

BLEASBY NEWS



**What is more beautiful than our own
Jubilee Ponds?**

Photo by Annie Cast-Coombs

OCTOBER 2020



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WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS – IT’S A SEASON OF CHANGE

Throughout this edition the theme of **change** is apparent. Firstly we are hopeful that a new editor, or maybe an editorial team, may soon be emerging to take over Bleasby News. It is looking promising and, if this is confirmed, please give her/them every support and encouragement as Bleasby News goes into these new hands from the February edition. Even better, offers to join the new editorial team very welcome!

In the meantime, can we wish you all a safe and happy autumn. Many of us are still being careful and trying to keep to the rules, constantly **changing** as they are – at least we have got used to wearing masks when necessary, adopting creative ways of shopping, keeping a friendly eye on our friends and neighbours, walking, running, cycling and, for ever gardening! Thanks once again to those organisations, groups and individuals who are supporting people in the parish in so many ways.

As always we will be pleased to receive all types of articles, pictures, ideas and news etc – send all your items for the December edition by **Monday, 16th November**, to Rachael at prandrew74@outlook.com or Barbara at barbaracast@btinternet.com

Bleasby News editors, Rachael and Barbara

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL - SAY GOODBYE TO SUMMER, HELLO AUTUMN

Whatever age you are, the year 2020 is going to be one of the most notable. I am starting to feel I am on a roller coaster. Early in the year we had floods, with Bleasby just about avoiding the worst. Then came Covid19. In February we had the rush for pasta and toilet rolls. Looking back, that felt like a phoney war. Lockdown on the 23rd March, followed by weeks of quiet isolation. A trip to the supermarket felt like a trip into the unknown. Few cars on the road and rainbow pictures in the houses along the route. Things started to improve. Graphs on the news showed a steady decline in cases and deaths. By August we had “Eat Out to Help Out”, which proved highly popular and provided some respite from the isolation. Unfortunately, the roller coaster started to go back up, and holiday destinations began to diminish. It is almost as if we are fast approaching square one again. The dreaded R number is now above 1 in most parts of the country, with cases and Covid19 hospital admissions on a quite sharp increase. As a health service worker all I can advise is keep to the basics, maintain a 2 metre rule, especially indoors when not at home, wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds and wear a mask when inside places that are not your home. Be careful when going to petrol stations - a lot of people will have used the same petrol pump many times over on the same day so wear gloves or clean your hands afterwards. It is really up to us to stay safe.

I have visited the Waggon and Horses a number of times and have been impressed by the safety measures put in place. I would suggest you don't go to places that are not putting such measures in place - it just isn't worth it. Bleasby, Goverton and

Gibsmere have been relatively fortunate in terms of the impact of Covid19. It would be great if that continues until either the pandemic goes away or a vaccine finally arrives, probably sometime in the first half of the new year.

The Parish Council has been holding its monthly meetings on Zoom throughout the summer. If you want to attend a meeting, which are held every second Monday of the month, please contact me on Andersenbleasbypc@outlook.com. We have had to curtail a number of events and plans to improve the village but we fully intend to get the ball rolling whenever it becomes appropriate to do so.

All the best, Stephen Andersen, Chair of Bleasby Parish Council

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Dear All in Bleasby, Gibsmere and Goverton

First a well done and thank you to all the staff at Bleasby CE School for a successful return despite the virus this term. The school is a very significant part of the village and its life, as well as other surrounding villages. May we support it as best we can.

Public worship has returned to St Mary's, being exempt from the 'Rule of 6', and is on every 3rd Sunday - observing covid protocols. **You are welcome.** Zoom worship continues every Sunday at 10.30, please ask for an invite and see what you think!

We are in a period of great **change** (so what's new!?), crucial elections in the US, climate **change** consequences becoming more obvious, uncertainties around every corner, not to mention dealing with 'the virus'! Heraclitus wisely said "Nothing endures, except change". It's amazing how many of us don't like change, don't want change and complain because of change. **Change** is a neutral thing, simply a process by which things become different. People don't like different either, probably because it's a change from the expectation of what is normal. Am I alone in not liking the phrase 'the new normal'? I think it assumes there ever was a normal to start with, and that we hope we can return to whatever it was as soon as possible. Neither of which is very likely. To complain about change is very therapeutic, we all do it! Perhaps change is like a test? If so, is it willing us to learn something new, grow in who we are and become wiser and less self-focused? What have changes brought to you? Probably some plusses as well as losses. If only we could avoid the losses, we might be happier people. Or would we? Isn't it the losses that bring opportunities to learn new things and appreciate good people? We have lost a lot in the recent pandemic - and we certainly haven't reached the end of it yet. What have we gained through these losses? Could it be we have gained some insight, some appreciation of others, even a sense of the importance of selfless generosity that seeks no reward? If not might I respectfully suggest you give it a go...learning from loss and gaining through giving? Who was it said something about he who loses (his life) will find it? Loss and change is an opportunity to be shaped even for the better.

“It is not the **strongest or the most intelligent who will survive**, but those who can **best manage change**.” (Darwin)

“**Change** is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” (JF Kennedy)

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will find it” (Jesus)

(Heraclitus was a Greek philosopher from Ephesus d.o.b. c535BC)

Best wishes in your negotiation of change! The Revd Phil, 077 200 100 66 - phil_07@btinternet.com

CHURCH NEWS

Return to church for services

Although many of the congregation have been meeting twice a week on zoom everyone was keen to get back to the building and being properly together but apart! The Benefice Council met at Rolleston on August 24th for a trial “actual” service under the necessary restrictions. This went ahead without a hitch so we were confident that everything was in place to invite congregations to return. We are grateful to Paula, our Benefice Administrator, for helping to keep us all connected during lockdown and beyond. Each church in the Benefice has been allocated a service at 10.30am once a month on a given Sunday. For St Mary’s this will be on the third Sunday. To comply with instructions from the Church of England to keep our congregations safe, social distancing applies, places where people should sit are clearly marked and masks are to be worn by all. Zoom worship will continue alongside actual services on each Sunday of the month and on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. The church will be open for visitors and for private prayer from 10am until 5pm on Sundays other than the third Sunday.

School

We were sorry not to be able to welcome the reception class children and their parents with a special service as they began their primary school lives. We hope it won’t be too long before we can resume our normal school visits to church, shared activities, services and Open Door Club. We wish all the children well for the current term. It is lovely to see them coming and going and looking so happy to be back. Parents are looking happy too; it has been a long “holiday”!

Looking forward

It isn’t possible to plan for any of the usual festivals while uncertainties about gatherings remain. Harvest celebrations, Advent and Christmas activities are all “on hold”. Perhaps it is only by missing them that we will realise just how much we enjoy these special occasions.

Seven Churches Walk

We hope that we will have been able to do our usual sponsored walk on Sunday September 27th to raise funds for Bungoma Calling. In particular we are contributing to their food bank for the rural poor, especially elderly women living alone without the support of family. We are also supporting a “jiggers” project to spray floors in living accommodation and provide medical attention for those infested with this tropical flea that burrows into the skin. It needs treating early before real harm can be done. It is

possible to watch the process of digging out the “jigger” if you have a strong stomach! If anyone would like to sponsor a walker or a walker’s dog, please be in touch with Rev Phil. Leonard usually raises more money than any human. He enjoys the occasion while the rest of us stagger on thinking of a drink in the pub followed by a long hot bath, all the time wondering why we said we’d do it again.

Volunteers

Thank you to all those who help to keep the graveyard looking beautiful. Roger Bennett has “retired” after many years of service so it is particularly encouraging that Mike Fryer has joined Derek McGrath and John Sharpe - otherwise known as the mowing team. We are grateful to them all. The “cleaning team”, laid off since the church was closed, is now back in action but working in twos and threes to maintain distance. They have made the church ready for the congregation to return. The bee problem has resolved itself now that the temperature has dropped.

Revd Phil

We would particularly like to thank Revd Phil for all he has done to keep services going while so many restrictions are in place. Zoom services were introduced immediately, attracting large followings including people who are not regular church attenders and others from beyond our benefice. To be able to increase your congregation in these circumstances is quite something. Numbers have remained high and Phil has been able to share our success with other parishes. Worship materials have been provided regularly across the Benefice for anyone unable to zoom. Planning for the return to actual services has been time-consuming. Phil has followed evolving and ever changing regulations with meticulous attention to detail and the wellbeing of his congregations and service leaders always to the fore. He has consulted regularly with the Benefice Council to seek advice and to keep us all informed. At the same time he has carried the responsibilities of Chair of School Governors during particularly difficult times. Unable or unwilling to take his usual August break, we hope that circumstance will allow and he will soon feel confident enough to take a well-deserved holiday rather than a few snatched days here and there.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

BACK TO SCHOOL

Mr Mensah, Headteacher of Bleasby School was very pleased to welcome pupils back to a new school year! In their first week he was proud to say that all the children had been wonderful and that “it had been fantastic to have them all back in school”. The school said a special welcome to the new Reception children who joined Apple Class “their Bleasby journey has just begun”. Mr Mensah thanked parents and carers for their co-operation and support with the new arrangements for drop off and pick up and asked that they continue to follow the new protocols and to respect social distancing near school.

Extract from Bleasby School Bulletin

Congratulations to Dorothy Winn who has just become a great grandmother for the 14th time!

IN MEMORY

We offer our condolences to the families for those who have recently died.

Michael Jackman of School Lane, who died on July 23rd:

Doreen Wilson who was one of the original residents of the 1970's Sycamore Lane development and who moved to the south of England five years ago to be nearer to her family:

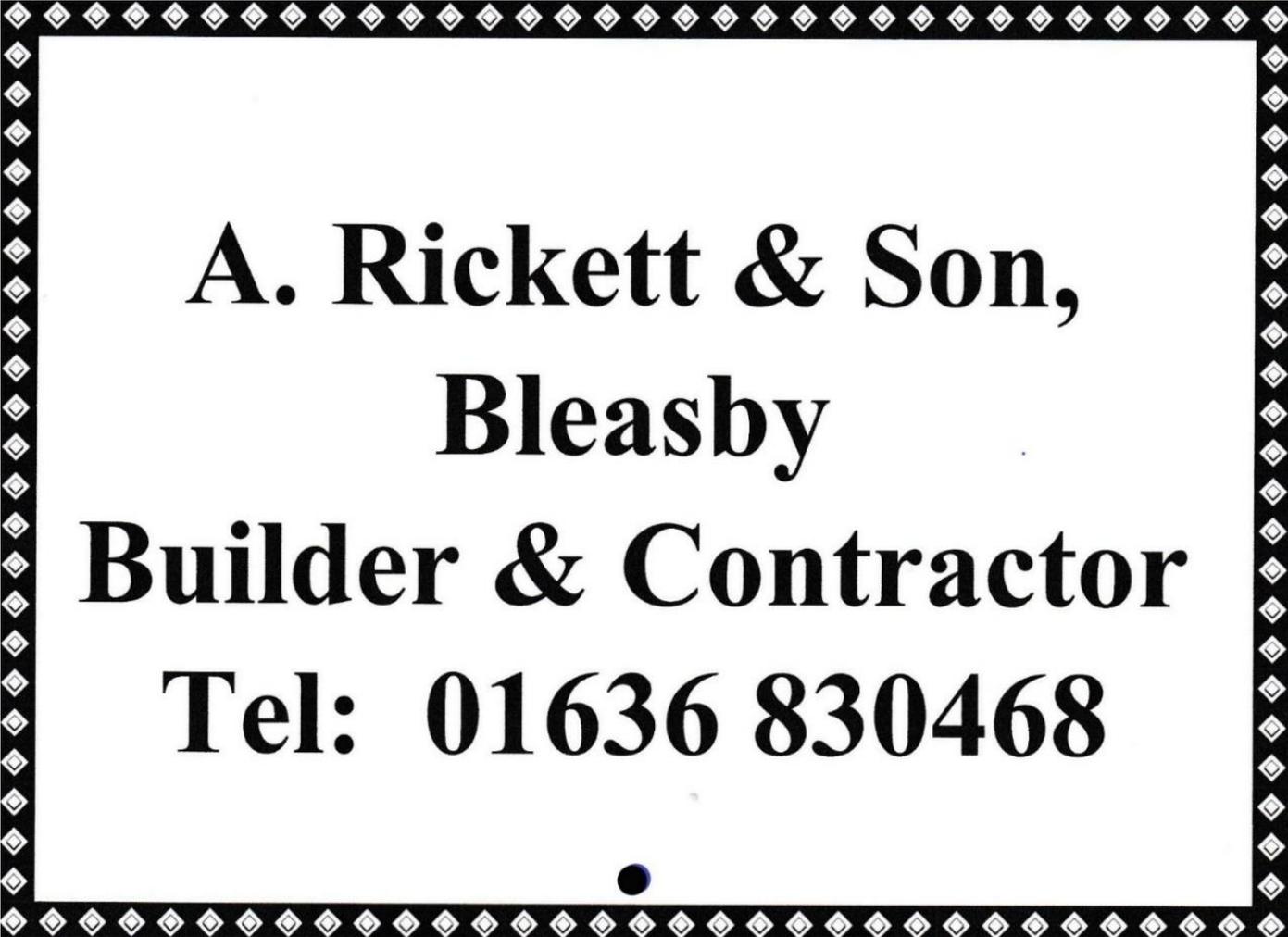
Trisha Dobson, until recently of Orchard Close, and known to many through our Friendship Coffee Mornings.

BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We had hoped to recommence our annual programme in September but the "rule of six" put paid to our plans. So many of our interesting speakers have had to be put on hold – however, it will eventually pass!

In the meantime, why not do a bit of research on your house, your family, and let BLHS or the editors know your findings!

Barbara Cast, President of BLHS



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APOLOGIA FOR ALBERT

We've lived in Gibsmere for nearly 31 years now – so a few years yet to serve before I might claim no longer to be an “incomer”. From word go, when I joined the Jubilee Ponds Committee, I have enjoyed, belonged or have been involved in many of the wonderful and rewarding aspects which Bleasby Parish has had to offer over the years. So for me, Bleasby News has always been a valuable source of information, interest - and entertainment! However, once in a while an article really pulls one up short – as the one about Peter Cast's father in the last (August 2020) edition.

Peter, that RAF drill sergeant might have been my father!! His first assignment when he joined up (having started life as a maths, music and PE teacher) was indeed on Blackpool promenade, training the troops – and yes, he needed a loud voice in that situation and teaching and a love of amateur dramatics perhaps helped him hone that attribute! The coincidences didn't end there, though. My father also served in Burma, in India and Malaya. He was an Intelligence Officer in the 607 Company of Durham RAF Auxiliary Squadron (not sure how that happened – he was a Wiltshire lad whose first job was in Luton!). He also formed a life-long friendship with a Flight-Lieutenant, a commander of a flight of Spitfires (and subsequently, DFC) who became my Godfather ...and came from Dundee! Of course, it took him a long time to come home also after peace was declared.

I'm writing this on VJ Day after an emotional morning re-reading some of my parents' letters, reading newspaper reports, polishing his Burma Cross (well – Roger did that!) and watching the beautiful remembrance service from the National Arboretum – even more poignant given the distancing regulations. Our special involvement with the service came about because our son-in-law was there on special escort duties and so it was as if he could represent us and pay our respects.

My father only spoke to me once of his experiences on one wintery afternoon but in the comfort of our roaring fire. The brief anecdotes he recalled and the images he described that hour were enough to since have fuelled every silence when I've stood to attention in Remembrance. In 2006, the Bleasby Book Club (led by the WI but all welcome!) read *Our Hidden Lives* by Simon Garfield which endorsed my understanding that troops had been advised not to talk about the tragedies and horrors they had witnessed, not for a secrecy issue but to aid the lessening of their trauma - by not recalling events, their detail might be forgotten more quickly. Yet it is so right that we now recognise their service and sacrifice and can remain grateful.

On 2nd March 1946, my mother received the right kind of telegram: “ARRIVED SOUTHAMPTON. EXPECT HOME SHORTLY”. As it was for Peter describing the homecoming of Albert “Daddy” Cast, my father's return gave me my life.

So thank you Bleasby News for helping me to remember – I sincerely hope new editors come forward for 2021. Sorry – it won't be me ...I did my stint setting the copy when Christine Sharpe was Editor between 1995 and 2002!

Christine Bennett

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OVER FORTY YEARS OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN BLEASBY

Both your editors have lived in Bleasby for over forty years – we are slightly older and possibly wiser now! During our time in the parish we have seen quite a lot of changes and many significant achievements.

Where shall we start? Well **changes** – none of us is terribly keen to see the places we have long known, and often loved, change – loss of old buildings, raw new houses springing up, trees we have valued disappearing, the closure of post office and shop, no Star and Garter at Hazelford – all cause varying degrees of pain or even indignation. Not to mention coach trips for walks in the Peak District, British Legion Sports Days, It's a Knock-out at summer schools, dramatic performances, dances!

But **achievements** – yes in those forty plus years much has been achieved in and for our Nottinghamshire patch.

Let me start at our beginnings in Bleasby. In 1974 the Cast family arrived in Bleasby and the Andrew family a couple of years later. The two families, in their different ways, like many others over the years, quickly became involved in the life of the village. Early involvement for the Casts was in 1975, when we had lived here for just a few months: it was a new initiative of the Parish Council – the “Bleasby Village Study”. Five volunteers worked on the study including Diana Temperley (then Chair of the Parish Council), Peter Cast and the late John Davies. Over 70% of households responded to the survey – a very impressive number – and the study group extracted the main findings and it is very interesting to see that, since 1975, a number of residents’ comments regarding what was needed in the parish have since been achieved.

In 1975 the lack of a **village green** was regretted as this “was felt to be an integral part and heart of a village”. But it wasn't until 2009 that the Glebe Field actually became owned by the Parish Council after at least forty years of attempting to persuade the diocesan finance authorities to sell, lease or lend it to the parish. In the '80s a new tack was tried when the PC tendered for summer grazing – this was unsuccessful! So yet another attempt to purchase or lease was commenced – this time having to deal with local agents which the PC negotiators (Lynda Ogilvie and BC) found to be extremely difficult. All avenues were explored – especially as the millennium loomed and grants for common land were available. Hopes were raised and dashed – dashed especially when the agents wrote to inform the PC in 2005 “I can now inform you that the Board does not wish to sell this land to the parish council, now or in the future”. However, by 2009, the situation had changed and you can imagine the delight of those on the Parish Council (and supporters) who found the parish in possession of the Glebe Field after so many years of persistent attempts. No wonder those involved in its acquisition hold this beautiful, tranquil field in the centre of the village in such affection!

Under the study section relating to the environment, the importance of the **gravel ponds** to wildlife was noted and, again in 1975, it was recognised that they should be

carefully retained as an undeveloped area for wildlife, recreation and leisure. A year or so later, in preparation for celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, a meeting was held for Bleasby residents to suggest ideas to mark the occasion. Gerald Cole (then of Sycamore Lane) and Peter Cast jointly put forward a proposal that the parish attempt to acquire these disused gravel workings for an area available to all parishioners for "gentle recreation and nature conservation". The Parish Council saw this as an ideal way to commemorate the Jubilee and set about negotiating a deal with the legal assistance of Brian Temperley and the late Tony Callaghan, then Secretary to Hoveringham Gravels and a Bleasby resident. An agreement was signed on 16th November 1978 to rent and manage what were to be called the Jubilee Ponds for £1 annually. Then on March 9th 1987, the exchange of contracts took place between Hoveringham Gravel (later Tarmac Ltd) and Bleasby Parish Council to complete the purchase of the area now known as the Jubilee Ponds, paying the small fortune of one pound sterling! In the process the access road to the Ponds had its historic name, **Borrowbread Lane**, resurrected.

In 1975 a large majority of respondents agreed that it was "extremely important to maintain the **open spaces** between Goverton and Bleasby and Bleasby and Gibsmere. These open spaces have been maintained and are still valued both for practical reasons and in identifying the special settlement areas of the parish. Apart from these open spaces several other areas were noted as being of particular attractiveness – only one has been lost and that was the field behind the Old Willows (later Carlins Field). Since 1975 the Conservation Area around Gypsy Lane, the Church and the Waggon and Horses has been established.

It was also noted in 1975 that there was the lack of a **playing field** – subsequently the Parish Council negotiated the joint use for local youngsters of the School Field out of school hours. This has been particularly valued during the period of school lockdown.

Public transport was also noted in 1975 – the train service was good and should be continued – a late train from Newark would have been welcomed. It has to be said that our train service is not as good as it was - many fewer trains stop here than in previous years. A better bus service to Southwell was called for in 1975 – there is now a service three times a week to Southwell, also to Newark and Lowdham.

Village amenities – in 1975 the village hall was due to be extended and modernised under the guidance of the then Chair of the Village Hall Committee, Lester Brooks. It has resulted in a valuable asset to the parish with many events and activities held there, including the playgroup which was something wished for in 1975. A village newspaper was also mentioned then (another achievement - let's hope it will continue!).

There have been other **achievements** in the parish over the years, with many parishioners contributing to their success – the Millennium Stone or Maggot Cross at High Cross; full level crossing gates after much lobbying; the new roadside drainage system; the wooden heron carving on Main Street; the acquisition of the defibrillator

now overseen by Ali Sutherland; the beautiful window in the village hall; the millennium embroidery also in the village hall; the Centenary Wood in the Jubilee Ponds; the Aircrews Memorial largely due to the tireless endeavours of Ken Ogilvie and team; the restoration of the Churchyard memorial; a well-kept wildlife friendly churchyard with thanks to the mowing team, Roger, Derek and John; the acquisition of Ferry End; the Flood Action Group with oversight by Elaine France; the Local History Society; the Lunch Club now at Manor Farm Teashop; Bleasby Open Gardens; Christmas and other special celebrations and regular, well attended parish events; and all the support our parish has benefited from through St Mary's thanks to Revd Phil and churchwardens, Diana Temperley and Rachael, the WI currently under the lively guidance of Monica Richardson, the Parish Council, other organisations and many individuals.

What else can we achieve? Ideas please.

Barbara Cast

VJ DAY COMMEMORATIONS - A POST-SCRIPT

I have been fascinated by the accounts of the war in the Far East and the "Forgotten Army" that have been inspired by the anniversary of VJ Day, including those published in Bleasby News. They have provided an insight into the lives of those who fought, what they endured and the lasting effects it had on them and their families for years to come.

I am reminded of an exchange visit for Japanese and English teachers I took part in some fifteen years ago. The privilege of being able to stay with a family in Japan provided a window into the Japanese way of life, culture and the education system denied to most tourists. We visited temples, shrines, castles, museums and Mount Fuji like any other travellers, but what made the most impact on me was to stand with Masayo, my Japanese exchange partner, in the Peace Park at Hiroshima. It was at my request, not something expected of visitors. What inspired me most was the emphasis on peace and education - all primary school children visit the site as part of their school curriculum - the history curriculum itself has been overhauled to represent how Japanese imperialist ambitions were portrayed and the resulting descent into war. The bombing of the city by the US Air Force and the aftermath are described, along with the personal testimony of the horrors it visited on the civilian population. It is estimated that, on August 6th 1945, 450,000 people in Hiroshima and its environs either died or were affected by radioactive fallout and continued to be for many years. The effects of radiation are still evident. The catastrophic effects were described by a survivor, Masamoto Nasu: "None of the victims of this first atomic bomb had any idea what had happened. Most just thought a regular bomb had exploded very close. But as they ran they realised this was like nothing they had known before. The entire city was destroyed. The dead and injured lay everywhere. A dusty smoke filled the sky covering Hiroshima in darkness. Then fire broke out and the city appeared like a vision of hell". With the aim of bringing the conflict to a close the war had descended into a spiral of brutality. There is much to learn from this.

The context in which this is presented is more a warning to future generations than a vilification of the combatants. The central message of the exhibitions is that “It is the duty of everyone alive today to ensure that what happened in Hiroshima on that fateful day is not forgotten and is never repeated.” And the last word from the children of Hiroshima:

“This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world.”

Rachael Andrew

BLEASBY BIKERS

Well, what a surreal situation we all find ourselves in, but at least we were able to get out on our bikes during the full lockdown period. And, even that experience had an air of unreality about it – empty roads, increasingly populated by wildlife venturing into previously dangerous territory. More near misses with rabbits and squirrels than close passes by impatient motorists! We have encouraged all of our members to ride responsibly. Groups sizes always to be kept below six for some months now, with decent spacing between riders. We are not organising any official club rides, and various events, like our planned weekend to Shropshire and the nearby Welsh hills in September, cancelled. But members have been getting out, either on solo rides or in informally organised small groups and, judging by the club leaderboard on the Strava app, many are recording some prodigious mileages. One of our members, using a gym bike at home, rode up the equivalent of Mount Everest in a day. Another completed a 500 mile ride over seven days to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.

One of our long standing members, Andy Swain, has opened a fantastic new cycle shop in Southwell, Rode Cycles, opposite the Admiral Rodney pub. Get your old bike properly serviced there, buy a new one, or browse a big selection of cycling gear, accessories and tools. Highly recommended.

And, we’ve been pleased to see some local road surfaces improved by Via East Midlands in the recent past. Some big sections of road with full resurfacing work, although we remain frustrated by the crude patching of individual potholes and the very uneven surfaces created by their new Roadmaster surfacing vehicles (the bend opposite Manor Farm and the road through Goverton are examples of this...OK in a car, but try riding over these sections on a bike!).

On a positive note, we’ve seen quite a few new members join us, some taking to the road on a bike for the first time and helped along by our Easy Riders section, enjoying relatively short rides with a good coffee and cake stop en route. If you’d like to find out more about membership of the Bleasby Bikers, then please contact Colin at bleasbybikers@btinternet.com.

Safe riding - Colin Stump

Bleasby Diary of Events

Still a slow start to normal life

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

October	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 4 th	Zoom service of Holy Communion at 10.30am						
Sunday 11 th	Zoom service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am						
Sunday 18 th	10.30am MPE			10.30 am MPE	10.30am HC		
Sunday 25 th		10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	9am HC		10.30am HC with Methodists	10.30 am MPE
	Also Zoom service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am						
November	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 1 st	Zoom service of Holy Communion at 10.30am						
Sunday 8 th	Zoom service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am						
Sunday 15 th	10.30am HC			10.30 am MPE	10.30am MPE		
Sunday 22 nd			10.30am HC	9am HC		10.30am MPE with Methodists	10.30 am HC
Sunday 29 th	Zoom service of Holy Communion at 10.30am						

Worship Pattern in the Benefice of West Trent - October to November.

Zoom Worship is also on every Wednesday at 7.00pm for 'Compline', a simple service of quiet prayer to end the day. Please email The Revd Phil for a zoom invitation, or find the link to recorded services at www.beneficeofwesttrent.org.

Each Parish Church has one service per month until further notice, and can accommodate their average attendance in the one service. St Denis Morton has 2 services because its 'covid capacity' of c8 doesn't accommodate the average size congregation in one service.



St Mary's about 1865

NEWS FROM THE FARMS – CHANGES FOR FARMERS TOO

In the run up to harvest time it has been interesting to take stock of what's growing in the fields around the parish and within walking distance. I first became aware of the **change** in crops in the spring when there was no sign of the vivid yellow of rape - the **changing** face of the countryside continues. Barley and wheat are familiar crops but have suffered this year from the very wet winter followed by periods of drought, resulting in uneven ripening and poor yields. The recent changeable weather has hampered harvesting (a farmer's verdict "rubbish weather for rubbish crops") but early September has been more settled and farmers have made the most of it, trucks of grain trundling past well into the night. "Covid apart it has been an extraordinary year to farm through. Crops and plants have found the season traumatic and resulting growth patterns are very odd. Never a dull moment! Every year is different."

We are becoming used to the sight of vast acres of maize which I am reliably informed goes to anaerobic digester plants. Perhaps you have noticed large green trucks filled with the chopped crop passing through the village full several days running and returning empty. "Elephant grass" is not "new" anymore and has the same destination. In my ignorance I assumed the field beans or horse beans evident in Thurgarton and Goverton were grown for animal feed - surprisingly they are sold to the Greek market for hummus if disease-free, or otherwise to fish farms to replace anchovies as a source of protein.

A more recent introduction are 30 or more acres of wild flower crops made up of sunflowers, red clover, buckwheat, flax and something with pods which I have not been able to identify. These are grown for wild birds evidently on land in Halloughton opposite Brackenhurst. They attract sight-seers with cameras but no birds - yet. Hopefully come colder weather the birds will arrive. This innovation is a response to Michael Gove's policy "public money for the public good", a form of environmental stewardship. Not all farmers are convinced that being paid by government for a development of this type and on this scale is "farming" as they understand it. Wouldn't it make more sense to be paid for growing food? Other examples of "conservation crops" include mustard and radish in broad swathes of yellow near Brickyard Farm and in Morton, and land returned to scrub, eventually regenerating as woodland at the end of the Morton end of Shale Lane.

Straw yields are very low and will cause problems for livestock farmers. Silage from grass crops has fared much better in spite of long periods of dry weather. A final cut in September is badly needed to top up winter feed for cows and looks promising. The Elliott family at Halloughton Wood farm are looking forward to the demand for Stilton going up as we approach Christmas, having suffered considerably earlier in the year by having to cut back the milk supply to the Long Clawson dairy. Winter milk production will be important and they are looking forward to 300 calves in the early autumn, always a busy period for them.

Speaking of livestock, it has been a thrill to see the birth of calves now suckling contentedly in Andrew Rickett's field at Corner Farm, Goverton. The sheep have

returned to Manor Farm fields and look well. All this farming activity contributes to the pleasure of rural life. How lucky we are to be able to experience it without any of the hard work it entails.

With thanks to the Hammonds, Elliotts and others for information and insights.

Rachael Andrew

CHANGING WEATHER BRINGS CHANGES TO THE JUBILEE PONDS

The autumn equinox has arrived and Covid has not gone away. As our northern hemisphere tips away from the sun we must say goodbye to those balmy summer days and long daylight hours and give a cooler “hello” to the ‘gold spangled’ player next to appear on our delightful seasonal stage. Those necessary, relaxing and consoling walks around the Ponds will be delightfully refreshed by a continuous changing of scenery as we head inexorably towards those crisper, shorter and yet invigorating winter-scene creations.

The joy of the British climate – so often overlooked – is that of our constantly recycling round of seasons with the associated multitude of differing characteristics of weather, wildlife and landscape. Would we really prefer the monotony of living in the hot and humid tropics, lacking in any seasonal change? Variety is the spice of life and we can enjoy the ever changing distinctive moods of the Ponds throughout the year without ever failing to be entranced by a new perspective or tantalised by some new, fresh and exciting observation.

Not only do seasonal **changes** add to the variety and enjoyment of our walks but so do the day-to-day variations in weather conditions and timings. If a strong wind has been blowing look out for new arrivals – butterflies, birds, even bats – carried to us from distant places. In winter easterly gales can bring in ‘wrecked’ seabirds, whilst southerly winds may waft in clouded yellow and painted lady butterflies, northerly winds for our winter wildfowl which also help carry southwards our migrating summer visitors of warblers, swallows and martins, whilst strong westerlies might even bring visitors across the Atlantic. Heavy rain may force down passing flocks of migrating birds, entice up invertebrates – slugs, snails and worms – which in turn entice the predatory frogs, toads, hedgehogs and thrushes. Every fluctuation of weather has its own special joy and delightful encounter which infuses the senses and prompts the memory and imagination.

The stillness of early morning or late afternoon visits produce quiet, entrancing sunsets and sunrises with their spreads of colour on horizon and water, as well as the crystal clear calls of rising or retiring wildlife. The sky-high singing skylark, the electric spark of a passing kingfisher, the pungent smell of fox and fungi, the taste of autumn fruits or chewed grass stems, then snowflakes melting upon the lips and cloaking the eyelashes, all heighten one’s awareness of one’s place on this earth throughout the year. Quiet, solitary strolls by waterside and wooded paths promote happy reflections and keen observations of nature undisturbed, whilst family walks bring the joy of

sharing the experience of varied interests, energy levels and 'heights above ground level' - a veritable multi-sensory battery of awareness. All this brings a greater empathy and appreciation of our environment and a heightened awareness of what it means to be alive and very grateful for it!

As is often said, "there is no such thing as bad weather – only bad preparation for it", so let's get out there and enjoy your countryside in all its moods, guises and richness.

Peter Cast



BLEASBY WI UPDATE

Strange times for the WI as for the rest of the country. Just as we thought life was beginning to return to normal, Rule of Six was enforced. This makes communicating by phone and email even more important for us all. However many members of the WI managed a socially distanced picnic on the Glebe Field in July. We each took our own food, drink and chair and sat socially distanced from each other, other than those already in support bubbles. It was a wonderful opportunity to wander around and catch up on each other's news. The committee had provided for each member a bag full of lockdown goodies, quizzes, origami etc. plus a very hygienic scone, cream and jam: also a teabag or coffee sachet (plus sugar) to give us an afternoon tea feel. It was suggested that we each decorate these bags and display them at our first full meeting. Thank you to those responsible for the baking and arrangements.

The Wednesday Group was given permission to meet again after the Village Hall deep clean and this was managed once. With the new restrictions, we will have to alternate sewing and games and check with each other for attendance to keep numbers at the requisite level.

National WI has kept us up to date with the virtual courses being run by Denman College, the WI's own education resource, and I know some of our members have taken advantage of this.

The items that members have made for the Shoebox appeal have been sent to County House and, as there is also an appeal for knitting for the premature baby unit at City Hospital, items have also been sent there.

I think we are all looking forward to our full meetings resuming as soon as we are able.

Sheila Lewis

HALLOWE'EN 2020



Put on your costumes and let's go pumpkin hunting

We usually love getting dressed up and Trick or Treating and our villagers always make the children's Halloween a fun and treat filled one.

Sadly, we won't be able to do it this year, so following the huge success of the Bleasby Scarecrows, let's all get creative and do something similar...

Everyone can draw, paint, papier mache or carve a real pumpkin in any design they like and pop it in their front window or at their front door. We can then see how many pumpkins the children can spot as they go out either over Halloween or half term.

For every pumpkin spotted, parents could put a treat in their child's Trick or Treat bag.

I hope you will all join in and make Bleasby as spook-tacular as possible.

Thank you for your support.

BLEASBY PLAY GROUP

The children of Bleasby Playgroup have been making the most of the gorgeous autumn weather over the last few weeks. We've been meeting on Glebe Field and having lots of fun, from playing hide and seek, making nature necklaces to exploring some local footpaths.

Playgroups are exempt from the rule of 6 and everyone is welcome.

Sarah Hill



A GENUINELY LOCAL MILKMAN, DELIVERING IN OUR VILLAGES



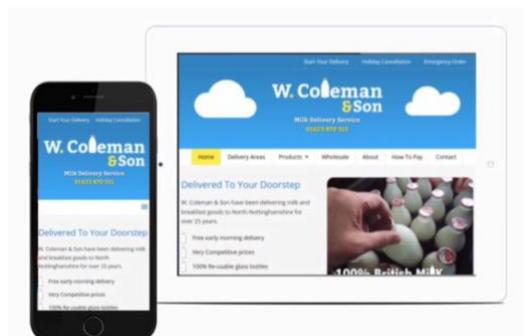
Have you ever fancied having milk (and other basics) delivered to your doorstep? Imagine doing this, whilst helping the environment and supporting local business. What could be better?

W F Coleman and Son is a family-run milk delivery business spanning three generations. Based in Eakring, Colemans have been delivering to local villages for over 30 years. Recent expansion of the business has meant they now cover areas like Southwell and

East Markham; further expansion is underway to extend the family business into Bleasby, Fiskerton and surrounding villages.

Colemans are very much a local business, dedicated to the service of local people. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, whilst many businesses have had to pause, the milk deliveries have continued. When local people have needed extra support with provisions such as bread, cheese, cream and eggs, this caring local business has extended its services to take on extra customers in lockdown. Colemans pride themselves on the personal service they provide to their local community, always being committed to putting their customers' needs first. They try to make payment as simple and painless as possible – by cheque, by cash, over the phone, by direct debit or through their website. Colemans deliver milk in reusable glass bottles, which is great for the environment. Once you've enjoyed the milk, just rinse and return. Nothing could be simpler.

Colemans is a local company based on strong family values. When you contact Colemans, you might speak to Bill, the proud founder of the company: or it could be Rob, Bill's son, the tireless owner and manager of the company: or you may talk to Kieran, Rob's son, who works full-time in the business, or to Katie, Rob's daughter, who helps out in the office. This is a true family business, with a genuine commitment to their local area. How refreshing is that! Call – 07599 293374 wcolemanandson.co.uk



CHRISTMAS IN BLEASBY

It seems such a shame that we will not be able to celebrate this year with the range of seasonal activities which have become the tradition in Bleasby. The Events Group has been discussing ways in which some sort of celebration for Christmas could be organised which does not involve any 'gathering of people' and yet helps raise community Christmas spirit.

We have decided that a 'decorate your gateway' focus for Christmas would make the village feel Christmassy whilst maintaining social distancing. 'Christmas Gateways' would be along the lines of Bleasby in Bloom, or the scarecrow event and would make the village an entrancing place to walk and drive through.

Another ambition is to have 'advent windows' – much like a large-scale Advent Calendar. This would involve 24 houses with a display that would be lit up - a new one each day. We would, of course, need to allocate a number or day to each volunteer. It could even happen in each part of the parish if there were enough people willing to organise it, for example Orchard Close could have 24 windows, and Manor Close, etc, and an equivalent number along Main Street, and in Goverton and Gibsmere. This would make it fun for children coming home from school to see whose window is lighting up each day. We would need volunteers willing to light up their windows in this way so if you are willing to take part could you let Bobbie Desbruslais or Peter Cast know and we will then see if the idea is possible. It may be rather early to be planning for Christmas but it would be great to have a spectacular display of gateways when Christmas comes for all of us to admire as we walk off our Christmas dinner! Contact peterdcast@btinternet.com or desbruslais@yahoo.co.uk

Bobbie on behalf of the Events Group

FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Despite the scares of late autumn and winter flooding – and the summer alerts of torrential downpour – the parish has survived almost unscathed – only Upper and Lower Goverton have had to bear the short-lived brunt of heavy rainfall on saturated ground, with consequent flash flooding. Elsewhere temporary surface water puddling on roads has proved to be a minor inconvenience which could be further minimised by more regular maintenance of the road drainage system. This is currently being addressed, but the blocking of the drainage holes between Council road sweeps, especially in the dropped kerbstones, needs to be constantly monitored and addressed. If every affected householder could check the state of their own stretch of kerbstones, this would help tremendously in ensuring effective road drainage.

We now move into the next calendar phase of flooding risk when the level of the Trent and the height of the water table become a major focus and key factors in the possibility of fluvial flooding as autumn and winter rainfall increases across the Trent catchment area. The Group will soon be meeting with Ross Marshall, the senior NCC hydrologist, to determine what strategies and measures can be best put in place

within the £25,000 grant allocation for flood mitigation in the parish. His coordinating work with the Environment Agency, research groups, landowners and the County Council will provide the background and experience needed to determine the most effective use of this funding.

You all will now be familiar with the images of hideous sewage pipe blockages caused by the flushing of insoluble wipes and fats down toilets and drains and will all be hopeful that you will not be the recipient of sewage backflow into your homes and gardens as a result of the thoughtlessness of others. Toilet paper only please!

Bleasby Flood Action Group

COUNTRYSIDE AND FOOTPATHS – WHITHER CAN WE WANDER?

New restrictions imposed as a result of a perceived Covid spike will again re-emphasise the importance and value of our footpath network for exercise, recuperation, Covid-free conditions and, importantly, for safe, quiet and immediate access to our own countryside. As a community we are very privileged in many respects and are far less adversely affected by the constraints of Covid legislation than those living with limited access to the countryside. It is beholden upon us, therefore, to appreciate and respect the work of our farmers and to ensure the care of their land and crops at all times by following the Countryside Code. Unfortunately this simple but critically important code of practice has apparently fallen from the radar of government, schools and families and in some places has led to the abuse of the countryside and to the dismay and aggravation of farmers, landowners and lovers of our countryside.

It is important to stick to rights of way (unless on a designated open space normally only found in those wilder and uncultivated parts) and to avoid damaging crops. If in doubt about any right of way, an up to date Ordnance Survey map will provide the answer, as can members of Bleasby Countryside and Footpaths Group or, if any dispute, your County Council Footpaths Officer.

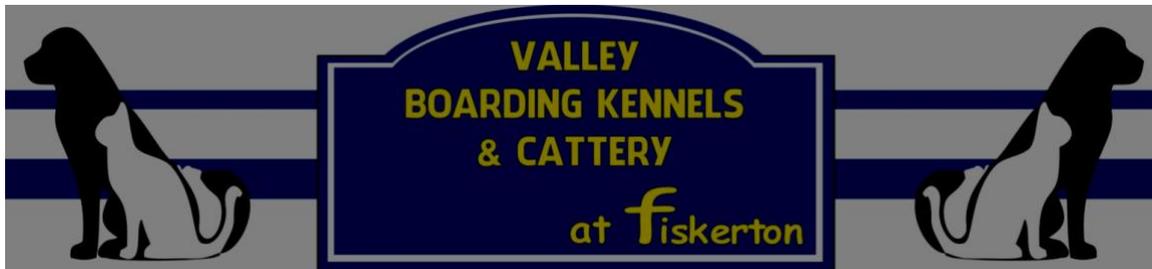
*“What is this life if, full of care, we have no time (or place) to stand and stare?”
with apologies to William Henry Davies*

Countryside and Footpaths Group

A RECIPE FOR THE SCHOOL

Bleasby School took part in British Food Fortnight which ran from Monday 21st September. The children took part in classroom activities that involved learning about the wonderful food that we produce in this country and locally, with a particular focus on how food arrives from farms to our forks. They received a tractor visit during British Food Fortnight to help the children develop their understanding of the important role farmers play in bringing our food to the table. Following the work we did on this we would like to create a Bleasby Recipe book. School are asking families to cook a British dish at home and send in photographs of your family enjoying the food, along

with the recipe and where the ingredients were sourced. There will be a small prize for the family which manages to cook a dish using ingredients from as close to home as possible. The school would like to open this up to the local community. If you would like to send a recipe using local produce to be included in the school book please email it to adunning@bleasby.notts.sch or, if you prefer, you can a post paper copy to school or 2 Manor Close, Bleasby, by 16th October.



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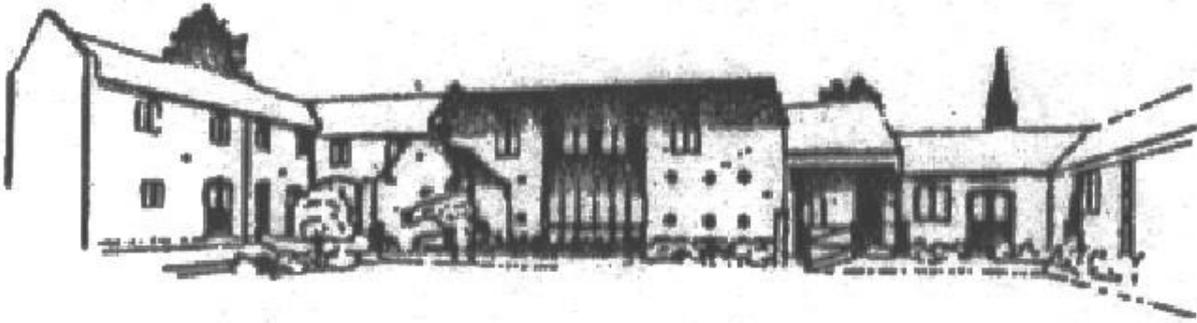
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ANOTHER EXTRACT FROM JOHN HOLMES' DIARY 1810

“An unfortunate accident happened in evening of Oct 4th this year at Haselford-ferry; for as Henry Foster (butcher of this village), his wife and a female cousin, was returning from Gamston feast, by the side of the River Trent, to come over that ferry. Henry Foster alighted from the gig, and left the women in care of the horse to call up the people at the boat-house. The mare at the same time wanting to go forward, and the females endeavouring to stop her, she unfortunately ran the carriage back into the river, and was drowned. Mrs Foster had nearly shared the same fate, but for the timely assistance of her husband; who returning at that critical moment, caught her by the clothes, the second time she appeared above water. The other female by jumping from the gig, as it was falling into the river, received no injury. Several parcels also were lost; the mare belonged to Sarah Fish of Gibsmere.”



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BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT TIMETABLE

The timetable for the bus service, which runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Lowdham to Southwell and then on to Newark, is available to all.

Outgoing stopping point	1st service	2nd service
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	09.30	12.30
Lowdham, Magna Carta	09.33	12.33
Lowdham Station	09.34	12.34
Caythorpe, Main Street	09.37	12.37
Hoveringham, Main Street	09.41	12.41
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	09.48	12.48
Bleasby, Main Street	09.52	12.52
Fiskerton	09.57	12.57
Morton, Main Street	10.00	13.00
Southwell, Church Street	10.04	13.04
Southwell, Ropewalk	10.07	13.07
Upton Main Street	10.15	13.15
Newark bus station	10.39	13.39
Returning stopping point	1st service	2nd service
Newark bus station	10.43	13.43
Upton Main Street	11.00	14.00
Southwell, Church Street	11.08	14.08
Southwell, Ropewalk	11.11	14.11
Morton, Main Street	11.17	14.17
Fiskerton	11.20	14.20
Bleasby, Main Street	11.25	14.25
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	11.29	14.29
Hoveringham, Main Street	11.35	14.35
Caythorpe, Main Street	11.39	14.39
Lowdham Station	11.42	14.42
Lowdham, Magna Carta	11.43	14.43
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	11.46	14.46

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editorial team cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions in articles appearing in Bleasby News. The views expressed in Bleasby News are not necessarily those of the Editors nor of Bleasby Parish Council. Bleasby News is distributed by local volunteers to whom we remain very grateful. Printed by Unwin Print, New Hill, Farnsfield

Please remember that you can get up-to-date news of what's going on in Bleasby Parish by going to www.bleasbycommunity.uk – and to sign up for email alerts email bleasbycommunity@outlook.com

Summary train timetable

	From Bleasby to Nottingham *
Monday to Friday	6.21;6.55;7.52;9.50;11.52;14.52;16.53;17.52;18.11;23.05.
Saturday	6.22;7.54;8.55;9.51;11.52;14.52;16.51;17.52;18.09
Sunday	9.41;11.54;15.07;16.58;18.46;22.50
	From Nottingham to Bleasby
Monday to Friday	05.54;06.53;07.56;09.49;11.51;14.50;16.50;18.17;19.19;22.26
Saturday	05.55;06.53;07.58;09.49;11.53;14.50;16.48;17.47;21.24
Sunday	09.30;11.30;14.35;17.27;22.28

*Journey time approx 25 mins. Note that it is likely that there will be a temporary reduced timetable as the number travelling declines.

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