

The Plough

October 2026

To: AVERHAM, STAYTHORPE & KELHAM VILLAGERS



Autumn has arrived early this year, slipping quietly into the parish before we were quite ready for it. Whether this early shift is simply a quirk of the weather or a hint of something longer-lasting, it has given us a head start on one of the parish's most enchanting seasons. And so, for now, we lean into it—welcoming the colours, the flavours, and the gentle hush that settles over the landscape.

For anyone wandering our footpaths and bridleways, the change is already a full sensory tapestry: leaves crackling underfoot, skeins of geese tracing their way across the sky, and that soft, amber light that turns the Trent into a ribbon of molten gold each late afternoon. Autumn is here, inviting us to slow down as the days shorten and the air cools.

Let's hope the weather ahead steadies itself and offers a kinder season for our farming community, whose resilience continues to anchor village life.

Editor

Could you be the next editor?

We are looking for a friendly, organised volunteer to edit our small parish magazine which is distributed ten times a year (not January or August).

This is a wonderful opportunity to help share local news, celebrate parish life and keep our community connected.

The Plough magazine has been published since 1897, let's keep it going.

What the role involves:

- ☐ Gathering articles, notices and photographs from local contributors
- ☐ Editing and arranging material for each issue
- ☐ Liaising with the parish team, contributors and printer
- ☐ Distributing the magazine with our wonderful teams in the 3 villages.
- ☐ Timewise it's probably 10 hours per publication over a calendar month.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Interested?

For an informal chat or more information, please contact Hilary Snell on:

07970 389182 or email hsnell@btinternet.com

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WHAT'S ON?

"The Hive" Survey Closes https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/nJWJKnZl	10 th	Oct.	19:00
W.I. Meeting Robin Hood Theatre	12 th	Oct.	19:00
Messy Church St. Michael and All Angels Church	18 th	Oct.	16:00
Garden Club Meeting Robin Hood Theatre	20 th	Oct.	19:00
Morning Prayer & Harvest Festival St. Michael and All Angels Church	20 th	Oct.	09:30
Holy Communion St. Michael and All Angels Church	27 th	Oct.	09:30
Mobile Library Staythorpe Road, Averham	26 th	Oct.	14:10 - 14:25

See page 13 for All Church Services

Editor: Bob McGhee

ploughmageditor@gmail.com



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What do YOU Want for Our Community

The Hive team has launched a parish-wide survey — and this is *your* moment to shape the future. Whether you're a long-time resident, a busy parent, a teenager with ideas, or a child who knows exactly what makes a great place to play, **we want to hear from you.**

This is your chance to say what The Hive should become when it rises on the old school site. A place to meet? To learn? To play? To relax? To create? **You tell us.**

To make it easy, every home has received a flyer with a QR code and the survey link: <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/nJWJKnZI/i/0/q/0>

Just enter the address, click, or scan the QR code and tap the information it brings up — and share your thoughts.

Your voice matters. Every idea, every hope, every suggestion helps shape the design, the priorities, and the future of this shared space. All responses will be brought together in a community presentation at **Kelham House on Sunday 22nd November**, in the afternoon — a moment for the whole parish to see what we are building *together*.



And after four long years of persistence, progress is finally moving. We are heading toward demolition of the old school, pre-planning with NSDC, and legal completion. The wheels are turning — and your input will guide the next steps. Soon, half an acre of this precious site will belong to us. To the community. To everyone who has hoped, campaigned, written letters, filled in surveys, and refused to let the dream fade.

This land will be shaped by local hands and local hearts — a place where children will play, neighbours will gather, and future generations will feel the legacy of what we achieved together.

This isn't just a project. It's empowerment. It's stewardship. It's our chance to build the future our villages deserve.

Tell us what you want The Hive to be. Email: contact@askhive.org

AKS WI Plough Newsletter September '26

Well everyone is now back to normal, or what passes for normal after the long Summer break.

The villages' WI also returned in fine fettle on September 13th and enjoyed a superb speaker, Hannah Sylvester who holds a BSc in medical herbology. She shared her pathway to reaching this career choice having firstly gained a degree in Geography. She told us about the remedies everyday illnesses which actually grow in our back gardens for many. She had experienced breast cancer several years ago and found that many of the herbal remedies mitigated many of the nasty side effects of her treatment. One recommendation I am eager to try is rubbing crushed plantain leaves onto bites and stings. Hannah reckons it is much better than dock leaves. Not so sure they are as easy to find but hey ho! Hannah does private and individual consultations and I think she is worth a shout for lots of common ailments. For further information you can contact her at:

info@thedistrictherbalist.co.uk or 07906376342.

Following on from Hannah it was big birthday time for 3 of our members and the occasion was well and truly celebrated. Members enjoyed an extraordinary array of nibbles and goodies not to mention 2 birthday cakes. It was a truly jolly evening. And our big birthday girl Linda won the quiz which had been held at the picnic in August. Proper job!!

We have another healthy evening on October 12th 7pm at the Robin Hood Theatre when Steven Langford will be sharing his secrets to a longer and happier life titled The Blue Zone. Sounds intriguing. If you would like to come along and find out more about your local WI please bowl up on the night or contact Jenny Quickmire on 07890641102



Memorial Service



2pm • Saturday 14th November 2026

St Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham

A Time to Remember with Love

Giving thanksgiving for someone's life, and for all they have meant to us.

A quiet space to:

- Hear their names
- Light a candle
- See their photo
- *Listen to their favourite music.*

If you would like to be involved, please contact:

Jenny Hamilton or Susan Twemlow

All are welcome

Contact: Susantwemlow@aol.com on 07909 844754 or
Jenny.hamilton54@gmail.com

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Dolly Parton: some memories

Dolly Parton passed away at the age of 80. She regularly offered perceptive and humorous insights about life, music, equal rights and fame. Some of her best:

“I always just thought if you see somebody without a smile, give ‘em yours!”

“Don’t get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life.”

“Sometimes, what would look like to be my biggest mistakes turn out to be my biggest blessings.”

“I have to write and sing. See, that was my first love, and I have to do that forever, however I have to do it.”

“I look totally artificial, but I am totally real, as a writer, as a professional, as a human being. A rhinestone shines just as good as a diamond.”

“I always count my blessings, more than I count my money. I don’t work for money, never did. It was the art, it was a job. I loved my work. And I’ve done well, and I’m thankful for it.”

“I make jokes about it, but it’s the truth that I kind of patterned my look after the town tramp. I don’t know who she was, just a woman who was blond and piled her hair up, wore high heels and tight skirts, and, boy she was the prettiest thing I’d ever seen. Momma used to say, ‘Aw, she’s just trash’ and I thought, ‘That’s what I want to be when I grow up, Trash.’”

“My dream was always to make as many people happy as I could in this life.”

“I’m not offended by all the dumb blond jokes because I know I’m not dumb—and I’m not blond either.”

“When I die, I’ll really be getting to live then because I believe that there is a greater place than this.”

And finally; Journalist: “What would be her funeral song? Dolly: I don’t know—but I won’t be singing it.”

Probably America’s best loved artist; straight talking, non partisan. In addition to her music, her creation of the book gifting programme for children “The Imagination Library” has inspired children around the world.

Rest in peace.

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Village WhatsApp Groups

Did you know that our villages have their own WhatsApp Groups?

Well, we do and they keep us in touch with what's happening around us and share community news. If you'd like to join, here are the 'Administrator' details:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ◇ Averham: | Tracey Carlisle | 07970 179755 |
| ◇ Kelham: | Danni Gray | 07860 458397 |
| ◇ Staythorpe: | Debs Storey | 07974 957684 |



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ASK Garden Club

Report

Garden Party & Fuddle

For the past few years we have rounded off our summer garden visits with a garden party and fuddle in a member's garden. This year Janet and Steve kindly volunteered to be our hosts.



We had an amazing turnout; everyone brought food and drinks to share; homemade pizza bread, quiche, sausage rolls, sandwiches, delicious homemade cakes and meringues topped with strawberries all complemented with bottomless Pimm's courtesy of Janet and Steve. It was perfect just in case we were to have some rain that evening, all the food and drinks were undercover in Janet's mosaics studio.



Some of us had a little tour around the garden, but the majority of our group chatted, mingled and enjoyed themselves on what was another lovely evening, no rain and pleasantly warm. As the light faded and just before people started to make their way home, the 'fabulous' raffle with endless prizes was called. It's all good fun, but important as the money raised from the raffle at each meeting helps boost the club's funds.

Our next meeting is our AGM on Tuesday 20th October 7.00pm at the Robin Hood Theatre Averham for a 'Photographic Review of the Year'. Non members are very welcome to all our meetings, but don't forget, this is the best time to join our club, currently just £20pp per annum. Member's benefit from priority places to our summer visits, activities, regular updates and also receive 10% discount at Southwell Garden Centre on most purchases.

Garden Club Report Continued

For our winter season of meetings at the Robin Hood Theatre we hope to have speakers covering a wide range of subjects including garden design, nature conservation, propagating and growing drought tolerant plants.... useful to know for next summer perhaps?

For further details about our club, please contact me at: bootiqueonline@outlook.com or 07929 367461

Nigel Britton – Club Secretary



Gardening Jobs for October

Before the end of the month.

Plant tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs and refresh your tubs and baskets with wallflowers, pansies and winter-flowering heathers.

Harvest apples, pears, root vegetables, lift and store onions, garlic and pumpkins before the first frosts. Clear away and remove old plant debris to prevent disease before planting autumn garlic cloves (15 cm apart), sow broad beans (hardy varieties) for an early crop and plant spring cabbage in a prepared bed with firm soil.

Lift tender bulbs, dahlia tubers, begonia tubers, gladioli corms, take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs such as forsythia, roses, weigela and divide perennials (every 3-4 years) using two forks back-to-back whilst the soil still has a little warmth.

Most importantly, protect your tender plants by moving them into a cold greenhouse/conservatory, by covering with fleece, or by mulching borders with 5-7cm layer of composted bark depending on their location and hardiness.

Under pressure?

What are you like under pressure? Some people thrive on it, some people crumble under it, the rest of us are probably somewhere in between. One of mine and my son's favourite quotes is from Alan Shearer (we're into football) one of England's best ever strikers and now a football pundit.

When asked about pressure he famously said, "Pressure? What pressure? Pressure's for tyres!"

I'm no scientist but, in my own laymen's terms, pressure can do two very different things. Pressure can push things together or it can push things apart. Think of the difference between diamonds and sand. Firstly there's a difference in scarcity: sand is often used as a metaphor for plenty - 'as many as the grains of sand on the seashore' - whereas diamonds are a metaphor for the precious, the scarce, the rare (the valuable). There is also the issue of strength. Diamonds are one of the most dense and strongest substances in the world. Sand, on the other hand, is pretty weak, the Bible famously tells a cautionary tale about not building your house on sand!

But consider for a few moments how they are formed: sand; and diamonds. Sand is formed under the pressure of the waves and the sea. Over a period of time the rocks around the sea are subjected to the daily pressure buffeting them. Sometimes it's even the rocks that have already broken off that batter the face and cause more to break off eventually grinding the rocks down into tiny particles of sand.

Diamonds are also formed by pressure (pressure far greater than that exerted on sand); combined with high temperatures, miles below the Earth's surface. It's a process that takes a very long time (though it has been emulated in laboratories in very short spaces of time).

I find it interesting that the pressure on one causes them to fall apart, into tiny pieces; and the pressure on the other causes the molecules to get closer together, tightly packed and in doing so they become immensely strong.

I wonder what this can teach us about reacting to pressure.

Pressure comes in many forms, internally and externally. Jobs, relationships, health concerns, financial, even physical. The question I suppose I'm wondering about is how we can ensure that the pressure that we come under pushes us and those we love closer together, makes us stronger and doesn't cause us to fall apart.

The Bible has a beautiful passage, in 2 Corinthians chapter 4 (a two thousand year old letter written by St Paul to a very Early church under pressure). In it the writer liken us to jars of clay: small clay pots which were cheap and fragile - often leading to them being broken. They were common place and used as a kind of lantern. In Paul's letter he talks about how we are hard pressed, persecuted (under pressure) but that we are never abandoned by God and are not crushed or destroyed.

Continued

Under pressure? Continued

In fact, if you are feeling more like you're coming apart under pressure than becoming a diamond, hear that these jars still hold a beautiful light and sometimes it's through our cracks that the light is seen!

Whatever your pressures, you are in my prayers and you are on God's heart, always. May the pressures press those you love and need closer and not pull you apart. And if you find yourself feeling like sand, remember that when the particles of sand are ground down even further, they become like soil and, in the right place, are a growing material; and of course the finest of sands we call clay which can be fashioned by a potter into the most beautiful of creations.

Rev Peter Hibberts, Minister in the Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit

newakandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk;

peter.hibberts@methopdist.org.uk; 01636 812166; 07561 665585

CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND UNITED SERVICES

Sunday 4th Oct. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Harvest & Holy Communion
Sunday 4th Oct. 3:00 pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Messy Church
Sunday 11th Oct. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11th Oct. 4:00 pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Messy Church
Sunday 18th Oct. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Holy Communion led by Arch Deacon Tors
Sunday 25th Oct. 9:30 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Morning Prayer

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Contact us:

**Muskham Rural Community Centre, Nelson Lane,
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There are NO publications in January or July 2026

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**For the 2026 editions of the magazine -
Copy required by 17th of the month.**

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KELHAM CHURCH:

Warden:	Philip Staniforth	01636 703 289
Treasurer:	Steve Emeny	07889 486 260

AVERHAM CHURCH:

Warden:	Vacancy	
Treasurer:	Hilary Snell	01636 672 640

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Secretary:	Carole Binks	01636 816 343
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AKS PARISH COUNCIL:

Chair:	John Miller	01636 704670 cllrJohnrMiller@gmail.com
Clerk:	Vacant	aksparishclerk@outlook.com

FLOOD WARDEN:	Aaron Laurence	07713 594665
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POLICE:	Richard Dunn PCSO	07595 074 292
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POTHOLES:

Notts County Council	0300 500 80 80
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STAYTHORPE POWER STATION:

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staythorpe@rwe.com

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:

Environment Agency Flood line:	0345 988 1188
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NATIONAL GRID: www.nationalgrid.co.uk/power-cut-information (t) **105**

OTHERS:

ASK Hive:	Roger King	07904 243 304
Garden Club:	Nigel Britton	07929 367 461
W.I. Secretary:	Jenny Quickmire	07890 641 102
Bell Ringers:	Martin Cooper	07810 658 627
Latham Farms:	Steven Gill	07966 382 781
Mobile Library		01636 812148

Southwell.library@inspireculture.org.uk