

The Plough



July 2025

To: AVERHAM, STAYTHORPE & KELHAM VILLAGERS



Summer is on its way. Holidays are booked, and barbeques dusted down and ready for firing up. Rain to keep everything watered and green, sun to bring on the crops and flowers. I believe we are very fortunate to live in this wonderful country.

Yet again time to cut the grass again and enjoy the bounty of the garden.

A very happy summer to you all.

ESTD.



2024

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WHAT'S ON?

Annual Member's Meeting of ASK Hive 1st July 19:30—21:00

Estate Office, Kelham Hall

Ossington Garden Party

5th July 15:00

Ossington House, Ossington

Mobile Library

7th July 14:10—14:25

Staythorpe Road, Averham

W.I. Meeting

14th July 7:00 pm

(Talk by Jayne Owens on Cartier Jewellery £3 admission)

Robin Hood Theatre

Garden Club

15th July 7:15pm

Robin Hood Theatre

Garden Club Visit to:

22nd July 6:30pm

Waxwings and Goldcrest, Lamins Lane Bestwood Village

See page 14 for Church Services

Editor: Bob McGhee

ploughmageditor@gmail.com



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ASK Community Marks V.E Day with a Spectacular Celebration

The ASK community came together in fine style to commemorate V.E Day, creating a day to remember filled with warmth, laughter, and a deep sense of gratitude. With the weather offering its full cooperation—clear skies and sunshine—the scene was set for a truly special occasion.



Kelham Country House provided a stunning backdrop for the festivities, offering the perfect venue for an event steeped in history and remembrance. The Women's Institute played an integral role, contributing their signature touch of hospitality and community

spirit, while an impressive spread of food—generously provided by villagers—ensured no one went hungry.



Leading the day's proceedings was Master of Ceremonies Steve Emeny, who carried out his role with

characteristic humour and an effortless charm, keeping the atmosphere light-hearted and engaging.

Continued

The success of this celebration was made possible by the tireless dedication of the ASK About team, who worked behind the scenes seamlessly to bring everything together . A heartfelt THANK YOU goes



to each of them for their time and effort in crafting such a meaningful tribute. The raffle did exceptionally well raising an amazing £325 for The Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark. A huge thanks to Tracey



for organising, and all those who provided prizes from local businesses, were superb as usual.

As the sun set on a wonderful day, the ASK community reflected on the significance of V.E Day—not just as an historical milestone, but as a reminder of the strength, unity, and enduring spirit of the villages.

Here's to many more celebrations that honour the past while bringing us closer together!

The Camino Chronicles: A 500-Mile Adventure

Three Septuagenarians Take on Northern Spain

What began as a pre-dawn dash to Gatwick Airport on April 25th would become the adventure of a lifetime for three intrepid walkers, averaging 70 years. Their destination: the legendary Camino Frances, stretching 500 miles across northern Spain from the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela.

A Soggy Start in the Mountains

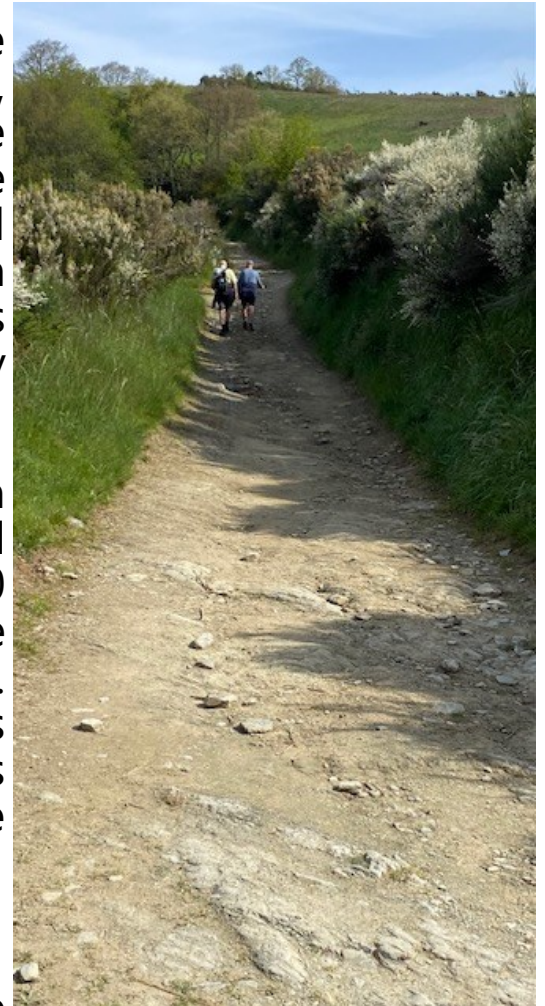
After catching the 6:50 am flight to Biarritz, the trio made their way to St. Jean Pied de Port, nestled in France's dramatic Pyrenees. Here, the adventure took an immediate turn for the dramatic—and damp. Two of the men trudged through torrential rain to their mountain accommodation, while Bob, claiming "no rooms were available" (wink, wink), graciously volunteered to join them the following morning.

What should have been breathtaking mountain vistas became a comedy of meteorological proportions. Visibility dropped to a mere 10 yards through fog, rain, mist, and clouds, while temperatures plummeted to a bone-chilling 4°C. So much for balmy Mediterranean weather! This delightful pattern persisted for 17 of the trio's first 20 days, turning their Spanish adventure into what felt more like a Scottish Highland trek.

The Human Tapestry of the Camino

While the weather tested their resolve, the people they encountered restored their spirits. The trail became a fascinating cross-section of humanity: including effervescent South Korean women who brightened everyone's day with their infectious energy, and Americans grappling with political uncertainty—some made redundant by the new administration, others contemplating emigration. One particularly poignant encounter involved a Mexican-American woman, fearful of deportation despite her full citizenship, whose husband stayed home rather than risk re-entry complications.

The Camino proved to be a genuine United Nations of the walking world, with fellow pilgrims from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Indonesia, and beyond. As one of the trio later admitted, these international conversations proved far more stimulating than their own increasingly limited repertoire after weeks of each other's company!



Sheer Coincidence

In the middle of a very wet day the trio took shelter in a leanto that have benches for Pilgrims to rest. Here they were joined by a couple who asked where they were from? England, oh, where in England, Near Nottingham, oh whereabouts? Near Newark , Oh! Whereabouts do you two live then? Fiskerton! Kevin and Vicky are walking to raise funds for Alzheimer's, and guess what Kevin does . . . takes on projects from charities and the like to build community centres , conversations to be expanded on both teams' return. See Kevin's photo at the end.

Architectural Marvels Along the Way

Between the raindrops, spectacular sights emerged. Ancient churches and cathedrals stood as testament to centuries of pilgrimage, while former homes carved directly into rock faces sparked imaginations. One village featured dwellings so whimsically integrated into the landscape they resembled hobbit homes from Middle Earth. The opulent Bishop's Palace in Astorga provided a particularly striking contrast to their modest pilgrim accommodations.



Culinary Adventures (And Misadventures)

The gastronomic journey consisted primarily of tapas and pinchos—depending the region of Spain you may be in, with an endless parade of cold sandwiches and pre-prepared omelettes, often "enhanced" by microwave warming. However, the occasional hot meal became a cause for celebration, with the communal dinners at the Albergues (pilgrim hostels) ranking among their finest culinary experiences.

Nature's Daily Symphony

Despite the challenging weather, Mother Nature provided daily compensation. Spectacular displays of wildflowers lined their path, accompanied by an ever-changing soundtrack of birdsong. Most memorably, cuckoos seemed to follow their progress, providing a morning wake-up call that became as reliable as any alarm clock. Wildlife sightings ranged from remarkably vocal toads to majestic storks nesting atop church towers, culminating in a rare glimpse of a Pyrenean Eagle soaring overhead.

The Final Push to Glory

The approach to Santiago de Compostela should have been a triumphant victory lap, but reality had other plans. After weeks of covering 17-20 miles daily, the toll became evident: injuries accumulated, a chest infection took hold, and exhaustion set in. The final photograph may show three men at journey's end, but it barely conceals the profound weariness of their monumental achievement.

Legacy and Looking Forward

Their epic journey raised approximately £1,000 for ASK Hive funds through JustGiving donations and share purchases. The trio thank



all those who contributed, with a special acknowledgment to Benchmark Consulting for their generous financial support throughout the adventure.

As for future adventures? That remains a topic for future discussion—preferably after they've recovered feeling in their feet and forgotten the more challenging moments of their 500-mile odyssey. After all, memory has a wonderful way of polishing even the roughest experiences into golden adventures worth repeating.

Left is Kevin from Fiskerton, who completed his challenge and raised funds for the Alzheimer's Society, who we met on the way with his wife Vicky!

500 Miles Adventure - follow up

The team will be back in time for the first Hive Annual Members Meeting to be held on:

Tuesday 1st July at 7:30 pm

In: The Estate Room at Kelham Hall

Where members will elect the Management Committee and pass the accounts.

This will continue the work to acquire and build a Community Hub for our three villages and build on the work of local groups like; ASK About, The W.I., The Garden Club, Walking Groups, Robin Hood Theatreup and running.

Bob McGhee

Parish Community Meeting

- ⇒ A quick thanks to all who attended and represented the various clubs and societies within our community at the meeting held at Kelham Hall on May 19th at 6:30
- ⇒ Some of those in attendance were:
 - ⇒ Garden and Book Clubs
 - ⇒ ASK About and The Hive
 - ⇒ RHTC
 - ⇒ Dance, Yoga, Karate Classes etc
 - ⇒ Women's Institute
 - ⇒ The Pinfold Walking Group

There will a full report in next month's issue after the Parish Council Meeting on June 23rd.

Editor

It almost seems like ancient history when we think back to May but felt it relevant to include with our news update. To be fair most of the members' input was with the VE 80th Celebration, organizing tea and a variety of homemade cakes for an unknown number! But it has to be said it

was great to be part of the fabulous event which raised so much for the Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark.

The WI helpers' afternoon was helped along by a bottle or two of Prosecco provided by Tracey Young. Thanks for that T. It greased the machinery very well!! We had enjoyed a May meeting with a difference as we had a



cheese tasting quiz after we had completed the formalities of discussing this year's annual resolution which was to promote CPR skills across communities. We also followed the discussion up with a bit of action having written to our PC asking for a replacement defibrillator for Staythorpe which has been out of action for over 1 year.

In June we had a very informal meeting about helping toads, and other reptiles to thrive. One of the major dangers, especially for toads is during the breeding season, usually during May/June

,when they need to return to their own ponds. This often involves crossing busy roads with dire consequences. Our speaker Margaret Cooper from Oxton rose to international fame in 1999 when she managed to get a road closed in Oxton for the breeding season. This was a world first and made the news.

Continued

AKS WI News for July Plough 2025 Continued

As a result many roads are closed for the toads which is generally helping to keep their numbers fairly stable. But it is an on-going battle. If you would like to learn more please contact Maiya Evans who is the Chair of the Notts reptile group. Her email is Maiya.evans@gmail.com. Specifically for toad info email Nottstoadpatrols@retmail.com or the website NottsARG.ARGUK.org. Happy Toading folks!

Lots happening in July and August for our little group. Just a couple of notices. Firstly, we are holding our open meeting on July 14th 7pm at RHT. Jayne Owen, one of our members and incredible speaker, will be telling us via PowerPoint, the wonders of the Cartier jewellery currently in exhibition at the V&A. It promises to be an outstanding evening and £3 will give you fun and a cuppa and a bun and may pique your curiosity to find out more about your local WI. (That is not an acronym for Wild Indians by the way!!) If you would like to come you can just bowl up at the door but it would be helpful if you could indicate your interest to Jenny Q via headbearsenior@gmail.com or via the village WhatsApp groups. One other thing to mention: we are having our usual picnic by the riverside on August 11th starting at 1.30 and it too is an open event to 'Party in the Park'. Bring along a picnic and free drinks will be served. Usually, Pimms.

Please contact Jenny Quickmire 07890641102 if you would like more information.

Jenny Quickmire Meeting Secretary.

ASK Garden Club Report

Spring 2025



Rachel Barrowcliffe came to the garden club to give us a presentation on the Tropical Butterfly House near Sheffield. Rachel's role includes planning,

design implementation, creating award winning gardens, supporting wildlife, maintaining plants and animal enclosures over the 7.5 acre site.

In the winter of 2021/22 a new butterfly house was built standing 8 metres high and opened on the 31st March 2022. The old greenhouse has now become the tropical bird house. An outdoor area for the café was developed where the car park had previously been as a larger outdoor seating area was needed following the Covid 19 pandemic. The new butterfly house contains a large pond heated to 28 degrees supporting a giant water lily and is surrounded by many tropical plants including bananas, hibiscus and clivias.

In 2024 the new butterfly house won the BIAZA 2024 Gold horticulture award.

There are now over 200 species of tropical plants in the butterfly house; Rachel uses a high potash fertiliser to encourage flowers. Many of the plants are bred specifically for the butterflies. By propagating

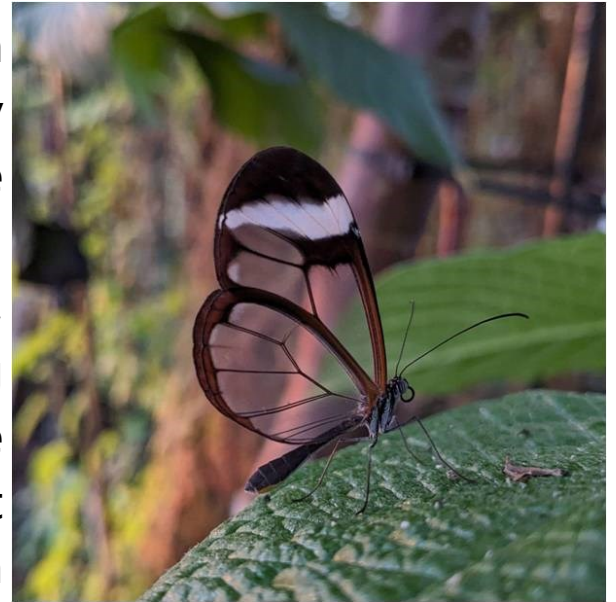


plants from seed, cuttings and division, Rachel ensures a constant supply of plants to support the breeding of the butterflies.

ASK Garden Club Report Continued

The tropical butterfly house is well known for the Glass Wing (greta oto) butterfly which are very difficult to breed. They are shipped in from abroad as a pupa.

Further breeds include the Zebra butterfly, Broadwing butterfly, their host flower being passiflora caerulea (passion flower) and the Swallowtail butterfly which is also prevalent in the summer months. Another moth on



site is

the Atlas moth which has a 12 inch wingspan, is the largest in the world and its sole purpose is to breed.

Other residents at the park include iguana, crown pigeons, owls, ducks, finches, stick insects, scorpions, guinea pigs, terrapins and much, much more!

A woodland walk where hellebores, snowdrops, bluebells, ransoms (wild garlic) and cyclamen can all be found here in spring taking advantage of the light before the summer leaf canopy casts the area into shade. There are 50,000 snowdrops, many having been rescued from building sites across the area. These are a very important nectar source for early bees. Over 1000 tulip bulbs are planted for flowering at Easter and there are around 50 fruit trees.

Our next meeting is on the 22nd July when we will be visiting 'Waxwings & Goldcrest' two architect designed eco-homes in Bestwood Village set within 6 acres of stunning, tranquil gardens developed with biodiversity in mind. If you would like to join us for this garden visit please contact me at: bootiqueonline@outlook.com or 07929 367 461.

Continued

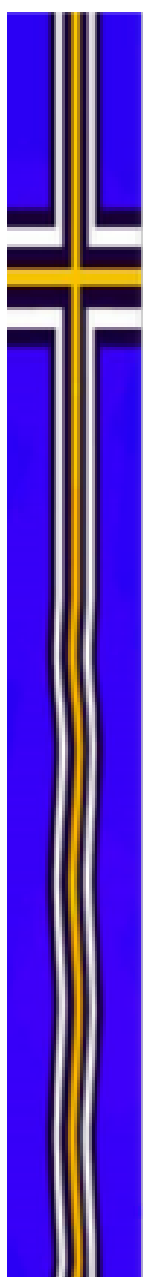
ASK Garden Club Report Continued

There is also a wildness walk through where grass snakes can be found and a witch's potion garden where many of the plants have healing and medicinal properties.

In addition to the tropical bird and butterfly houses the park boasts multiple picnic areas, a dinosaur trail, farm barn and a play park for the children. Opening times and prices are available on the website which is www.butterflyhouse.co.uk

If you are interested in joining us, and for next meeting details please contact me at: bootiqueonline@outlook.com or 07929 367 461

Nigel Britton – Club Secretary



CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND UNITED SERVICES		
Sunday 29 th June 9:15am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Worship Service
Sunday 6 th July 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Worship Service
Sunday 13 th July 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th July 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 20 th July 3:00 pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Messy Church
Sunday 27 th July 9:30 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Holy Communion
Sunday 3 rd Aug 9:30am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Holy Communion

AI has no heart!

Already robot mowers crawl across many lawns and robot vacuum cleaners pick up the dust in many of our homes. The internet urges us to have a conversation with ChatGPT and similar extensions of Artificial Intelligence.

The speed of development is extraordinary and what has been promised for years now happens all around us. People are being replaced by machines - machines which think faster and more accurately than we can and, more disturbingly, look into the future further than we can.

I don't think that there is anything which has been ever invented which has not been used for evil purposes – gunpowder began with fireworks, nuclear power began with A-bombs. AI is no exception for over all of this hangs a deeper question. It was put before us in 2001: A Space Odyssey when HAL the computer replied when given a command: "'I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that.". What happens when a machine has a mind of its own and does not do what it's programmed to do? Humans are on the brink of something scientifically beyond our understanding – just like looking into the greatest mystery of all: the being of God Almighty.

AI also asks the question, 'What makes us human?'. If something can talk intelligently, walk and run, and beat me at chess, how is it different from you and me. This is made clearer because we personalise things – most people who have robot mowers creeping across their lawns give them a name. AI dolls can talk to our children, even hold their hands.

Continued

AI has no heart continued

The whole field of human consciousness is vastly complex but also important. Long ago, Descartes said 'I think, therefore I am' – a statement which still makes us puzzle exactly who we are. But one thing we can say is that the incredible scientific discoveries can never show us love. Your doll can say the right words and even make the right actions, but it cannot love. Human emotions and feelings can never be genuinely replicated. You can take a machine to pieces, but you will look in vain for a heart which throbs with emotions and dreams, hopes and fears. The commands of Jesus are as valid as ever:

"You shall love the Lord your God ... you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

John Finney

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AVERHAM CHURCH

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/AB066F56-6393-4D59-8C9F-813BD2AD1557>



PROGRESS?

After a delay, in part as a result of the County Council elections, a proposal was received from the manager of the project to develop the site that showed that The Hive would be left with a very small patch by the car park and trees, rather than about half



the site! This is plainly not in the spirit of the agreement reached with the County Councillors and Administration in December or subsequently in February, which was published as a press release by them! The ASK Hive team believe this may be a fishing expedition to see what the Council can sell on to developers for building on, and have responded saying this is **NOT** acceptable. Our local Cllr. Sue Saddington and former council Leader Cllr. Sam Smith are perusing this with the administration as the new leadership have cancelled all meetings and oversight committees for at least a month. We have also written to the new Leader Cllr. Mick Barton expressing our concerns, and await a response. We will probably have to await the formation and appointment of the new council officers possibly until after the August recess!

The ASK Hive team are asking locals to express their opinion directly to the new leader to draw attention to the situation, especially after four years of chipping away at this fantastic opportunity for our community. Cllr. Mick Barton can be contacted at cllr.mick.barton@nottsc.gov.uk (extracted from the Notts CC website).

The team hope this is just a hiccup and will keep you informed as communication is re-established with the new leadership and its members.

Finally, the Annual Members' Meeting is on Tuesday 1st July 7:30 pm in The Estate Room at Kelham Hall.

NOTICE of AGM MEETING FOR ASK HIVE LIMITED

Notice is hereby given for the first formal Annual Members Meeting of ASK Hive Limited (The Hive) on Tuesday 1st July at Kelham Hall in The Estate room starting at 7:30 pm. Members only will be allowed to vote. The general public are welcome to view and discuss the plans and proposals after formalities.

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muskhamplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

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: | Judith Mills | 07775 781591 |
| ◇ Staythorpe: | Debs Storey | 07974 957684 |

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There are NO publications in January or July 2026

Advertisements are published in good faith and inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the business/organisation or its products/services by the magazine, nor does it constitute a recommendation.

**For the August 2025 edition of the magazine -
Copy required by 17 July 2025.**

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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:	Lynda Ogilvie	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:

01636 59 69 00
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
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OTHERS:

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
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Southwell.library@inspireculture.org.uk