for his exceptional contribution. Additionally, in 2003,

John received The Christopher Cadbury Medal (presented by the Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to both nature conservation and the Wildlife Trusts. The citation for his Cadbury Medal referenced not only John's role in establishing many of our nature reserves but his "knowledge, dedication, unfailing wisdom, courtesy and kindness".

John was a heavily involved bird ringer too. He was at one stage Chairman of the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology). Many of his favourite times were spent in the field. In the 1970s he had been influential in a project marking Canada Geese at Clumber Park and other sites. And at Treswell Wood, an ancient woodland in the north of the county, he initiated a programme of regular bird ringing 47 years ago. The project has ringed or recorded the activities of over 100,000 birds and, at the age of 89, John was still visiting the site early on Sunday mornings right up until November last year. He leaves that project in good hands, with a committed team of enthusiasts to continue the work.

*We are grateful to Angus McMeeking for this information about John and also to Kirsteen, John's daughter, who sends this message "The family would like to express their gratitude to the village community who supported John and continue to support Jean. Even the smallest gesture makes the world of difference and is immensely appreciated. Thanks, Kirsty."*

*There was a goodly number of people from Bleasby Parish attending John's memorial service on 12<sup>th</sup> March and a splendid occasion it was.*

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> Baptism** - We were pleased to celebrate with Otilie Clark, her family and friends on the occasion of her baptism at St Mary's on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lee Gordon, a trainee priest, assisted Revd Phil at the service and kept the children engaged in her lively presentation about packing for a journey.

**Ash Wednesday** - We commemorated this day at Hoveringham with a benefice service of preparation for Lent.

**The Lent Course** - This course is looking at the Marys in the Bible and takes place at the Vicarage in Thurgarton on Thursday afternoons. If anyone would like to join us for the last one on Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup> they would be welcome. Lifts are available.

**Lent Lunches** - Soup and cheese lunches take place on Saturdays during Lent at various venues. There will be two in April, on 6<sup>th</sup> at Little Dower House and on 13<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall. So if you haven't yet been to one please do come and join us any time from 12.30 until 2pm. No tickets required but donations are invited for the various charities chosen by the hosts.

**Quinquennial Survey** - This five yearly architectural inspection of the church building and surroundings took place in early March, including checks to ensure all regulations and statutory inspections (electrical, fire, risk assessments etc) have been carried out. We await the report with interest and some trepidation. We are obliged to carry out any work deemed urgent within 12 months and other recommendations thereafter to ensure the upkeep of the building, both inside and out.

**Tree Survey** - Following extensive work on trees in the churchyard last year, the contractor has provided us with a detailed document of ongoing care and maintenance for the years to come. Hopefully this will avert danger from trees falling and avoid unexpected bills. We anticipate that Ali Sutherland and her team will be able to undertake much of the maintenance now that the major work has been done.

**Open Door** - More than twenty school children, younger siblings, friends and parents attended the after school club on March 18<sup>th</sup>. They enjoyed songs, activities and a story from Revd Phil about “The Great Family”, beginning with Abraham and Sarah – and of which we are all a part.

**School visit** - Apple Class came to Church on March 25<sup>th</sup> to learn about weddings. We are grateful to the children’s team at Jubilee House for the loan of costumes etc for the occasion. The children always love dressing up for a wedding.

**Trent Churches Choir Concert** - The choir will be performing “Choral Music for Lent and Passiontide” at Holy Trinity Church, Rolleston, on Palm Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Tickets, £5, are available from choir members or on the door. Proceeds from this concert are for Shelter.

**Good Friday Walk** - The Good Friday walk starts with coffee at Upton at 10am on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 12 for further details.

**Easter Day, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April** - As Easter Day falls on the third Sunday of the month when we normally have a joint service, the churches of the West Trent Benefice will meet together at Rolleston for a celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am. Lifts are available. We had a full church at Bleasby when Easter last coincided with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday so it would be wonderful if we could repeat this at Rolleston.

**Labyrinth** - Our benefice readers are setting up a Labyrinth in Rolleston Church on the theme of The Way of Light (also known as The Stations of the Resurrection). Each church and the children of Bleasby School have been asked to contribute a ‘prayer station’. Visitors will be invited to walk around the Labyrinth, stopping at each station to reflect on the work displayed. The Labyrinth will be open to visitors from Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, for four weeks. Revd Phil has organised transport to Rolleston for the children so that they can display their own work and experience the Labyrinth for themselves. Please support this venture, particularly the children’s work which was much admired last year. There is no charge.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** - The APCM, at which the officers of the church are elected by those on the Church Electoral Roll and all reports on the year’s work are presented to the parish for approval, will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April in the church at 6.30pm. Please come and join us – it is not a long meeting, and you will be very welcome.

*Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens*

## **EXPEDITION TO CAMBODIA**

My name is Katy Edinborough, I am 14 years old and I live here in Bleasby. In the summer of 2020 I will be taking a month-long expedition to Cambodia with my school (The Minster) and the international volunteer travel operator Camps International.

Whilst I am there, I will be doing lots of work to help the community and environment. This includes forest restoration work such as seed collecting and harvesting,

plastering and decorating buildings for families in need, tree planting and wildlife monitoring. This will all play an important role in allowing endangered animals to return and also aiding the people who live in and around the forest. As well as this, I will be helping to build a new classroom in the school of Beng Mealea - Cambodia is currently one of the poorest countries in the world and, with seasonal food shortages and a lack of employment opportunities, poverty is increasing. This work will make a huge difference to the lives of the young people.

However, the hard part... I have to raise £4000. I will be taking part in sponsored challenges (such as completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks at Easter) and organising events (for example I will be holding a garage sale soon) to help me reach this target. I would also really appreciate your support: if you have any jobs that need doing - for example babysitting, dog walking, cleaning etc. - please contact me via the email address [katyedinborough@gmail.com](mailto:katyedinborough@gmail.com). I already deliver the Bramley newspaper every month and regularly do jobs for people in the village, but every little helps!

*Many thanks in anticipation, Katy Edinborough*

## **JUBILEE PONDS – IS IT THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN?**

It has been a very confusing year with weather extremes blurring the once defined round of seasons. Autumn, winter and spring have barely been distinguishable. Were it not for our deciduous tree-leaf fall, determined more by decreasing day length than temperature or humidity, we could not have been sure where summer ended and autumn began. Similarly, as Earth tilts back towards the sun and the day length increases, we have the reassuring breaking of buds on the trees to confirm that spring is actually being defined. No wonder our ancient forebears went to great lengths to mark the passing of the seasons by their mathematically and astronomically devised stone circles and burial mound entrances. There can be no doubt that our weather patterns are changing and, with average world temperatures continuing to rise and weather extremes becoming more frequent, climate change cannot now be denied.

On the Jubilee Ponds we can observe a fall in numbers and species of winter visiting birds such as pochard, goldeneye, smew and long-tailed duck, and an increase in numbers and occurrences of more southerly species such as the little and great white egrets and a range of incoming warblers. Part of the changes in our own local bird populations can be attributed to loss of habitat such as meadow, pasture, marsh and ongoing gravel workings, all of which provided homes for lapwings, skylarks, redshanks, yellow wagtail, snipe, teal, wigeon, ringed plover and oyster catcher, which were common here in Bleasby until the closing decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and enjoyed by many of us less than fifty years ago.

Insects are taking a drastic tumble globally as well as locally and whilst our honeybees have been cautiously venturing forth from their hives throughout our so-called winter and bumble bees have been active on our sunnier winter days, we have to concede that there are considerably fewer insects buzzing around us, getting into hair or open 'bike-ride' mouths, startling us with the speed and mobility of some, humming gently

in the background on balmy days and the enchanting beauty of dancing butterflies. There may be some that annoy but the vast majority are beneficial and critical components of our ecosystem, not only pollinating our food plants but also providing the food base for many species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals – quite apart from dealing with all the unpleasant bi-products that other organisms produce! They are critical indicators of the state of our countryside and now once common insect feeding birds such as swallows, house martins, swifts and spotted flycatchers are in serious decline in this village as well as many other places. For them it is not so much the loss of habitat but more the use of herbicides and insecticides in and on our gardens and fields that has brought their populations crashing: though decreasing levels of stock-rearing locally have not helped.

During Bleasby School's Science Week, all the children were able to hear presentations from representatives of the Environment Agency and were encouraged to think and investigate scientifically. Four older classes made separate visits to the Jubilee Ponds and carried out water studies as well as seasonal identification and classification. Their findings were interesting – possibly alarming – for the range and populations of water invertebrates were very low. Indicator species suggested that oxygen levels in the water were high enough for a good range of life and water temperatures of 8 degrees suggested that life should be multiplying, even though 'spring' is only just emerging. Many of these elusive invertebrates being excitedly and enthusiastically sought were, of course, insect species in their nymph or larval stages. Is this merely a seasonal factor or a more serious indication of decline? The children will test this hypothesis later in the year when comparative results will help provide the answer.

Our children's future is in our hands. We must all ensure that we care for our planet and do our best to ensure that critical steps are taken **now** to address the plastic, pollutant and global warming factors that put our beautiful world in jeopardy.

*Peter Cast*

### **INSPIRED BY A JUBILEE PONDS WORK PARTY**

In the woods I had fun in the sun with Peter Cast and my mum and my neighbour with my sister and my brother shouting whisker mum picked me up she could not stop laughing she could not.

We found a flower it was yellow it had petals like a meadow.  
My neighbour sat down and did a prayer - I joined in with lots of care.  
Peter had brought chocolate for everyone I ate some with some tea it was yummy.

I climbed the tree up so high the highest one in my life!

*Maria age 7*

*PS We took cakes and gave one to Peter - he said "great" to me.*

## **NEW EDITORS WANTED**

Rachael and I have been editing, compiling, writing for etc Bleasby News since 2008 – eleven years by my calculation.

We were pleased to see that Bleasby News is the means most people use for news and information about Bleasby, Gibsmere and Goverton as demonstrated by the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire.

We have enjoyed – I think that is the word – our time as editors but now is the time for some other people to take over. If you would like Bleasby News to continue new editors must be found. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who thinks they might like to take over – all the help we can provide in the transition will be given.

We hope to hear from you.

*Barbara 830284 – Rachael 830296*

## **PLANS TO DEVELOP BLEASBY COMMUNICATION**

The recent Bleasby Parish Plan identified a need from the community to enhance the utilisation and format of present communication platforms and to ensure that protocols are in place to meet GDPR requirements for managing personal data and to properly control publication content. In a moment of weakness a few months ago I volunteered to help establish a small steering group to take responsibility for implementing the objectives of the Parish Plan. The first priority is to establish in more detail exactly what improvements the community would like to see, with the main objectives being to:

- help promote the activities of local interest groups, businesses and visitor attractions
- keep the community informed about events in Bleasby and surrounding parishes
- ensure relevant information from the Parish, District and County Councils and other public organisations is easily visible to residents

In order to develop the plan further, I will be working closely with the Parish Council and local organisations to ensure their ideas and requirements are taken on board. This will result in a more detailed plan being published, identifying the agreed improvements and timings. As things evolve, I expect a need for additional volunteers will emerge to help share the workload and to establish the foundations for the longer term running of village communication activities. If you have experience with editorial / copy proof reading and writing or social media or website design / layout, photography or graphic design and might be interested in helping, then please get in touch. Should you have any positive ideas on how to develop and improve communication in and around Bleasby, I would be very happy to hear from you.

*Many thanks, Mike Fryer, 07970 649091 (if you prefer that I call you, please text me with your name and a brief message)*

## **RECRUITING CAMPAIGN**

**Are you 18 or older?**

**BLEASBY NEEDS YOU!**

**Here is a critical and exciting opportunity for**

**YOU**

**to seriously consider becoming a  
Parish Councillor!**

**We need: New Blood – New Ideas – and YOU!**

**You will receive - oodles of appreciation, support,  
encouragement, understanding and patience.**

**Whatever your age, stage, or vision, take a positive step into  
the future for you, your family and your community!**

**BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR  
(Or, at least, find a worthy alternative willing to be  
nominated)**

**Please phone Peter Cast, current Chair, on 830284 if you  
have any queries**

For your nomination papers contact the Parish Clerk on  
[bleasbyparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:bleasbyparishcouncil@outlook.com) or the Returning Officer at  
Newark and Sherwood District Council and return to N&SDC by  
4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

## FIBRE BROADBAND FOR BLEASBY

Hopefully, following our mailing, you will be aware of our campaign to get Full Fibre Gigabit broadband into our village or, in BT terminology, Ultrafast Broadband. **We have an update meeting at the school on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, from 7pm – 9pm, with a rolling presentation every 30 minutes.** The fibre broadband will reliably deliver 5 to 10 times the download speed of the very best of existing services and put the parish into the best 5% in the country. The service will have equal upload speeds, vital for those working at home.

This is a community project and is totally dependent on support from people who wish to subscribe and become involved in the installation. We have been working with F4RN, a Community Benefit Company set up in Fiskerton, to extend their network and we have been impressed by the great sense of community which has been generated by their project. F4RN now has around 150 subscribers and this continues to grow. Lots more information on F4RN is available on their web site <http://f4rn.org.uk/>.

Latest news in mid March is -

- Over 50 Bleasby households are interested in becoming subscribers, 10 of these are companies.
- Funding support from the Government Gigabit Voucher scheme has been confirmed: every domestic subscriber pays £100 for the voucher which generates £500 towards the project.
- F4RN have agreed to supply the materials for us to install high speed fibre to the school.
- F4RN have an extraordinary general meeting this month to formally agree to expand their network.

The project will be focussed on the core of the village initially, and although we did not mail Gibsmere and Goverton, we have had interest from residents there. Our plan is to extend the service into these hamlets once the initial project is completed.

It might be surprising, but getting the fibre across the fields to Bleasby is not the most difficult of jobs – this video show how this is done <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1058062994285585>. What will be more time consuming is taking individual fibres to each house. Having a good turnout of volunteers, and good supply of tea and cake is essential! We are keen to get all ages involved, it's a great opportunity to master the technology. The headline may be the broadband speed, but equally important is replacing the copper telephone connection which may have been in place for sixty or more years and can result in a significant number of reliability problems. The other cause of problems can be internal issues with cabling and Wi-Fi, and the new service is a great opportunity to resolve these issues for good.

This is a significant project but it will sustain Bleasby Parish as an attractive location to live with good electronic communication, alongside good road communication via

the A1, M1, rail via the East Coast mainline and air via the improved A453 access to the East Midlands Airport. Come along to our meeting or getting touch by email [Fibre4Bleasby@gmail.com](mailto:Fibre4Bleasby@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

*Geoff Lester and Phil Hill*

## **SWING-INTO-SHAPE**

My name is Michele, and for those of you who don't know, I run a 'Swing-into-Shape' class at Bleasby Village Hall. We are a small friendly group, who like to have some fun while exercising. We exercise safely, without taking it too seriously. The exercises take the form of choreographed routines to popular music. This is tailored to suit all ages and abilities, for beginners, those returning to exercise and the experienced. I also include a couple of floor exercises, followed by a relaxing stretch to finish. We are a very sociable group, we have a Christmas party in the village hall, and we also have an annual visit to a local tea room in the summer.

As spring has sprung, now is the perfect time to get your body ready for summer, and make sure it's fit to be seen on the beach! Interested in joining us? You can find us at Bleasby Village Hall on Tuesday mornings 10–11.15 am - (£5.00 per session). Any newcomers would be made most welcome. I can't promise to get you into a size 10, but I can promise you'll have fun trying!

For further information, you can contact me on 01949 851923, or just come along and have a go.

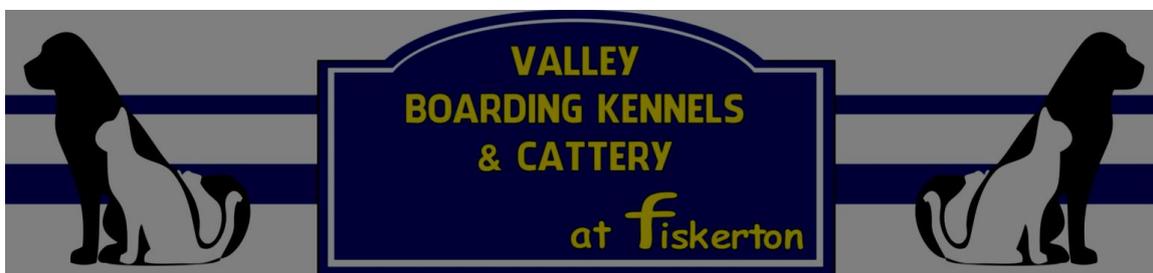
*Michele Robson, the Swing-Into-Shape Organisation*

## **GOOD FRIDAY WALK 2019**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** - We will start at Upton and walk via Rolleston, Morton (soup lunch provided here but bring your own picnic if you wish) Bleasby, Thurgarton Methodist Chapel, finishing with tea at Hoveringham. There will be a short period of reflection of 10-15 minutes in each church. Walking from church to church provides an opportunity to reflect on what you have heard, to enjoy conversation and the companionship of others. There are usually about 20 people walking at any one time. Please join us for the whole day, part of the day or drop into a service. We look forward to seeing you. Coffee will be served at Upton from 10am.

Service times - Upton 10.15 - Rolleston at 11am - Morton at 12.00 - Bleasby at 1.45  
- Thurgarton at 2.45 - Hoveringham at 3.45

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## **BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The February lecture was greatly enjoyed by those with happy memories of Skegness as Bob Massey gave us an illustrated talk on the history of one of the favourite local holiday venues. March 26<sup>th</sup> was the AGM: those attending were asked to come along with an artefact, something dug up from their gardens, or memory of the parish or a written account of something special which had happened in Bleasby.

Moving on we have on April 23<sup>rd</sup> what should be a really interesting talk by Laura Binns of Trent and Peak Archaeology on the recent excavations at Nottingham Castle, and then on May 28<sup>th</sup> a welcome return of Dr Richard Gaunt who will give a presentation on political cartoons through the ages.

We are very pleased to see visitors and new members at any of our lectures.

*Barbara Cast - President of Bleasby Local History Society*

## **LAKE DISTRICT HOLIDAY COTTAGE**

**Borrowdale Road, Keswick**

**3 Bedrooms | Sleeps 6**

**TO LET**

**Fully refurbished holiday cottage with gas central heating,  
open fire place and private parking**

**Views overlooking the fells, front and rear gardens,  
superb location**

**For further details please ring  
01636 830209 | 07812 101303**

## OUR MUCH VISITED AIRCREWS MEMORIAL

The Aircrews Memorial in the Glebe Field continues to attract much attention. Nearly always when in that area of the parish people are seen looking at it and, if spoken to, being interested in its raison d'être and admiring of its significance. The periodic raising of the flags has, in itself, caused a deal of local interest.

Two very important visitors recently were the niece and great-nephew of Jack Blackett who was killed when the two Lancasters crashed over the Goverton Hills – he was only twenty. Sheila and her son Andrew had travelled down from Durham especially to view the memorial, Sheila not being able to come to the dedication on 1<sup>st</sup> September due to illness. Sheila remembered that her mother, the sister of Jack and very close to him, had never really recovered from the loss of her brother. It was a very emotional visit for Sheila and, indeed for those of us with her as she related that, as a child, she remembers being wrapped in his flying jacket for warmth.

There is photograph of Jack amongst those displayed in the Waggon and Horses.

Do please remember to sign the visitors' book when you are next in the pub.



Sheila and Andrew, niece and great-nephew of Jack Blackett

## Bleasby Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	12.30pm till 2pm	Fourth Lent Lunch	Sutton House
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March - 14 <sup>th</sup> April		Great British Bleasby Spring Clean	All around the parish
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service with the Trent Churches Choir	St Peter's Thurgarton
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	By 4pm	Deadline for nominations for election to the Parish Council	To the Returning Officer N&SDC
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	12.30pm till 2pm	Fifth Lent Lunch	Little Dower House
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April		School holidays start	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	6.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Council meeting	St Mary's
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	12.30pm till 2pm	Sixth Lent Lunch	Village Hall
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Palm Sunday concert - Trent Churches Choir	Holy Trinity Rolleston
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Annual meeting of Bleasby WI	Village Hall
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Service of Tenebrae	St Denis Morton
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Trinity Rolleston
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Good Friday walk	From Upton Church
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10.30am	Easter Sunday Benefice Service of Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Rolleston
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April		School resumes	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Local History Society with Laura Binns on Nottingham Castle Excavations	Village Hall
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	10am - 12noon	Friendship Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm	Footpath walk	Halloughton village
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Day and evening	Parish and District elections	Polling station Village Hall

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Annual Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee	Village Hall
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Southwell Choral Society sing Elgar and Rutter	Southwell Minster
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Annual meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm	Footpath walk	Usually Gypsy Lane Chestnut tree
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May		Deadline for June's Bleasby News	
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI - discussing resolutions & campaigns	Village Hall
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May		School holidays start	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Local History Society with Richard Gaunt on Political Cartoons	Village Hall
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	10am - 12noon	Friendship Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	1pm - 6pm	Bleasby Open Gardens and Church	

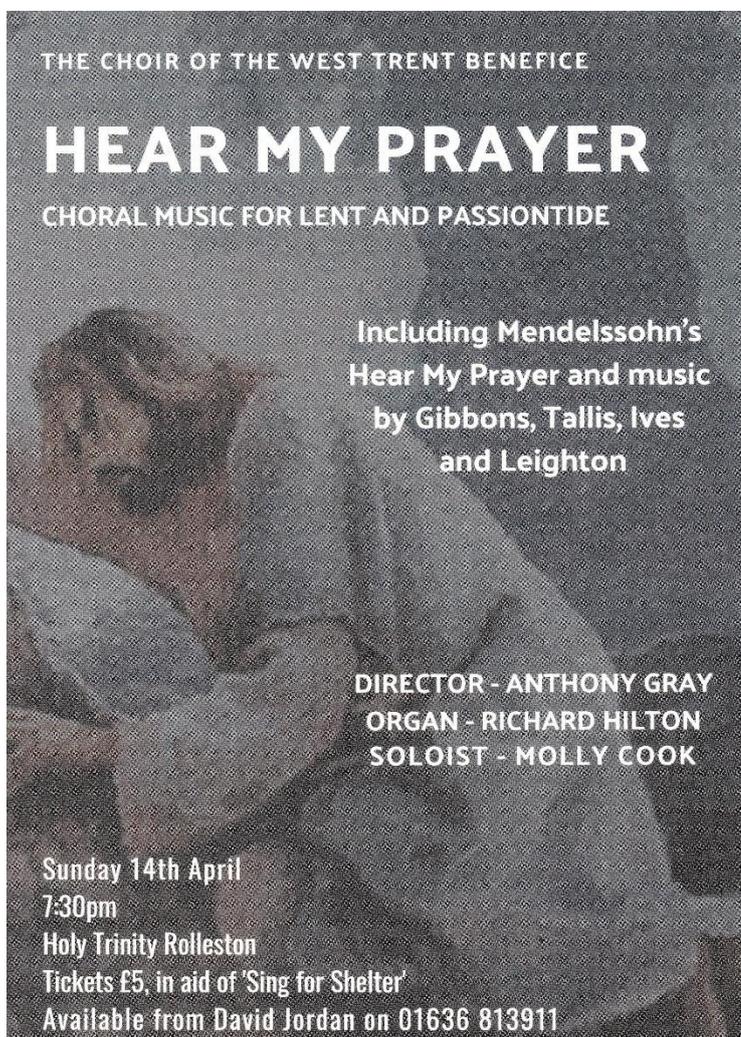
### ST MARY'S CHURCH, BLEASBY, LENT LUNCHESES

Come and join us at one (or more) of the remaining Lent lunches for soup and cheese, held from 12.30 to 2.00. No ticket required. Donations on the day for the hosts' chosen charity

March 30th	Rachael and Philip Andrew	Sutton House
April 6th	Barbara and Peter Cast	Little Dower House
April 13th	PCC	Village Hall



So many great events held in our Village Hall – weekly Playgroup Sessions each Monday morning with activities such as craft – example here – bring your little ones along!



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Do come and support this Palm Sunday Concert in aid of Shelter – 730pm on 14<sup>th</sup> April - tickets available from Alison Salter, Barbara Cast and Jenny Sterland

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

April	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am HC		6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>							10am HC
Palm Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE
Maundy Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>				7pm Tenebrae			
Good Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>					2pm Stations of the Cross		
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Easter Day					10.30am Benefice HC	8am Breakfast Communion with Methodists	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am MPE		10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am with Methodists	10.30am MPE

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

May	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 MPE		6pm EP	9.00 HC	10.30 MPE	10.30 MPE	10.30 HC
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>							10.00 HC
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>		10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 MPE	10.30 MPE	10.30 HC	10.30 MPE
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 Benefice HC						
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 MPE		12 noon short service at the tractor rally	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 with Methodists	9.00 HC

### **COUNTRYSIDE AND FOOTPATHS GROUP**

Our two walks since the last edition of Bleasby News have been markedly different. The first, with our standard one mile or so short walk, followed by a four mile or so longer walk, was based in Hoveringham parish and initially included a most attractive series of back-routes in and around the village itself, brightened by sunshine, good company and a ‘host of showy snowdrops’. We parted ways and the group of 9 year going on 90 year olds then almost completely circled the perimeter of a gloriously natural looking, dug and restored gravel pit, worthy of the Lake District itself!

The most recent walk, of similar length and arrangement, included our northerly parish footpaths and embraced a section of Halloughton domain by following Halloughton Dumble on its meandering way through woodland and by a badger sett and reeded pond – all on our own doorstep!

We are currently working with this area’s Rights of Way officer in order to more sensitively mark our rights of way, recognising that Notts County Council has an obligation to mark footpaths and bridleways where they meet the highway. She has been keen to become involved in the group’s footpath observations and feedback.

NB – owing to the next usual footpath date falling on Easter Sunday, the next walk will be on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, and will be the continuation of the walk along Halloughton Dumble into that village itself.

*The C&F Group*

### **NEWS OF AN OLD FRIEND**

We were really pleased to receive a phone-call recently from Chris Brill. He lived in Bleasby with his late wife Christine for many years – latterly on Sycamore Lane. He is now living near his son Tim and family in Stamford. He has very fond memories of times in Bleasby and extends his greetings to all.



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## **BLEASBY BIKERS**

With over sixty members, the Bleasby Bikers have enjoyed (or, perhaps, endured) the winter months, with strong turnouts for the regular Sunday rides. Battling wind-chill, but fortunately, not too much ice on the roads this year, many riders put some good mileages down, giving us a strong start to the new road-cycling season. Spring brings the opportunity to ride in 'sportives,' non-competitive but organised and well-signed routes in other parts of the country, with many hundreds (or sometimes thousands) of other amateur cyclists. To date, members have travelled to rural Staffordshire and to Rutland to participate, and further expeditions are planned for later in the year including some who are riding 100-mile closed road routes in the West Midlands and County Durham.

New members, who must be over eighteen years of age, are very welcome. We focus on road cycling only, with cyclists from all the surrounding villages in the club, and we are affiliated to British Cycling. There are three different sections based on ability and ambition; the 'Easy Riders' cycling at a nice steady pace for up to 30 miles, and always enjoying a good coffee break mid-ride. Our intermediate group, called the "Roleurs" (after the term used in Grand Tours like the Tour de France for racing cyclists considered a good all-rounders) typically cycle up to 50 miles, take in more hills and ride at a stronger pace, usually around 16mph. And we have a smaller group of riders who set off earlier than anyone else, ride longer distances at a faster pace,

and love steep hills. We have names for them too, but perhaps some of them are not for repeating here!

We have busy year ahead, with a day riding and exploring the pubs of the Vale of Belvoir (always a popular trip!), a Peak District day, regular Sunday rides starting at the Waggon and Horses and our big annual weekend away, this year based in Ledbury, Herefordshire, giving riders the chance to explore the Malvern Hills, the Wye Valley and the Black Mountains.

If you're interested in hearing more about us, please contact me at [bleasbybikers@btinternet.com](mailto:bleasbybikers@btinternet.com) for an information pack.

*Colin Stump, Club Secretary*

## **BLEASBY WI**

Bleasby Village Hall was packed in February to hear the talk entitled "Aspects of Japan". Our speaker was very knowledgeable about Japan having lived and worked there as a young man, married into a large Japanese family and having a Japanese daughter-in-law. We were impressed by the beauty of the countryside and the gardens, the politeness and conscientiousness of the people and the cleanness of everywhere. We were more non-plussed by the stringent work ethic of, on the whole, the men and the seemingly enforced domesticity of the women once married. Also we agreed that the children's school life was onerous and evidently exhausting. Lots of plusses to a beautiful country but with some drawbacks in the people's lifestyle!

The speaker in March gave us advice on colour coordination. Apparently if one sticks to a limited colour palette that suits the complexion and hair colour, then great savings can be made as each item in the wardrobe will go with any other item. So ladies, next time you reach for your bikini you will be confident that your sarong will look stunning with it. Best to keep the sarong firmly attached with the demonstrated buckle though, especially as many, if not most, of us are of a certain age and have bodies ravaged by time and too much good living. To be serious, there was some useful advice about different fabrics, their drape and texture and an encouragement to experiment with these.

Letters have been received from the Newark Beaumont House Hospice and also Literacy Partners for the cheques sent to them at the end of the year as a result of our charitable activities.

As well as talks our meetings are always interesting and sociable, often with extras such as tombolas and sales of themed items. And there are opportunities for all sorts of activities - craft, sport, visits and cultural events. If you live in Bleasby Parish or are local to Bleasby and are interested in joining or just seeing what we are like, do come along to the Village Hall on a third Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm. You will be warmly welcomed.

*Rachael Andrew and Barbara Cast*

## **STACEY DOO DOOLEY INVESTIGATES...**

Sat at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday discussing dog fouling, always nice, I found myself not being able to confidently contribute. Not being a dog owner myself I'm unfamiliar with where in the village is a 'good dog walk'. We were discussing if we should get an additional dog poo bin in the village (at a cost of) and if so, where should it be put. Apologies for using the word poo but faeces and excrement are equally uncomfortable to write. So I decided to investigate and thought which responsible dog walker could help me on this quest?!

**"Good evening Reverend Phil"**

*"Good Evening"*

**"Do you ever walk your dog in Bleasby?"**

*"Yes, I've walked through the churchyard and the footpaths at the back of the church"*

**"Do you use the dog poo bins in Bleasby?"**

*"No, I'm not even sure where they are"*

**"So you don't have any suggestions where would be a good location for an additional bin?"**

*"erm, not really, near the Glebe Field?"*

**"Well, erm, there's one already across the road there so probably not needed, moving on"**

**"Can I ask what you do then to clear up after your dog? You don't do that bag it and leave it hanging on a hedge do you, what's that all about?"**

*"Never!!! No no no I think it's a terrible thing to do. I have my own shoulder bag with all the equipment necessary to take it away. It's just a question of getting into the habit, I have the poop scoop and I even have a torch in case it's at night so that I can find it. I'm not sure why anybody does that! My wife is even more fastidious, she has wet wipes in case it makes a mess on the pavement and cleans it up!"*

**"Ahhh, that's brilliant. You might not have been able to help me solve the problem of where would be a good spot for another bin, but you have flown the flag high for responsible dog walkers and that's really great, thank you."**

So, having drawn a blank with the lovely Rev Phil, if anyone has any useful information or ideas regarding where would be a good location for an additional bin, please email the parish clerk. Alternatively, if you would like one in a specific location you could perhaps 'sponsor a dog bin'!

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## **FLOOD ACTION GROUP – SCALING THE HEIGHTS!**

Thanks to recent appeals and responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire, our group membership continues to rise with many villagers offering their support in times of flood. We are especially delighted that we can also announce the training of two new Flood Wardens to join the team – Mike Fryer and Gordon McLean, who will take up official duties at times of flood, working in conjunction with the major services, providing support within our emergency team, helping to erect appropriate signage, monitoring and reporting emerging conditions and being alert to risks across the parish and, especially, within designated areas with their specific undertakings.

We would like to thank Martin Shaw, a trained flood warden of many years' service - including real flooding response experience, who has held the fort until replacements, willing to undertake the training, could be found. Thank you most sincerely Martin, on behalf of the parish!

Currently Elaine France and Ali Sutherland are updating our Parish Emergency Plan following February Bleasby News' appeal for information of folk who may be at risk – they will be working in conjunction with the Church and school on such things as emergency accommodation should it be needed.

Earlier this year we were invited by Nottinghamshire County Council Resilience Forum to become involved in a major national initiative as a result of the many years of effective development and operation in local flood management by Bleasby FAG.

We are currently discussing the possibility of jointly investigating – and hopefully instigating – a number of projects that the group has put forward. We now understand that we have already been shortlisted from a large number of nationwide organisations and local authorities! Our involvement should bring additional focus and support to those smaller rural communities, such as our own, which have ‘lost-out’ to bigger flood vulnerable settlements and areas. Please let us know of any ideas which you may have that could be included (even incidentally) on our expanding list of potential projects.

We are all at risk, merely because we live in the Trent Valley, and BFAG has witnessed from past flooding experiences just how effective and necessary community support can be at such times.

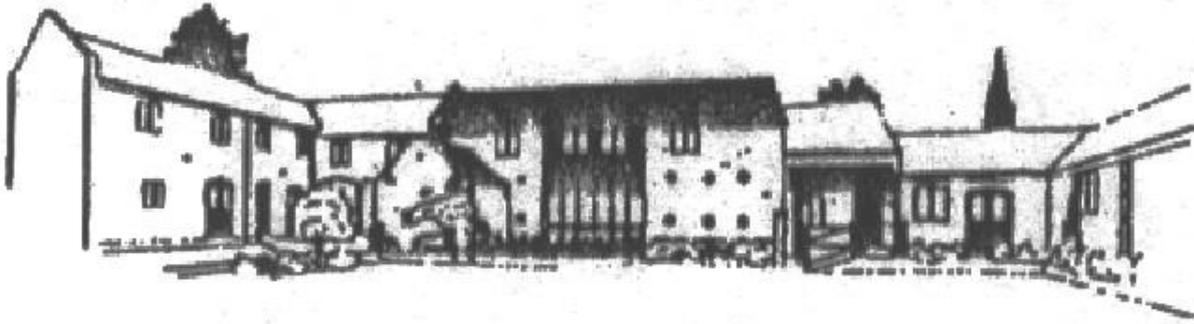
*Bleasby Flood Action Group*



For more information, please ring  
07402 449863

### **ANTHONY HARVEY OF ORCHARD CLOSE**

We were saddened to hear of the death of Tony Harvey. His funeral was held in St Mary’s Church on 18<sup>th</sup> February when his family and friends heard a very special eulogy by his son which included an account of Tony’s career in the RAF and subsequently as a welcoming host of several local hostelries. We also heard about his regular mantra when saying farewell – “Keep safe – don’t rush”.



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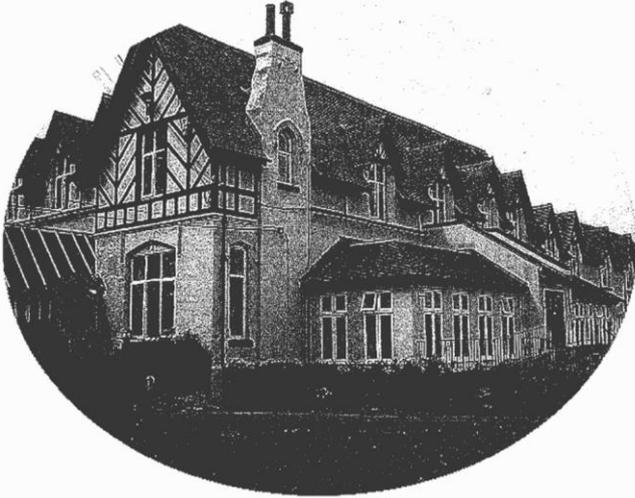
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We have a person centred approach to the care of the residents: this approach is vital to ensure the best possible outcome and wellbeing.

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.

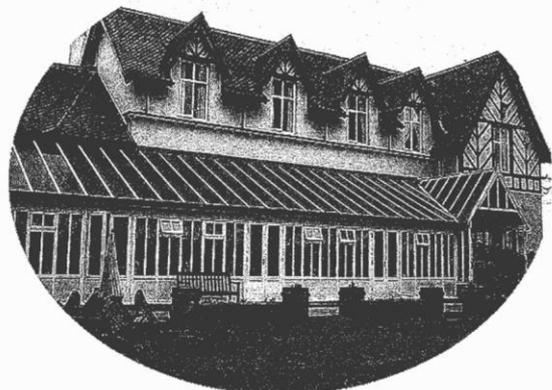
Please feel able to visit our home at any time – a warm welcome awaits you. We encourage families to also have an input into the plans the home may make. We hold family and friends of the home evenings.

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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## **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.

<b>Outgoing stopping point</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> service</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> service</b>
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
<b>Returning stopping point</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> service</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> service</b>
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, Farnsfield.*

## Summary Train Timetable until 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

	<b>From Bleasby to Nottingham *</b>	<b>From Bleasby to Newark Castle **</b>
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;07.11;08.19;10.11; 12.15;15.12;17.11;18.09;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
	<b>From Nottingham to Bleasby</b>	<b>From Newark Castle to Bleasby</b>
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;06.50;07.58;09.49;11.52; 14.49;16.48;17.47;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

## **BLEASBY SCHOOL SCIENCE WEEK**

Science Week has been absolutely fantastic with the father of Conrad in year 5 kicking off the week with a truly inspirational and engaging presentation to the whole school about his and his wife's experiences as Polar Explorers. The children were spellbound by the images and tales of their adventures.

Each class has had a programme of exciting events and lessons. Members of the RSPB visited **Maple Class** who collected material and used the natural materials to create a class collage and enjoyed looking for birds through binoculars. They got green fingered and planted potatoes, seeds of radish, beetroot and a variety of flowers in their class vegetable patch in the school garden.

**Chestnut Class** really enjoyed Science Week and took part in lots of different activities – they have been pond dipping, collecting, observing and classifying some pond life creatures as well as learning about the Jubilee Ponds. Representatives of the Environment Agency came in to explain about their work keeping our waterways healthy. They also brought in a variety of river invertebrates for the children to look at and classify. The children also made bird feeders, built bug hotels and planted out their potatoes.

**Oak Class** began the week by creating volcanic eruptions! The children combined food chemicals to make a simulated pyroclastic flow which was very exciting. They

shared a volcanic pudding and propelled cars using elastic bands. At the Jubilee Ponds the class researched pond invertebrates and learned about habitats and how animals adapt to suit their environment and brought some pond water back to keep in a tank to watch what grows using a microscope.

**Willow Class** made boats. The task was to make a boat from junk modelling materials, which could float across the Southern Ocean to Antarctica with cargo and passengers aboard. They were designed thinking about the properties of materials and which ones to use to make a strong and waterproof vessel. The boats were tested to see which could carry the cargo and passengers. Even though there were so many different shapes, materials and designs used, lots of the boats were a success!

**Cedar Class** were busy with a project to design and create a powered vehicle, combining technology skills to produce a wooden chassis for the vehicles and using scientific understanding of electrical circuits to plan and build models. The visit from the Environment Agency to look at the water cycle and the effect of pollutants and invasive species on native species in our waterways was really insightful. The class also endured the windy weather to go pond dipping at the Jubilee Ponds.

**Cherry Class** were taught how to create elephant's toothpaste. They were also joined by Holly and Alicia-Mae from the RSPB when the different habitats provided for animals and birds in the school grounds were explored and their locations colour-coded on maps. The class garden plot was organised with the planting of chitted potatoes and seeds and they also created bug hotels. They also ventured to the Jubilee Ponds and woods for an afternoon of pond-dipping and learned a great deal from the guide.

**Apple Class** started the week with Garden and Grow when they planted seed potatoes in the class garden plot and some wild flower seeds in a planter in the outdoor area. They made some bird feeders which were hung in the trees around the garden area. They undertook an investigation called 'Slippery Slopes' when different liquids were tested to see how they travelled down the slope to see which was the quickest. Water, jelly, shaving foam and oil were used for making predictions – the results were recorded. Their final investigation was 'Tunnel Engineers' when tunnels

were built using sand, pebbles and sticks to see which material was the best for building.

The School particularly want to thank all the visitors, parents and grandparents who came into school and helped with activities and visits. A particular thanks to Mrs Price who, as Science Lead, planned an excellent Science Week. Finally the school shared the fabulous work in a special assembly.

*Bleasby School*



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*Sarah Volkes Director of Correct Hearing*

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