

BLEASBY NEWS



FRANK RICHARDSON OF GIBSMERE FARM

OCTOBER 2017



Bleasby's Christmas Celebration

Saturday, 9th December

Starts at 6pm

Salvation Army
Brass Band

Carols

Star Decoration &
Instrument Making

At St Mary's Church &
Glebe Field, Bleasby

Refreshments at the
Waggon & Horses

Tealight & raffle
ticket for each child

Winning raffle ticket
turns on the lights !

Organised by Bleasby Parish Council & St Mary's Church

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

Autumn seems to have swept in early and with unwelcome speed - accompanied by squally weather. The leaves are showing their colours once again and our gardens are preparing for the colder weather: as is the wildlife which inhabits our gardens – hopefully they will find plenty of places to shelter, plenty of food to eat. And let's hope that there is still time for an Indian summer.

Still on the subject of unwelcome speed, there has been an interactive sign just beyond the railway crossing which noticeably slowed down traffic. Unfortunately it has now been removed as it is a peripatetic one which pops up in various villages from time to time. More permanent, we hope, are the stickers designed by children from our school which are fixed to more and more dustbins each week. If you haven't got one yet, contact one of the parish councillors or leave a marker on your bin on Sunday evenings when stickers are being fixed. We do hope this initiative will have the desired effect of making the village a safer place for drivers and pedestrians.

We always look forward to receiving your articles, photos, ideas, news etc so please send plenty for the December edition to:- Rachael Andrew, Sutton House, prandrew74@outlook.com or Barbara Cast, Little Dower House, barbaracast@btinternet.com by Monday 20th November.

Your Editors, Rachael and Barbara

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – LOCATION! LOCATION!

The Council has set much store on the value and importance of producing a carefully constructed Parish Plan that is community driven, based on community responses and established as a programmed strategy to meet the needs, concerns and aspirations of residents over at least the next five years. To these ends the returns from the Steering Group's questionnaire, being a touchstone and measure of local fact and opinion, will provide a sound basis for the construction of a programme of improvement across a range of parish matters.

In all, 195 household returns were received either online or on paper. With all requested anonymity respected, these were independently analysed. Initial analysis of the results revealed some very interesting statistics. For instance the appeal of the village and, therefore, choice of it as a residence and degree of contentment with it, was wide-ranging. Of the 188 who completed the appropriate section it was revealed that the following features of the parish were identified in order of importance:-

- Rural location and attractiveness – 98%
- Open spaces – 91%
- Community spirit – 84%
- Size of village – 81%
- The Waggon and Horses – 74%
- The Church – 66%
- The School – 58%

These results might have been predictable but, nevertheless, to have it confirmed is not only reassuring but is also critical in ensuring that we all remain conscious of that which we value and that, sometime in the future, we don't "kill the goose that lays the golden eggs"!

On the downside, there are some real concerns which take some of the "gilt off the gingerbread" – transport in its various guises being the greatest source of annoyance, resulting in yet another set of 188 responses producing the following level of objections:-

- Speeding traffic – 78%
- Poor public transport – 71%
- Parking congestions – 59%

These were followed in order of concern by:-

- Lack of amenities – 57%
- Too much development – 46%

There could be much read into these bald statistics but the 107 written comments and suggestions received on the matter of managing speeding and the 86 on parking problems will help provide the necessary context, experience and a vast range of ideas on how these and other concerns expressed in the questionnaire might be addressed. The loss and lack of amenities is keenly felt by many respondents but, if some of these amenities could be more easily accessed by a more frequent bus service to Southwell, including evenings and weekends, then this might not prove such a significant shortcoming, especially for our young people and older residents. Please therefore support our Medilink service to Southwell on Tuesdays and Thursdays even if it is not critical to you at the current stage of your life – **if** we show a commitment to our current bus service, however infrequent, we may do well out of a forthcoming review of transport services which could include specific routes **through** Bleasby. Regarding our railway service, some respondents will be glad to know that we **do** now have a Sunday service.

Valuing our existing facilities at Manor Farm Teashop and the Waggon and Horses is important, as is supporting where we can local tradesfolk, home services and the woodyard. As ever, it could be that we need to use them or lose them!

No less than 80% of 176 respondents value and enjoy community events and it is hoped that some of this group might come together to help support events such as our Christmas Lights and Carols which is already booked for Saturday, 9th December.

We do have talents, ability and wide-ranging strengths and interests across the parish and the willingness and enthusiasm shown for establishing clubs, societies and activities would see us well for the dark nights of winter. There can now be sensed a real desire to bridge the age ranges and to embark upon a renewal within the parish of Bleasby – please help us all achieve it!

Peter Cast on behalf of the Parish Council

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Dear All

I was diagnosed in 2012 as having type 2 diabetes. The doctor, on giving me the news in front of several medical staff, said I could swear if I liked. So I did! But not badly. I was not an obvious candidate: not overweight, nor eating a poor diet nor drinking too much. Hopefully that's still true. But I have tried to be informed about 'healthy eating'. But who do you believe? What is true about food and diet, and what is false?

I have recently discarded the use of almond milk. I once thought this to be a better alternative to cow's milk, but I have believed a health expert who now describes it as 'expensive water'. I'm using short-hand because it was in a very long article, asking the question about what really is true about our food. Many have gone after celebrity diet plans written with evangelical fervour by usually beautiful and svelte looking gurus. Unlike the ones who buy the expensive books! Experts are usually overlooked in favour of passionate advocates playing to our (legitimate) fears about food.

Do we live in a 'post truth' era, where we 'Brexit' more on the basis of how we feel than on known facts. We have a French President who is elected without a party, an American President who is a former reality star and a British Prime Minister who....ok I'll stop there. How do we know what is true anymore? Could we make a list of things that we know are true, and that wouldn't make us objects of internet trolling if we put it online?

Could it be that faith gives us a foundation for what to believe? Faith of course based on some facts, some feelings and a lot of hope in God being good. Perhaps it's more needed than ever?

GK Chesterton famously said (with a loving Christian God in view)

*"When men choose not to believe in God,
they do not thereafter believe in nothing,
they then become capable of believing in anything".*

Are we there yet?

Blessings

The Revd Phil

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

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

BLEASBY PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - THE RESULTS ARE IN!

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return their questionnaire to us and to those of you who helped deliver and collect the questionnaires. We were delighted to receive a return of 63%. Your input is hugely appreciated and, going forward, your comments and answers will be crucial in enabling our beautiful village to continue to thrive and flourish. Thanks to your valuable input and suggestions, we now have some clear and positive ideas about how we can all work together to improve our community and experiences.

Residents are particularly proud of our supportive community spirit. We offer an impressive range of social and community groups, many of which have strong ties with each other and often link together on events and projects. Lots of you would like to see these links become even stronger and to include all organisations in the parish, allowing the generations in our community to know and support each other. There are some great ideas for new clubs, along with offers to get some of these up and running.

The Waggon and Horses is cited as a hugely important aspect of village life and a great focal point for village events and community spirit. We also greatly value our beautiful open spaces and we are keen to look after them and to use them. We rely on Bleasby News to provide a greatly appreciated source of information and communication on lots of different aspects of the community.

Many of you regularly value and visit the Church and would like to see it used even further, perhaps for concerts and for singing and drama groups. Several expressed a wish for establishing a far greater number of annual community events; a huge number of you indicated that you would like to form an Events Committee in order for this to happen and this would be fantastic. We are keen to get this established so we will be in contact soon. If you are interested in joining the Events Committee, then please do - everyone is hugely welcome.

It is clear that a large number of residents miss our village shop but the answer could lie in us forming a community shop. It would be wonderful if this could be achieved – this will receive serious thought. If anyone would be interested in contributing towards a community shop, please do get in touch!

Residents raised concerns about flooding, parking, speeding and poor public transport. Your comments and concerns will become a focus for areas for improvement going forward.

Over the next couple of months the steering group will be going through your comments in detail – all 161 pages! We will be contacting those of you who expressed an interest or offered help in a specific area. An overview of the questionnaire will be made available to residents as soon as possible. Date for your diary – Saturday 13th January – open afternoon regarding Bleasby Parish Plan. More detail to follow.

The Steering Group is a committee of local residents who represent a wide cross-section of the community. We were initially formed to create the questionnaire on

behalf of the Parish Council, and this will inform the Parish Plan. Going forward, we will continue to endeavour to work towards creating opportunities for all to come together and form strong ties with each other. If you would like to join the Steering Group you would be very welcome. The more we can share the workload, the quicker we will make progress! Please contact us via bleasbysteeringgroup@gmail.com or by phoning Peter Cast on 830284 who will forward all details to the group.

Jordanna Morris on behalf of the BPPSG

CHURCH NEWS

Celtic Liturgy

During September and October we are using a Celtic style of liturgy introduced to us by Revd Bridget Smith. This gives us an alternative for occasional use around the Benefice. The focus is more strongly on how faith relates to everyday life, the nearness of creation and the presence of God in every circumstance. It is hoped that this different approach will bring something extra to our worship. The Celtic blessing which we will be using around harvest time will be familiar to many.

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sunshine be warm upon your face
May the rain fall softly on your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Churchyard working Party

Ten people turned up to work with Ali Sutherland on an autumn clear up on September 9th. We tackled gullies, gutters and downpipes, cut back nettles and brambles from the footpaths and suckers from cherry and holly trees, cleared the areas left to grow wild during the summer, removed ivy from headstones and walls and cleared around cremation memorials and some of the older graves. Other volunteers acted as stewards for visitors, this being the day for the annual Ride and Stride event. Only two cyclists visited during the day but at least we were there in force to welcome them. Thank you to all who came and worked so hard. The results of your efforts are there for all to see.

Leaking Roof

Following a plaster fall earlier in the summer a leak was discovered in the side aisle roof. The 'hole' is proving very difficult to find but work is in progress to trace it. In the meantime the occasional drips and dribbles are being collected in a bucket. We hope that we will be able to effect a repair to tiles and plaster before winter.

Service Pattern

Now that summer holidays are over the 'normal' service pattern will resume. This is Morning Prayer at 10.30 on the first Sunday, Holy Communion at 11.00 on the second Sunday, Benefice Holy Communion at 10.30 on the third Sunday at a church in our group, 9am Holy Communion alternating with Halloughton on the fourth Sunday and, when there is a fifth Sunday, an extra Benefice Holy Communion, again at a church in our group. In practice, there will be alterations when special services such as Remembrance and Harvest take place so it is always a good idea to check notice boards and to take note of email alerts.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS IN 2017

Dates to catch the mobile library for the remaining weeks of 2017 are on **Fridays** as follows - **October 13th, November 10th, December 8th and 5th January 2018**.

The mobile library stops at:-

Bleasby Station at 11am until 11.15am

Orchard Close at 11.20am until 11.40

Elmore's Meadow at 11.45am until 12 noon

Crabtree Close at Gibsmere at 12.05pm until 12.20pm

Hazelford Residential Home at 12.25pm until 12.40pm

BLEASBY PLAY GROUP

Bleasby Play Group opens its doors every Monday morning (during term times) from 9am until 11am. We have been running for over two years now, and have seen so many lovely babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their carers come through our doors!

For a small charge of £2 (just to cover running costs) we provide you with unlimited hot and cold refreshments, toast, a healthy snack, craft activities and lots of toys for the children.

Everyone is welcome to come along. We'd love to see you. Please do get in touch if you have any queries/comments/suggestions.

As ever, thank you so much to everyone who have so kindly donated toys and various items to help us run the playgroup. If you have any toys to donate to Bleasby Play Group, we would be hugely grateful!

Thank you.

Jordanna and Alison

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PILGRIMAGE TO PASSCHENDAELE

One hundred years ago a great battle was fought, one among many. It lasted one hundred days from August to November. It was fought over a patch of muddy, slimy and inhospitable land in Flanders by a cohort of very brave men. It came to be known as the Third Battle of Ypres, or Passchendaele, (or Hell). Caesar's Gallic wars are still remembered by classicists and historians to this day, and so, perhaps, it is only right that these more recent conflicts should be commemorated in some way.

My grandfather, Captain Roy Helmer, volunteered in 1914 and became a Signals Officer to serve in a conflict which became known as the "Great War for Civilisation" or the "First World War". He was awarded a Military Cross for Gallantry at the Third Battle of Ypres, at which time he was attached to the 15th Scottish Division. He was one of those men who never spoke of his experiences to his family. My mother recalled only that he taught her how to catch a flea with a bar of soap, and that his nearest and dearest used to make him stand at the bottom of the garden, and strip off, before they would let him into the house! His wife's snoring reminded him of being under shell fire in the trenches.

Earlier this year I heard about a National Commemoration for the Centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele. Members of the public could apply to attend by entering a national ballot. It was something I thought might be interesting and so I submitted my application. Rather to my surprise I was selected as one of the 4,000. I was allowed to take a guest and so chose my brother, John.

We travelled to Belgium on July 31st via the Eurotunnel, a very different route from that taken by the British troops during the War - it only took 35 minutes. We reached Zonnebeke and queued for a bus to take us to the Memorial Park in Passchendaele itself. From there we caught another bus to Tyne Cot Cemetery where the ceremony was to take place.

We waited under the hot sun for the dignitaries to arrive. We talked to other descendants about their connections, which was one of the best bits about the trip for me. The military bands played. The ceremony itself was very moving and poignant, especially the readings of letters written home by some of the soldiers and the poems of others.

I placed a cross on the beautifully tended grave of an unknown soldier, and felt the pull of the mud, even though it was such a hot day. Following the ceremony we caught another bus back to the Memorial Park, where we were provided with a nice lunch. There were some re-enactment groups and at one point we found we had strayed across enemy lines into the German Camp. It was a bit too realistic for my liking!

It was all very well done and sensitively arranged. I had hoped to discover the reason for the presentation of my grandfather's award, but what I realised was that all those men who suffered, died and survived in Flanders Fields were true heroes and I am

sure that they would wish us to remember them. Another thing I learned is how to spell 'Passchendaele'.

Jenny Sterland

Going away?

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DEREK GLAZEBROOK: 14th MARCH 1929 – 2nd SEPTEMBER 2017

Derek was born in Lowdham, the son of the local baker and his wife. He married Jean and at first they lived in her home village of Hoveringham and then they set up home in Orchard Close in 1951, being some of the earliest residents there. They had three sons, Trevor, Paul and Colin, the latter having died in a motorcycle accident on the Fiskerton road which caused great sadness to Derek and Jean. Derek had a number of jobs during his working life but, talking to his son Paul just before he died, he said that he would happily go back to working for Notts County Council. In the same conversation he remembered watching Nottingham Forest play in the glory days of Brian Clough. The side of Derek that many did not see was his delight in dressing up as Father Christmas and surprising, and sometimes alarming, his grandchildren.

Derek continued to live alone in Orchard Close after Jean died. He was described as a "unique character", outwardly sociable but a private person who liked his routines

and walked a lot. He was a well-known figure, seen most days walking down to Manor Farm teashop where he liked to take a late breakfast during the week and lunch on a Sunday - he always appreciated the friendship and support offered by the staff there. He had also been attending Bleasby Lunch Club for several years and will be remembered by members with affection. Derek was also many years an active volunteer with the Jubilee Ponds working parties.

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FARMING IN GIBSMERE

Frank Richardson bought Gibsmere Farm which overlooks the lake in 1926 and he and his wife moved into the farmhouse. The farm consisted of 125 acres including arable land and pasture running parallel to the road into Bleasby as far as the Old Police House. At that time the holding included what is now the Jubilee Ponds before gravel extraction, and Hall's woodyard. Also included was the farmhouse, adjacent farm buildings, a slaughterhouse, two cottages - Gibsmere Farm Cottage and what is now Rose Cottage - and farm buildings along Borrowbread Lane, since demolished. A further parcel of land was purchased later along the Trent at Fiskerton. At the time this was a mixed farm including dairy cows, beef cattle, poultry and cereal crops. The Gibsmere Village Shop was accommodated in a room to the rear of the property, as was a bread oven and cheese press. Bread, butter, milk and cheese, including

Colwick Cheese, were all made on the premises and meat butchered; all these for sale in the shop and elsewhere.

In the late 1950s Mrs Richardson suffered a disabling stroke and son Robert (Bob), who was employed as a furniture maker at Lawrence of Netherfield, gave up his job to support his father. Bob had never imagined himself as a farmer, being always attracted to carpentry and joinery. His grandfather had been a wheelwright and Bob's son Ian has his own joinery business, so clearly woodworking was in the blood.

Even in those times farms of this size were not big enough to provide an adequate income for an extended family and some diversification or another source of income was necessary. Frank Richardson wasn't a full-time farmer as he worked for the Ministry of Agriculture as a farm inspector (eventually being awarded an MBE for his services to the Ministry). He also had the foresight to develop a permanent caravan site to the side of the farm. In addition to working on the farm Bob also had another job working for a wholesale meat company and at Newark Cattle Market.

In 1962 Bob met Monica and in 1964 they were married and moved into the farmhouse. The dairy cows were sold off to make way for sheep but the beef cattle were kept on for some time. Over the years Bob built up the sheep flock which became his main interest. Lambing continues at Gibsmere and sheep can be seen grazing around the pond. The caravans which his father had allowed around the lake were removed as an improvement to the view from the farmhouse and course fishing established as an alternative source of income. Later there was a change to fly fishing and this continues.

Over the years building plots were sold off along the road into Bleasby but the biggest changes to the size of the farm occurred in the 1950s when Hoveringham Gravels bought the land behind Bleasby Hall for gravel extraction.

Bob and Monica remain on the farm and at the heart of Gibsmere. Their two children, Ian and Wendy, and grandchildren, Jessica, Jamie, Abigail and Nathan, are very much part of their busy lives. Monica is still involved with the WI, having been President for many years, and although described disparagingly by Frank, her father-in-law, as "a townie", she holds a very comfortable place in the farmhouse and farming life.

There were two other farms between Gibsmere Farm and the Hoveringham parish boundary. These were Glebe Farm, owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and farmed until the 1980s by Peter and Gwen Woodward, a mixed farm of 101 acres, which included pig rearing, and Little Glebe Farm of approximately 50 acres, owned and farmed by Jack Walker. Both these farms have been sold and are now residential properties with the land bought up by neighbouring farmers. The other working family

farm in Gibsmere is Gibsmere House Farm which, until very recently, was farmed by Chris Foster and formerly by him and his father, the late Gordon Foster.

The memories of Monica and Bob Richardson as told to Rachael Andrew

JOHN HOLMES' DIARY – COMMENTS RE GIBSMERE DWELLINGS

John Holmes drew up an itinerary of the houses in the parish at the beginning of the 19th century – these are those relating to Gibsmere.

No. 1 on this itinerary is *“Haselfordferry, a good substantial brick and tiled house, belonging in part to the Retford Corporation, and that part fronting the River Trent to Sir Richard Sutton Bart., and occupied by William Horspool.”* No. 2 is *“a small brick and tile house, bottom of Peter Lane Gibsmere, belonging to Sir R Sutton and occupied by Sarah Fish widow.”* Nos. 3 and 4 are *“two brick and thatched tenements, once a farmhouse, belonging to William Richards and occupied by Stephen Challand and William Machin.”* No. 5 is *“a small brick, part tiled and part thatched house, the former built in the year of 1814 belonging to Sir R Sutton Bart and occupied by John Wilson, cottager”.* No. 6 is *“a good brick and tiled house, belonging to, and occupied by Henry Foster Butcher.”* No. 7 is *“a small brick and tiled house opposite the above belonging to Mary Fish and occupied by J Hollis.”* No. 8 is *“a large and commodious farm house fronting the River Trent built in the year 1805 belonging to Sir R Sutton and occupied by John Marriott farmer”.* Nos. 9 and 10 are *“two old mud and thatched tenements belonging to John Parker and occupied by George Blagg labourer and Thos. Jew framework knitter.”* Nos. 11, 12 and 13 are *“three brick and tiled tenements belonging to Nich Simon, one occupied by himself and the others by John Holland framework knitter and Josh. Harston, labourer.”* No. 14 is *“a neat brick and tiled house built in 1813, built and occupied by Josh. Wilson.”* No. 15 is *“a small brick and tiled house built on a part of Gibsmere Common in the year 1821 belonging to Eliz Butler and occupied by Joseph Dixon, cordwainer.”* No. 16 is *“a brick and tiled farm house built in the High Horspools on the road leading to Hoveringham in 1817 belonging to Mr Robert Abbott and occupied by Wm Richards”.*

“End of Gibsmere”

SOUTHWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Did you attend any of the events during the 4th Southwell Music Festival? There was something for everyone whatever their taste in music - classical concerts and recitals in various parts of the Minster and in the State Chamber, Classics “with a twist” in the Theatre Deli, a family concert in the Minster School and various free fringe events at different venues in the town. These included ‘Brass on the Grass’ in the ruins of the Archbishops Palace, a vocal ensemble and a folk singing duo in the Methodist Church and trumpet and guitar outside the Admiral Rodney. Festival worship provided opportunities to hear sacred music sung to the highest standard as part of the Eucharist, at Evensong and at Compline by the Minster choirs and Festival Voices. In

addition the 'Ceramics in the Market Place' event offered a chance to see and purchase a selection of the work of leading regional and national potters. Whatever your taste in music there was something to enjoy and even the opportunity to take an active part in the Come and Sing event on Bank Holiday Monday when the cathedral rang out to the sound of 200 enthusiastic amateur singers from across the county and beyond, accompanied by professional soloists and directed by Marcus Farnsworth himself. The festival ended with a free organ recital.

The festival took place from the Thursday before the August Bank Holiday weekend until Bank Holiday Monday. The glorious weather was a bonus and Southwell was alive and buzzing with visitors over several days, 5,000 attending the various events. If you weren't among them, make a mental note for next year – it runs from 22nd to 27th August – an extra day in 2018. You could even host a musician – a very rewarding experience.

Rachael Andrew

BLEASBY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN 1949 – WHO DO YOU RECOGNISE



We are grateful to Sylvia Kershaw for this most interesting photograph which she has in her possession. It was taken in 1949 in the school garden which is now part of the garden of the house opposite the old school on Gypsy Lane. Sylvia can name all but one or two of the children in the photo – does anyone recognise a face or two – or even themselves? Please let the editors know if you do!

BLEASBY SCHOOL FRIENDS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Bleasby School's PTA (called Bleasby School Friends Association, or BSFA) is a large, friendly and welcoming committee of parents. We hugely enjoy working together to raise vital additional funds for Bleasby School. It has been our privilege to fund, so far this term, a comprehensive French Teaching Scheme for the school, as well as Design and Technology Training for staff. We are always on the lookout for fundraising ideas, and for ways in which we can foster and strengthen links with the community. If you would like to help us with fundraising events, then please do get in touch. All ideas, comments and suggestions would be hugely welcomed and appreciated. Perhaps BSFA could work in partnership with another local group who are currently fundraising? We'd love to hear from you.

In September we held a Teddy Bears' Picnic (a welcome picnic for new Reception children and their parents).

On Friday 29th September a Macmillan Cake Sale at 3.30pm and on 3rd November there will be a Spooky Monster Mash Party at 5.30pm onwards.

Thank you.

Jordanna Morris on behalf of BSFA

DORIS BUTLER - 23rd NOVEMBER 1916 – 6th AUGUST 2017

(There will be many who remember Doris as “Doris Hall” or “Auntie Doris” who lived in the bungalow next to Jack Hall)

Doris was born at Diamond House in Edingley on 23rd November 1916, whilst the news of the dreadful loss of life in the Great War was affecting so many families. But life in the agricultural villages near to Southwell would continue relatively undisturbed. Doris and her older brother John would have the pleasure of growing up surrounded by fields, animals on the farm and the freedom to explore. When she was six, the family moved to Rosselwood Farm near Oxton Hill. By this time Doris was at the village school in Oxton and it was a long walk across the fields to and from the school. Like many young people of that era, Doris left school at 14 and was busily occupied with work on the farm.

Life was to change once more when, at 17, Doris began a course at Brackenhurst. She was to study dairy farming but two weeks into the training she caught scarlet fever. Fortunately she recovered with no lasting effects but the course at Brackenhurst couldn't be completed and so she continued to work at the farm. Her mother was seriously ill by this time and she died when Doris was 19. With stoic resolve and her usual determination, Doris looked after everyone at home, welcoming visitors and friends within the community with generosity and pleasure.

In her early twenties Doris met Arthur Hall who was the blacksmith at Gonalston and Bleasby and he and Doris were married on 26th October 1940 at Holy Trinity Church

in Southwell. Their home was at the forge in Gonalston. The young couple's pleasure at home was completed by the birth of Margaret in June 1942 and Bernard in July 1945. Arthur was very skilled in many fields and he built the house near the village shop in Bleasby which was to be home to Doris for 52 years. Arthur, who was Jack Hall's brother, continued as the blacksmith, making and repairing agricultural equipment. Doris was home-maker and took delight in keeping chickens and growing the family's vegetables. Doris also used her trusty bike to travel to Thurgarton to be involved with the fruit picking. When there was time for relaxation, Arthur and Doris took dancing lessons at Newark and spent many happy hours at dances in local village halls. Doris was famed for her excellent wine making - fruit, parsnip and potato wines and a very potent dandelion one. Her hospitality was legendary as her future grandchildren were also to find out - there was always a welcome, and delicious food. Sadly Arthur died at the young age of 60 in 1977, and Doris's life changed once more. She decided to stay in the home they had made and enjoyed together.

After several years, Doris was married again at St Mary's, Bleasby to George Butler, the widower of a very good friend. Their marriage lasted for 20 years until, in 2001, Doris was again widowed. She was to live at Bleasby until 2004, in the home which had provided much happiness for five decades. Now in her late eighties, Doris decided to move to Bingham, choosing a bungalow not far from her daughter. She missed the good friendships she had made in Bleasby, particularly with Avis, who lived opposite and called in to see Doris every day, and the daily walks with her dog round the Jubilee Ponds, often with a pair of secateurs to make sure the paths were kept clear of overhanging branches. But there was the comfort and pleasure of having the family in Bingham and, alongside Doris's strong determination to be independent, she settled into her new home and the baking and cooking continued with the same skill and enthusiasm as it had always had. Most people at the age of 87 are beginning to slow down somewhat. However, having done everything at speed, slowly wasn't a word that Doris understood, and she still tended a beautiful garden and mowed her own lawns, still baked every day and loved going on holidays to Norfolk, Derbyshire and Weston-Super-Mare. The holidays were especially enjoyable in the company of her family.

For the last years of her life Doris was looked after at Westcliffe Residential Home in Radcliffe on Trent, where her wonderfully engaging smile and the ever-present "thank you" endeared her to the staff as it had to family, neighbours and friends throughout her 100 years. For Doris was one of life's rich givers, not a taker. She knew the value and strength of loving family relationships and supported those principles with her kind, unselfish and caring nature. Thank you was always on her lips accompanied by a radiant smile. It was an attitude of gratitude springing from her own values of respect for each person and underlying contentment in life both through the good and bad times.

*Extract from the funeral tribute by Julie Pearce - Reader at St Mary's,
Radcliffe on Trent*

BLEASBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

In July it was our annual barbecue at Gibsmere, thanks to the hospitality of Bob and Monica Richardson, when nearly all the members attended to enjoy a very convivial evening with lovely food and interesting conversations and, for some, a post-supper walk around the lake.

On 15th August we heard about the "Curious world of old-time punishments" from Ian Morgan and, from what we learned, how grateful we are to live in the twentieth century - especially as women!

At our September meeting we learnt about the trials, tribulations and joys of writing for children from a brilliant speaker, Elizabeth Baguley. And, in October, it will be a celebration of our WI's birthday – we were formed on 19th October 1922, so we will be 95 years old.

As well as our social and lecture activities we continue to have a busy agenda of sport (croquet in August), visits to the cinema and theatre, as well as being always on hand when the parish requires some active hands!

Bleasby WI meets in Bleasby Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 and we are pleased to welcome visitors and potential members.

Barbara Cast

On Friday 17th November, to coincide with World Loneliness Day which is at the beginning of that week, members of the WI are planning a **coffee morning** in the village hall. This is not a fund-raiser: it is simply a coffee morning where we can welcome anyone who may feel the need for a bit of company over a cup of coffee, young or not so young, not just WI members but anyone in our community. This was really Viv Mayfield's idea and the Bleasby Village Hall Committee and the pastoral team at St Mary's are also keen to support this. As one of our resolutions this year was "**Alleviating Loneliness**" I think it would be a positive move to put our support for that resolution into practice.

Christine Sharpe, President, Bleasby WI

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

It was in mid-2016, when planning the Bleasby Aircrews Memorial steam train fundraising excursion, that I received a contact from the Chairman of a Metal Detector Search Club offering their help with the Memorial Project. A member of the Club had seen one of the BBC East Midlands TV News articles about the project and asked me if they could help with the fundraising by carrying out a properly organised survey of the crash site on High Cross Hill of the two Lancaster bombers that had collided in mid-air on the morning of 1st September 1943, on the basis that each member who took part in the search would pay a contribution to the fund, and all items found would be handed over to the landowner.

My initial research identified that the wreckage of the two aircraft was scattered over an area of c40 acres in the area of Brickyard Farm and Rudsey Farm. During the course of my research, I met with a former Morton resident who told me that he remembered the crash and visited the site on the day after the crash as a young boy aged about 7. He and I visited the site and he pointed out the fields where he recalled that the fuselages of the two aircraft came to rest after the mid-air collision.

As I know the farmers who have owned and farmed the identified fields for c50 years or more, I asked them if there was a possibility that a properly organised survey could be carried out in the manner suggested. The initial reaction was that they never ever let metal detectors on to their land, but would think about it. They also said that they have never found any crash material at the suggested sites during all of their years of farming.

I left things at that at the time, but one of the farmers came to the talk about the project that I gave to Morton Local History Society and chatted to me afterwards and, to my surprise in mid-July this year he called me to say that they had just cleared the crops from three of the fields and that there was a brief window of opportunity for a one day survey to be carried out along the lines that had been proposed.

Having called the chairman of the club and spoken to him, he set about mobilising as many of his members as he could at such short notice and also sent me their club's insurance cover, his risk assessment for the event including safety crossing the railway line and his rules to be followed in the event that unexploded ordinance, human remains, etc. were found.

The survey was arranged for Sunday 30th July and I agreed to meet the leader of the survey and the two farmers early at the site for a briefing. I have to say that I was really hoping that this was not going to prove to be an abortive survey, particularly in the light of the farmers' comments about never having found anything during their normal farming activities.

So I was most relieved when, within the first quarter of an hour of searching, many small fragments of aircraft wreckage were being found, along with other finds including buttons, buckles, various 19th and 20th century coins, a 1902 Edward VII commemorative coin, two instrument cluster dials, as well as a musket ball – and, after careful cleaning and examination of fragments, two very old coins. These coins were tiny and clearly made of silver. The experienced eyes of the team leader helped to spot them. They were cleaned and sent away to the Portable Antiquities Scheme for identification and, after examination, the coins were identified as being a post-medieval half groat issued in the reign of James I of England, 1603–1625, and a medieval Henry III 1247–1272 cut halfpenny. The halfpenny is literally that – a penny cut in half at the Royal Mint. The team leader told me that they also cut quarters of a

penny which are even tinier. The coins are not worth much today but, as artefacts, provide fascinating evidence of human activity in the area of Bleasby going back 700 years.

The survey found a considerable amount of small fragments of aircraft metal, providing evidence that these fields were a part of a crash site for one or more WWII aircraft. Items found that point clearly to WWII are a 303 bullet cartridge case marked RA for Royal Arsenal and the inscribed date 1939 and an Air Ministry marked electrical connector cover, commonly used in many WWII RAF aircraft. However, I was asked if there is anything found that can definitely be identified as a part of a Lancaster bomber. Having cleaned and examined all of the material, the one item found that gives the most positive answer to this question is a fuel tank gauge. The gauge is marked for a maximum capacity of 580 gallons. I googled for information about an Avro Lancaster bomber's fuel capacity and found that each aircraft could carry 2,154 gallons if fully fuelled in six fuel tanks which were housed three in each of the wings of the aircraft. The two inboard tanks were 580 gallons each, the others being 383 and 114 gallons each. I had a quick look at other RAF WWII aircraft such as the Wellington and Spitfire and no other aircraft carried a fuel tank having a 580 gallon total capacity. Sounds reasonably convincing to me?

The metal-detecting day raised £460 towards the Aircrews Memorial Fund.

Ken Ogilvie



The Bleasby Aircrews Memorial Project

A quick update. Funds have been raised in full now to pay for the creation of the new Bleasby Aircrews Memorial and the order has been placed for its manufacture with the stonemasons by Bleasby Parish Council. The memorial is taking shape as I write this article. It will be installed on the now agreed Glebe Field site by 15th March, 2018.

Fundraising is still ongoing to pay for the foundations and landscaping work for the memorial. Any surplus funds raised will be retained by St Mary's PCC in a designated

trust to be used for the future care and maintenance of both the original War Memorial in the churchyard and for the new Aircrews Memorial if required.

Any donations that anyone would still like to make to the Fund can be either handed to one of the churchwardens or to me. Gift Aid forms are available if required.

Thank you for your interest and support for this Project.

Ken Ogilvie

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST

On the whole, there has been positive progress on the proposed mobile mast development in Bleasby. After protracted discussions with the legal department of Newark & Sherwood District Council, which dragged out unreasonably over most of the summer, we received confirmation in mid-August from the High Court that the decision to site the mast at the telephone exchange in Sycamore Lane had been quashed.

We have since had positive and helpful engagement with Harlequin, who are managing the planning process for the new application. A group of residents met with a representative from Harlequin on 7th September. Harlequin are working on behalf of Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited (CTIL) which is a joint venture between O2 and Vodafone. Representatives of Harlequin are intending to make a follow up visit in early October when alternative site proposals can be discussed and we will ensure that the village is informed of any updates. We support the upgrading of our mobile signal coverage and the development of the 4G and 5G network, and wish to work with the planners and developers to find the best site in the village for the residents of Bleasby.

If you would like to support the ongoing work in any way, or find out more about what is happening, please contact either

Liam Barbary at liambarbary@hotmail.com or Arwel Griffiths at arwel_griffiths@hotmail.com and mobile no 07786 171133.

Arwel Griffiths

CYRIL WALKER

The funeral of Cyril Walker took place at St Mary's on July 27th. Cyril worked in insurance and came to Bleasby when his job moved from the Lincoln to the Nottingham office. The service was attended by many of their neighbours from Manor Close to whom Peggy expressed her gratitude for their support during Cyril's long illness at home and in hospital and after his death.

Bleasby Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 30 th September		Southwell Ploughing Match	Kirklington
Sunday 1 st October	10.30am	Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Saturday 2 nd October	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Sunday 8 th October	11am	Harvest Holy Communion and Bring and Share lunch	St Mary's
Monday 9 th October	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Sunday 15 th October	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Sunday 15 th October	10.30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	St Peter's Thurgarton
Tuesday 17 th October		Bleasby WI's 95 th birthday celebration	
Friday 20 th October	10am	Coffee morning in aid of Royal National Lifeboat Institute	Village Hall
Sunday 22 nd October	9am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Tuesday 24 th October	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Local History Society with Philip Riden on a History of Traffic & Transport on the River Trent	Village Hall
Sunday 29 th October	10.30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	St James' Halloughton
Saturday 4 th November	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Sunday 5 th November	10.30am	Morning Prayer for Everyone	St Mary's
Sunday 12 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Service	St Mary's
Monday 13 th November	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Friday 17 th November	10am - 12 noon	Friendship Coffee Morning held by Bleasby WI - see page 18	Village Hall
Sunday 19 th November	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs

Sunday 19 th November	10.30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Monday 20 th November		Deadline for December's Bleasby News	
Tuesday 21 st November	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with Jill Dyer on The Tyranny of Beauty	Village Hall
Tuesday 28 th November	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Local History Society with Dr Chris King on Buildings of Southwell	Village Hall
Saturday 2 nd December	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Saturday 2 nd December		Bleasby WI Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Saturday 9 th December	5.30pm	Christmas celebrations on the Glebe Field and in Church with the Salvation Army Band and the lighting of the Christmas Tree	Glebe Field and St Mary's



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October Church Services in the West Trent Benefice

October	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 1 st	10.30am MPE		6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE Harvest	10.30am HC
Sunday 8 th	11am HC Harvest & Lunch	6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	11am HC	10.30am HC	10am MPE
Tuesday 10 th							10am HC
Sunday 15 th						10.30am Benefice HC	
Thursday 19 th							4pm Zip Bam Boo
Sunday 22 nd	9am HC		10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am with Methodists	10.30am MPE
Sunday 29 th		10.30am Benefice HC					

November Church Services in the West Trent Benefice

November	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 5 th	10.30am MPE		6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC
Sunday 12 th	10.45am Remembrance Service	6pm EP	10.30am Remembrance Service	10.30am Remembrance Service			10.45am Remembrance Service
Tuesday 14 th							10am HC
Thursday 16 th							4pm Zip Bam Boo
Sunday 19 th	10.30am Benefice HC						
Sunday 26 th		9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am HC	10.30am with Methodists	10.30am MPE

HC = Holy Communion MPE = Morning Praise for Everyone EP = Evening Prayer

BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The talk given by Dr Richard Gaunt on 26th September about the Pentrich Rising, the bi-centenary of which event fell in June this year, was most interesting. We were pleased to have some visitors at this lecture. We learned about the 300 plus men from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire border villages who, motivated by poverty and the hunger of their families, set out to march to Nottingham with the aim of bringing

down an unjust and oppressive government. The government, through the infiltration of a government spy, put down the rebellion and three of the leaders, including Jeremiah Brandreth of Nottingham, met a criminal's death. This was a significant happening for our county which, although unsuccessful, put an early marker on the road to greater justice for poor workers.

Our October talk is on the history of trade and transport on the Trent given by Philip Riden and in November it will be Dr Chris King on Buildings of Southwell. Dates are 24th October and 28th November.

You are most welcome to attend our talks – members free and £2.50 for visitors. Talks start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Barbara Cast - President of Bleasby Local History Society

FLOOD ACTION GROUP – ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!

One of the most interesting findings from the Parish Plan Questionnaire as far as BFAG is concerned is that 185 of 195 respondents specifically gave feedback on the matter of flooding, indicating that 18% of them had experienced flooding at their property and, of that number itself, 18% had experienced fluvial (river) flooding, 71% pluvial (rainfall) flooding and 10% had the misfortune of experiencing both. It would seem that the Environment Agency's river flood protection and amelioration programme is proving more effective perhaps than in the past but that there is an increasing risk of flooding from surface waters, especially during this time of changing weather patterns and highly probable climate change. This is a situation that has been recently experienced by Southwell to its considerable cost and which has prompted research and development into various schemes to hold deluge flooding back by water retention schemes, watercourse management and re-vegetation programmes. Our flood wardens have been involved in considering these issues and have kept abreast of such programmes which could be applied on a smaller scale in Bleasby.

The problem of acquiring house insurance because of our postcode was also highlighted by 73% of 180 respondents who indicated that they had experienced such problems. Feedback given indicates that you are advised to stick with your existing insurer but, if embarking on any new search for more reasonable quotes, try negotiating on the basis that your property in particular is much less likely to flood than the postcode suggests (if that is the case of course) with evidence of a flood-clear history, geographical advantage or structural modifications. However, such firms as John Lewis, who did previously give the benefit of the doubt, seem now to have "closed their books and minds". The government's FloodRe scheme would appear to have left insurance companies unmoved in their flexibility and the anonymous results of the questionnaire will be forwarded to our MP, Robert Jenrick, who has sought evidence to support the case brought to him by Bleasby Parish Council.

In the meantime, let's keep those drains, gutters and gullies clear and try to keep impervious surfacing around our houses to a minimum.

Peter Cast on behalf of B FAG

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Phil and Fiona Groves and sons Sam and Ben who have moved into Wayside on Main Street.

UGANDAN VISITORS TO SOUTHWELL

Our family had the privilege of visiting northern Uganda last summer, where we met a family who, against all odds, were running an amazing secondary school. There is almost no provision for secondary education in northern Uganda and yet here they were, in the poorest conditions imaginable, doing just that.

Inspired by some other friends from Southwell area, we launched 'Keframa School Build' last September. Our aim is to raise money to build a large secondary school in place of the run down sheds with neither water nor power that they currently use. Our target is high. £250,000 is needed to build the school and amazingly we have to date raised close to £200,000, thanks to huge generosity of friends and family who have supported many of our fundraising efforts. Land has been bought, water holes drilled on the school site and in the local village and we are very close to beginning the actual build. Our partners, Fields of Life, a charity based in Northern Ireland, have supported us throughout. They have built 177 primary schools in Uganda and East Africa over the past 24 years and are helping with the 'on the ground' work.

Fields of life are also bringing a very special group of their alumni to the UK this autumn. 13 previous students are coming here to share their very special stories of what a difference education has made to their lives and communities after years of war and instability. They are truly inspirational and part of the reason we as a family, wanted to become involved. Please come and listen to them, share in some fantastic Ugandan music and dance, as well as some more local cheese and wine, on Wednesday 22nd November at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Southwell.

Please contact Sarah Hall 07855022921 for further information and we look forward to seeing you there...



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BLEASBY BIKERS' RIDE COAST TO COAST

In September over twenty intrepid cyclists from the village cycling club set off in bright sunshine to ride 180 miles from the Cumbrian coast at Seascale to Whitby in North Yorkshire.

The first day took us over Corney Fell into the beautiful rolling countryside of South Lakeland with some stiff climbs on gradients of up to 20% to warm us all up from the early morning chill. As we gained height, there were marvellous view to the Coniston Fells, with great visibility. A fast ride took us south to Grange-over-Sands before lunch, and then the second biggest challenge of the day began. Skirting south of Kendal, we soon crossed over the M6 motorway and into the narrow, winding lanes on the western flanks of the Pennines, with gated roads and herds of sheep to contend with. And then, the final big climb of our first day ... the savage ascent of Dent Head under the famous railway viaduct, which tested the most capable of us, before a long descent into Hawes.

Suitable refuelled, day two started with a cold northerly wind and darkening skies to the east, an omen for later in the day perhaps? The team made good progress down through Wensleydale to Leyburn, a quick pub-stop mid-morning (for coffee, no beer!) before 30 miles of flat country to cross north of Northallerton. But, by now, the clouds had darkened, the northerly wind still persisted and, as we set off for the final 30 miles of our adventure, a splatter of rain and hill fog on the tops of the North Yorkshire Moors dampened the mood of the group somewhat. And then the real work began. Narrow lanes, gravel in abundance from heavy downpours and some seriously steep sections of road tested all of us. And then, beyond Comondale, we were into the hill fog. Lights on, heads down, and only 20 miles left to do.

Our final approach to Whitby necessarily took us on to the busy A174 into Whitby itself, fast passing traffic concentrating our minds for the final push. But then, we were all suddenly there! The clouds had parted, the sun was out, great coastal views, and a lot of very happy riders. And, of course, the mandatory fish & chips as a little reward!

In all, the group climbed over 12,000 feet over the two days. Many riders had their 'firsts' - first two day ride - first 100km - first time climbing anything over 20% gradient. And the utterances, not all in expletives: "I'm broken", "I've never done anything as hard as this in my life", but above all, "what a great weekend".

Well done to all the riders, and notably to the four or five who elected to take an even harder route, with 245 miles and almost 14,000 feet of ascent to their credit. Thanks also to our support team, Andy Swain of Rode Cycles for mechanical and logistic help, and Mat Ward with van and trailer and last, by no means least, to Graham Gent for equipment hire extraordinaire. No doubt next year's challenge will be eagerly awaited by all! After their legs have recovered...

Colin Stump

COMINGS AND GOINGS ON THE PONDS

Our summer migrants (warblers, martins, swallows etc) have now all left us and our winter migrants (ducks, geese, thrushes etc) have yet to arrive but now is a period of passage when all manner of birds may be unexpectedly discovered as they make their migratory journeys across – and close by – the British Isles and may appear in the most surprising of places. For us whinchat and wheatear are the most likely of unusual visitors but, being in the Trent Valley which serves as a migratory route, we could collect sightings of unusual wading birds, and even chance seabirds, especially if there are strong easterly winds blowing up.

Roe deer appear to have now settled into the parish as a whole and one at least has been seen and photographed on the Jubilee Ponds – and where there is one there are usually several! Another very interesting local visitor was what would appear to be a pure-bred polecat which was found as a road casualty just outside the Ponds area. The specimen had all the necessary proportion and markings of a true polecat and conformed to the distinctive critical skull measurements. The escape of ferrets and the breeding of polecat-ferrets has greatly confused the identification and reliable recording of our native polecat. It could be that this specimen is an example of an expanding population with a wider distribution than previously believed.

Patterns of human comings and goings on the Ponds have been more reliably recorded through the Parish Plan Questionnaire which has clearly indicated that the area is greatly valued by residents and that they are much loved just as they are – especially with the kind of access management regime that our hard-working volunteers endeavour to maintain. Out of 171 respondents to this section 30% regularly visit the Ponds whilst 61% occasionally visit. Of those that use the Ponds, 56% recorded it as being for family walks, 43% for gentle exercise, 39% for pleasure, 33% for dog walking and 30% for observing nature and wildlife. Clearly many people have indicated that they enjoy the Ponds for a range of purposes and a dog-owning family enjoying the wildlife will find pleasure in taking gentle exercise together!!!

There are 56 written comments about the Ponds and these, along with information gleaned from the Management Group's own earlier survey, will be an invaluable source of ideas, observations and concerns to further improve the Ponds to meet the wide ranging interests and needs of villagers. The Parish Council and the JP Management Group will be working closely together on such matters over the ensuing months and opportunities for further input from interest groups will be created, information leaflets produced and guided walks and the like offered.

The actual physical management of the Ponds has always been problematic with only a small hard-core of volunteers making up a regular and critically important input to ensure that access is maintained and habitats sustained. It was, therefore, most encouraging to discover from the Parish Plan Questionnaire that 30 people would be willing to help on an occasional basis and that 37 would be keen to get involved with any special projects that may be undertaken on the site. This is indeed most encouraging news.

Thanks to our existing band of four regular volunteers and our lengthsman the meadow has been cut and footpaths cleared and surfaced where necessary and the next task is to clear scrub which is encroaching on to the footpath at the far end of the site known as the “Shallows” to the fishermen, “Owl Roosts” to the birdwatchers and, no doubt, “Dark Tangles” to others!

Peter Cast

MEMORIES OF THE SOAR FAMILY

My grandfather, Henry Soar, who was born in Basford on 10th August 1893, was the first family connection with Bleasby. He worked as a tenant for a brewery (Home Ales if I recall) and around 1935 they asked him to manage the Star and Garter. He was to remain at the Star for more than two decades and brought his family there; eventually 4 boys and one girl. There wasn't a great deal of trade in the late 1930s and the 1940s and Henry either bought, or more probably leased, the gravel pits at Gibsmere. He and his sons spent their weekends digging out the pits, levelling the ground, laying wooden duck boards and eventually letting plots to the first caravanners who gradually occupied the sites. My father, William, told me it was largely wasted labour. He and his brothers never remember anything worthwhile coming from the investment. The boys were bright, Alan getting a scholarship to High Pavement, but the distance they had to travel made it impossible to get to school in Nottingham and Alan eventually stood in as a teacher at the village school from the age of 12.

The eldest three boys joined the forces and my father, William, was in the RAF in Egypt and North Africa until 1944. When he returned he was posted to Syerston Airfield on the other side of the Trent. He was allowed to go home some weekends and kept a rowing boat which he could row across the Trent to the Star.

I was born at the Star on 27th June 1947. My grandfather always told me that I was the only child ever born there (and, given its current use, it is unlikely that there will be another). My father cycled into Nottingham every day for 3 or 4 years, where he worked for a doll maker. Eventually he and my mother moved to Aspley and he became a postman and, later, a window cleaner. I must confess, I remember little of my days at the Star, but of course it was a regular spot for family gatherings and we have plenty of pictures taken there. There is one of me in my mother's arms at a week old.

Henry retired in the late 1950s, moving to Orchard Close. He was the Parish representative on the local council (I remember meetings in both Southwell and Newark) and he lived in the village for another 30 years. His sons Alan and Michael were also to live in Orchard Close until the 1980s, but we suffered a series of funerals in Bleasby of grandparents and of Alan and his wife Ruth dying at the depressingly early ages of 54 and 57. As of mid-2017, two of my aunts and uncles, Michael and

Margaret, are alive and healthy. My mother, who bore me at The Star, is now 94. Alan, Ruth, my grandfather, grandmother and my father are all buried in the churchyard in Bleasby.

My own life has taken unlikely paths. My family moved to the Bilborough housing estate in Nottingham (regularly featuring in the national press as one of Britain's most deprived) and there I grew up. I have lived in London since 1969 and have been Chief Executive and Chairman of a number of large media companies, publishing houses such as Marshall Cavendish, Eaglemoss and DeAgostini, the largest exhibition/event companies in the world such as Blenheim and even now my main business employs over 200 people and has a turnover of around £100million. In 1997 I led the group which bought Nottingham Forest and I was Chief Executive and Chairman, during which time I am happy to report that we won the Football League Championship and the Premier League Youth League (involving all of the youth teams of all the Premier League clubs). I am also, oddly perhaps, the official historian of both Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur (they both approached me and asked me to write their histories). (Please don't blame me for the last 15 years of Forest's history, although I am also Forest's official historian and will happily send anyone a copy of my recent updated version). I first went to watch Forest when I was 6 and the opportunity to buy the club was too emotional for me to pass up when it arose. Perhaps my most unlikely achievement is to have been Japanese Publisher of the Year in 1991, the only non-Japanese ever to have won the award.

I have an inevitable affection for Bleasby, though I moved away when I was only 3. I acquired the two platform signs which used to adorn Bleasby Station at auction a few years ago and they sit in my office. (If anyone is interested, I can reveal how much they cost and, more interestingly, why). Older residents will recall that the signs were maroon, not blue like the Nottingham Midland sign. When the Nottingham to Lincoln line was moved from the Midland to the Eastern Region of BR in 1958, the powers that be insisted that the signs be repainted blue, thus adding massively to the joy of nations! I remember the signs well from cold Sunday evenings standing waiting for the last train back to Nottingham after visiting my grandparents. No cars for us then – and it always seemed to be very cold.

Philip Soar

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS – MANY EYES MAKE CRIME LIGHT!

It has come as a great relief and joy that the Parish Plan Questionnaire provided us with the news that 88% of 147 respondents wanted to see the Neighbourhood Watch scheme re-established in Bleasby and that 53% of 127 respondents would be willing to be involved in its re-establishment. This is particularly good news in that, during the last twelve months, the questionnaire revealed that burglary, theft, vandalism and

intimidation had all been experienced here and, though it was on a small scale, it is nevertheless critical that we should all work together to minimise the possibility of such things occurring by being vigilant and supportive of one another. Most of us would be totally unaware that anything of this sort had happened over the year but it was interesting to also discover that only half of these incidents were reported to the police.

You might also be interested to note that Robert Jenrick, our local MP, has expressed considerable concern that plans are afoot to close the “custody suite” (cells etc) at Newark Police Station. Figures quoted in his “As I see it...” article in the Newark Advertiser reveal that there were 1736 arrests in the last recorded year, being an average of eight per day in a 10 cell facility and that on average 40% of cells are used at any one time being a higher percentage than either Mansfield or Nottingham where those arrested would otherwise have to go. You are asked by our MP to write to the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner to express your views on this matter.

We will be arranging a meeting to consider how best we can re-establish our own Neighbourhood Watch so please look out for notices about it while you are ‘keeping an eye on things’.

Peter Cast and Derek Whitman

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The hall is equipped with plenty of modern tables and chairs plus lots of crockery and cutlery.

The cutlery, crockery (including loads of mugs), wine and champagne glasses and equipment including electric and thermos tea urns can also be hired separately to the hall and there are also about forty plastic chairs and some tables for hire which can be used out of doors.

The hall costs £8 per hour to hire, fully inclusive - for parties we ask for a deposit. Information on how to book and for hire rates for equipment contact Vivienne Mayfield, on 830929 or email vivmayfield@aol.com.



Bleasby FC 1921

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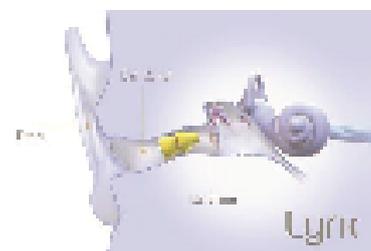
Whether you are looking into hearing issues for the first time or are struggling with your existing hearing aids then Correct Hearing can help.

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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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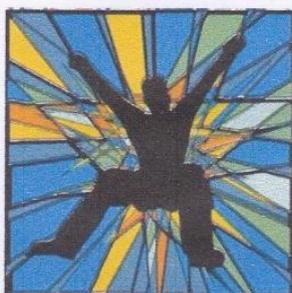


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2017-2018 Season Productions



Accidental Death of an Anarchist

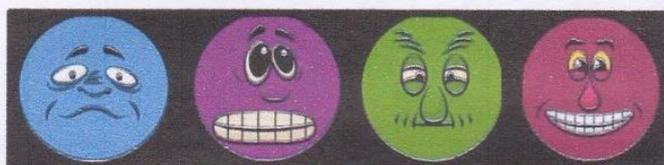
Written by Dario Fo
26th to 30th September 2017

A sharp and hilarious satire on political corruption, it concerns the case of an anarchist railway worker who 'fell' to his death from a police headquarters window.

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens, adapted by Karen Louise Hebden
12th to 16th December 2017, plus a Matinee on Saturday 16th

This new stage version was first performed at Derby Playhouse, and Charles Dickens' classic story of greed, grief, ghoulish ghosts and eleventh-hour redemption with classic carols is a wonderful reminder of the joy of Christmas.



The God of Carnage

by Yasmina Reza
23rd to 27th January 2018

An award-winning comedy about two sets of parents, one of whose child has hurt the other at a public park, who meet to discuss the matter in a civilized manner. However, things do not go as planned, with hilarious results.

Extra Time

A New Work by local artist Ian Collinson
22nd to 24th February 2018

The cold war in the fractured Walton family hots up when Rona, estranged wife of Ed, starts fighting dirty by trying to restrict his access to grand-daughter Nellie. Ed retaliates by joining Rona's U3A local history group with hilarious consequences.



Single Spies by Alan Bennett
17th to 21st April 2018

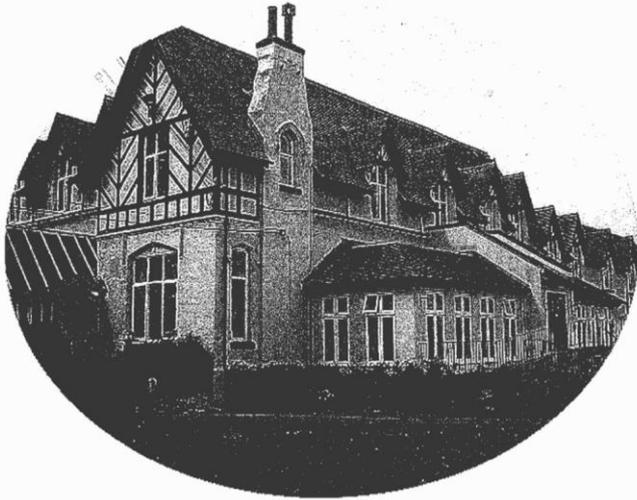
This unusual dramatic comedy by Alan Bennett is a double bill of one act plays, An Englishman Abroad and A Question of Attribution, about two of the most celebrated spies of modern times: Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt

The Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley
19th to 23rd June 2018

A young man accidentally strands six passengers at a small Cornish wayside station. Despite the psychic stationmaster's weird stories of a ghost train, they decide to stay the night in the waiting room, and soon regret this decision.



For further information and tickets call 07733 179986
or go on line at www.robinhoodtheatre.co.uk



Hazelford

The Provider of Quality Care

Our home is situated in a beautiful location with open views of the river and surrounding countryside. With lovely gardens and an abundance of wildlife, this makes Hazelford a delightful location for our residents, to some of whom we offer a short break; for others we become their home.

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.

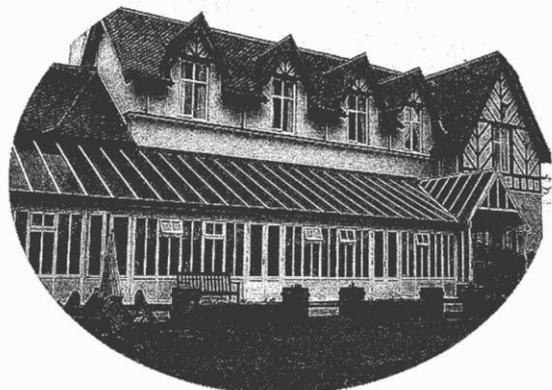
Please feel able to visit our home at any time – a warm welcome awaits you. We encourage families to also have an input into the plans the home may make. We hold family and friends of the home evenings.

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.

HAZELFORD

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Look out on our facebook page for special events and menus.



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USE IT OR LOSE IT!

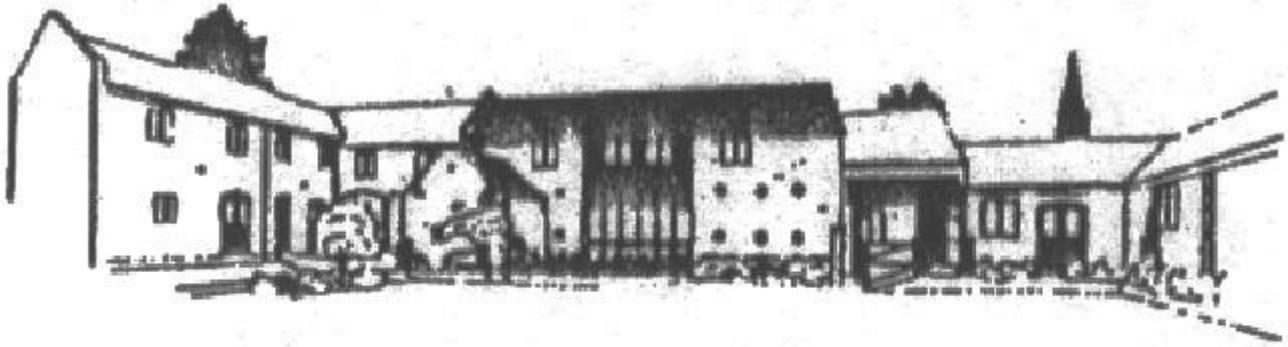
Lowdham to Southwell bus timetable – Tuesdays and Thursdays				
Lowdham Main St near Medical Centre		1010	1220	1345
Lowdham Main St near the Magna Carta		1013	1223	1348
Lowdham Station Rd near the station		1014	1224	1349
Caythorpe Main St	0906	1017	1227	request
Hoveringham Main St/Boat Ln junction	0910	1021	1231	request
Thurgarton Bleasby Rd	0917	1028	1238	request
Bleasby Main St	0921	1032	1242	request
Fiskerton Main St near Post Office	0926	1037	1247	request
Morton Main St	0929	1040	1250	request
Southwell Church St by Minster	0933	1044	1254	
Southwell Ropewalk by Medical Centre	0935	1046	1256	

Where marked “request” the bus will stop for setting down only

Southwell to Lowdham bus timetable - Tuesdays and Thursdays			
Southwell Ropewalk by Medical Centre		1135	1300
Southwell Church St by Minster		1139	1304
Morton Main St		1144	1309
Fiskerton Main St near Post Office		1147	1312
Bleasby Main St		1153	1318
Thurgarton Bleasby Rd		1156	1321
Hoveringham Main St/Boat Ln junction	0953	1203	1328
Caythorpe Main St	0957	1207	1332
Lowdham Station Rd near the station	1001	1211	1336
Lowdham Main St near the Magna Carta	1003	1213	1338
Lowdham Main St near Medical Centre	1006	1216	1341

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.

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 Toot Hill School Reprographics.



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Dates for your diary

Burger Night - Thursday 5th October 5.30pm

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Friday 6th Oct at 10.30am

Rebecca Lomas Singing Classics - Friday 20th October (Evening)

Curry Night - Thursday 26th October 5.30pm

Children's Halloween Party - Tuesday 31st October 5.30pm

Live Music with Robert Perry- Friday 22nd December

Christmas Eve Sunday Lunch - 12.00pm – 3.00pm

New Year's Eve Sunday Lunch- 12.00pm – 3.00pm

New Years' Eve Party - Sunday 31st December

New Year's Day Brunch - 12.00pm - 3.00pm
(Booking Highly Recommended)

Weekly Events

Sunday Lunch - 12.30pm onwards
(Booking highly recommended)

Takeaway Wednesday
Pizza, Kebabs, Fish/Scampi & Chips, Steak Pie
Served from 5.00pm to 8.30pm
(Normal menu also available)

Food Available on Wednesday from 12:30pm until Sunday 4.00pm

QUIZ NIGHT every Sunday at 8.30pm

Autumn & Christmas Menus Coming Soon

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The Waggon and Horses today and in the early 20th century - see page 39 for menus, events and contacts for our friendly pub

