

BLEASBY NEWS



**Love our trees – love our hedges
– our allies against climate
catastrophe and wildlife loss**

AUGUST 2020



The Red Arrows over Bleasby

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

Summer is here – and so are we, still in a more gentle lockdown. If you, like your editors, are still adhering to carefulness where we go and what we do, there are benefits – such as an interesting way of shopping with lots of local places to visit safely for fresh food and, now, having supermarkets bringing the shopping to us. Things will become more normal someday but it will take a long time and it will be good to carry on with some of the more pleasant things we have been doing over the past five months – inventive shopping, more time for gardening, occasional meeting with family and friends in the open air, taking walks and bike rides. You will notice themes in this edition – VJ Day on 15th August: plus trees and wildflowers – the call down the ages to conserve and protect the environment - from ancient teachings to modern scientific evidence.

As always we will be pleased to receive all types of articles, pictures, ideas and news etc – send all your items for the October edition by **Monday, 21st September**, to Rachael at prandrew74@outlook.com or Barbara at barbaracast@btinternet.com

Bleasby News editors, Rachael and Barbara

PS don't forget that new editors are needed for 2021! See below.

YOUR DREAM JOB! TAKING THE REINS OF BLEASBY NEWS

Over the years we have enjoyed putting Bleasby News together and found it very satisfying. We especially enjoy reading the wide range of contributions from people in the parish, some known to us, and some completely unknown. We have received articles from people who live at a distance, and even abroad, who have found something of interest to them on the website or find that their families have lived here in earlier times and want to know more. So we have found the editing enjoyable.

Village organisations rely on Bleasby News to let people know what they are up to and local businesses benefit from advertising space. A new pair of hands will have the pleasure and challenge of seeking copy on topics that interest them and putting their stamp on some of the content. The job of putting articles together in magazine format requires some technical skills - that's the bit that can cause the headaches. Barbara has always done this, managing quite well even though not a techie. But 12 years is a long time - she has other fish to fry when she settles at her computer, a history of Bleasby WI being one of several local history projects currently

on hold. There must be someone, or better still two or three, who can share the editorship of Bleasby News. Your Parish Council is concerned about losing this vital (if to some rather old-fashioned) means of communication. This concern is shared - many of our more mature readers rely on it for information and interest. Please give it some thought. We mean it when we say enough is enough! Only two more issues after this one until we retire!!! Time to hand on the Bleasby News baton!

Please contact the Parish Clerk on bleasbyparishcouncil@outlook.com or speak to one of us – RA 830296 BC 830284

Rachael and Barbara

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council met virtually in June and July, using a weblink as its meeting place again: minutes can be found on the website.

As for every organisation, it is a difficult time for the PC but hopefully work goes on as usual, if less obviously. The regular business of ensuring the care of areas of land owned by the Parish Council continues. We are particularly grateful to the volunteers who help maintain our open spaces, by their own efforts and by overseeing that of contractors. Our thanks to members of Bleasby Carp Syndicate for their assistance in caring for the Jubilee Ponds and to those who keep our roadsides in good health and free from litter. And, of course, to all residents who maintain their own properties so beautifully.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in the Village Hall again soon. However, until that time, we will continue to attempt “business as usual”.

Stephen Andersen, Chair

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES ON BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL

Do you wish to support local democracy? Do you want to help your village community? Can you attend one meeting a month? Do you want to have a say in what happens in the parish? Then put your name forward to be considered to join the Parish Council as a councillor: the PC would welcome a short written statement of what you could bring to local democracy and your community. Bleasby Parish Council has two vacancies - if you are interested please contact the clerk by email on bleasbyparishcouncil@outlook.com before September 14th.

Karen Green, Clerk to Bleasby Parish Council

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Dear All - When asked the question '*how are you?*', we often say '*fine, thanks*'. But how are you **really**?

Yesterday I was a bit sad that Ian Holm the actor died. There are more significant things I feel, but that's what I'm telling you now! I remember him for playing Bilbo Baggins (LOTR & The Hobbit, JRR Tolkien - I'm a fan). He has passed on through the 'Grey Havens' - a Tolkien metaphor for death being the departure point for the next leg of the journey. We are hopeful of moving on through the C-19 leg of our journey. We remember those whose lives it has claimed and those whose help and skill have eased us through - so far at least, because there is no guarantee we are through it.

So how are you? How am I? I read these facts the other day: 80% of those working from home feel a negative mental health impact....25% of those are finding it difficult to cope with the emotional challenges of isolation39% of those in a married or civil partnership report high levels of anxiety compared to 19% pre-pandemic. I'm beginning to realise there are ways it has affected me, and that it's all too easy to say even to myself '*I'm fine*' when I'm not. The worst is that, without attending to my own wellbeing, I might be inflicting it on someone else and not realising it. Time to check ourselves out, be honest with ourselves, deal with it before we inflict it on those around us. We can't '*love our neighbour*' if we are not '*loving ourselves*' (in this sense).

So how are you, really? "*I wish it need not have happened in my time,*" said Frodo. "*So do I,*" said Gandalf, "*and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. **All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.***"

Zoom worship continues...here is a link to see what we're up to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1cJ6aLPZ60NITo2K7G_bQvQuFarOaaa81Cgc-PZbzRmdKh09vUripUA7L0w- PUV Password: 7r#ZFbW5

The reopening of church buildings in the Benefice of West Trent

On 12th June the government announced that church buildings could be reopened 'for individual prayer' with 'significant limitations'. Public worship is still not possible, although funerals can be held in a church if applying the same restrictions as for committals presently. In the **Benefice of West Trent we have 7 church buildings**, valued for their beauty and interest, their spiritual ambience and meaning. It will not be possible to reopen

them all at the same time, not least because of the cleaning regime required. The last thing we would want is for a church building to be a potential source of C-19, so it is better to err on the side of caution. Each church has to do a rigorous risk assessment, agreed by incumbent, churchwardens and PCC prior to reopening.

Here are the days/times of reopening around the Benefice as at present.

Bleasby, St Mary's	Sundays (early am to 5 or dusk)
Halloughton, St James	Sundays (10am - 6pm)
Hoveringham, St Michael & All Angels	Fridays (day light hours)
Morton, St Denis	Wednesdays 10am - 3pm
Rolleston, Holy Trinity	remaining closed
St Peter's Priory, Thurgarton	Saturdays 8am - 8pm
St Peter & St Paul, Upton	daily 10am - 5pm except
Mondays	

You are more than welcome to visit as an individual or in your 'bubble', following the notices in the church to guide you. People are working really hard to reopen but some are awaiting circumstances to change a bit more before they do.

Any questions or comments are welcome to me or the churchwardens of the church.

Best wishes, The Revd Phil, 077 200 100 66 - phil_07@btinternet.com

CHURCH NEWS

There isn't much! You will find above, information from Revd Phil about working with the seven churches in the benefice towards the safe reopening for worship. Churchwardens have met in church to talk through the official guidance and subsequently to complete the risk assessment and draw up a seating plan. We now know how many we can accommodate while sitting at a distance, what other precautions we will need to take and the cleaning regimes that will be necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible. Although zoom services are popular and the uptake from our village very good, we are all looking forward to being back in our church building again, hopefully in September. In the meantime twice weekly zoom services are set to continue and, in some form, even after we return to the building. If you haven't yet given zoom a try, please contact Revd Phil who will guide you through the process.

Contact by regular phone calls and emails continues and is appreciated. It helps to keep the usual and occasional congregation and other friends in touch until we can meet again. Those who are unable to take advantage

of online worship are supplied with worship materials to take them through the seasons along with those who use zoom. Let us know if you would like to be on the delivery list.

The volunteer mowers deserve our thanks for helping to achieve a good balance between tidy and wild. Favourable comments have been received from walkers and grave tenders alike. The bright orange fox and cubs have returned and are making a good show among their yellow cousins. The trough and war memorial flowers are looking good too, thanks to Ali, Ken and others.

St Mary's is open on Sundays for visitors from early morning until 5pm at the earliest. A smart blue A-frame, made by Edmund Salter and inscribed by Mandy Southall (thank you both), sits outside the porch when the doors are open. Please read the safety information on the door as you enter and use the choir stalls in the chancel if you wish to sit down. Adherence to these simple 'rules' keeps cleaning routines to a sensible minimum at the end of the day and before reopening the following week.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

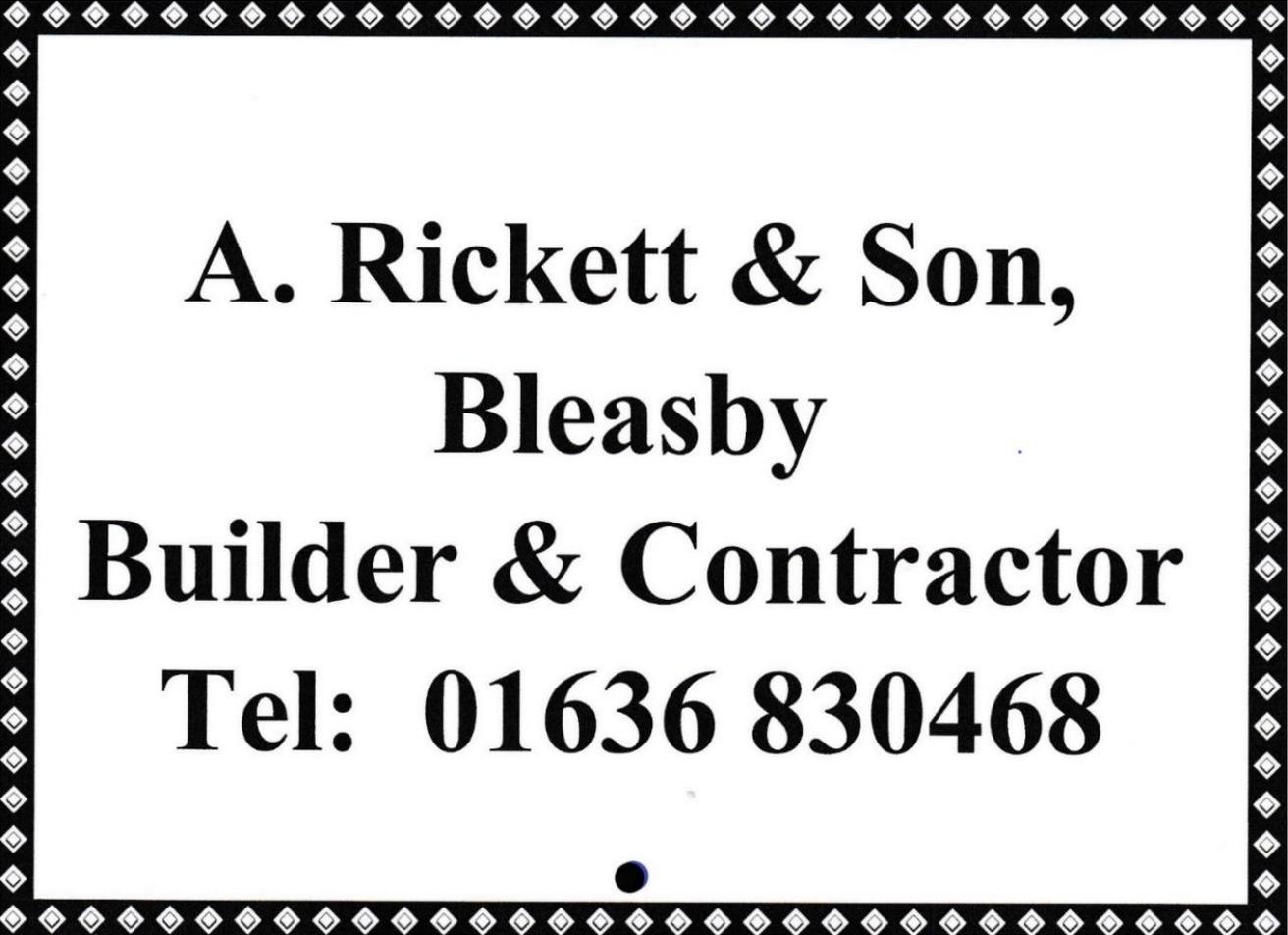
BLEASBY NEWS AND ITS EDITORS APPRECIATED!

Just wanted to say a huge 'Thank you' to you both for all your hard work and expertise in editing the Bleasby News for so long and so successfully. I think it plays a huge part in joining people together in the village and making this such a welcoming place to live. It is a lovely varied magazine with personal items and memories, Council and School notes, useful local advertisements and superb photos and really plays such an important part in forging our identity. It is a very welcome sight through the letterbox and long may it continue! Thank you both very much for all your kind and willing endeavour over the years - very much appreciated.

DG

WE WELCOME SIX NEW RESIDENTS TO BLEASBY PARISH

Welcome to Jenny and Andy, who have moved from Suffolk to live at 1 The Cottage at Goverton. And welcome to Stephen Smith now living at Little Rudsey. Also a welcome to Emma and Hayley, now at Copper Harvest. Welcome too to Ian who has moved into Mostonia on Gypsy Lane. We hope that you will all be very happy here.



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RED ARROWS OVER BLEASBY

What a wonderful display we witnessed on the last day of June when the Red Arrows flew over Bleasby for an extended period during their local flyover and display at Syerston. It was an exciting and uplifting experience for those of us who witnessed it – albeit a little alarming at times! A piece below of how it impressed us and cheered us up in these tricky times.

We may be in lockdown but what a treat we all had on the 30th June with a visit from the Red Arrows not only once but twice. There we all were, out with our cameras trying to catch a view of these wonderful acrobats right on our doorstep. What a fantastic place to live, countryside all around us to walk in at our leisure and then to have our own air display and for free! Aren't we lucky. Who needs to be let free when we have it all here on a plate!

Brenda McLeish – ardent skywatcher

VICTORY IN THE EAST – THE FINAL CONCLUSION

FROM THE REVD PHIL

The 75th Anniversary of VJ Day is on 15th August 2020. It is the long lost cousin of VE Day, yet highly significant. Do we celebrate, commiserate or commemorate?



First hand experiences are fast disappearing - so I remember my Dad! James S White. He was a Captain in the REME (5th Indian Division) in the Burma Campaign and was out there for 5 years. I can't say I had a great relationship with my Dad. He was highly intelligent, concerned for his children's welfare but also austere, distant and dogmatic. He loved to goad us (I had 2 sisters) into debating issues, and then when things were getting interesting he would stop the conversation and insist on having the last word!!

When he was in a good mood I would ask him to *'tell us what you did in the war Dad!'* In retrospect he told us only a few of the stories which he might have done and I suspect missed out a lot of painful detail. He told us about the rats in the jungle, how big they were and how many. On rare occasions he would tell us about being ambushed by the Japanese and how he won a mention in dispatches. He told us about 'the battle of the tennis court' of Kohima and Imphal. He told us about the friendships he made and how they became lifelong. He recalled having to walk out of Burma at the end of the war, back to India and find a way home, only to be greeted with indifference and even hostility on demob. He had missed out on a probable Oxbridge degree and suffered life threatening meningitis and TB on returning home. He often came out in 'prickly heat' even many years later.

He found it hard to relate to the new generation (me!), for whom his sacrifices gave freedoms and attitudes he didn't really understand and had little sympathy for. Long hair, trench coats and rock music must have seemed a long way from the deprivations he endured in the Burmese jungle. He didn't think the Beatles would last and they were a long way from his heroes, Field Marshall Bill Slim, the 'forgotten army' and friends who never came home.

At one point he wrote his 'memoirs', which along with a Gurkha knife and a Japanese Officer's bamboo writing set, were one day deposited unceremoniously in the wheelie bin never to be seen again! He had no time for regimental dinners or reunions, no obvious desire to mark Remembrance Day, but on the 60th anniversary of VJ Day in August 2005 he walked down the Mall with many others. I don't really know why, because he never said, was he proud, regretful or in need of reconciliation? Perhaps it was a mixture of celebrating survival and a successful campaign; maybe a mutual commiseration with compatriots and almost certainly a commemoration of what was lost and the peculiar world it all spawned.

VJ Day should be marked not for the appalling bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima but for the ordinary soldiers who had inflicted a massive and highly unlikely defeat on a proud Japanese Army. The forgotten army deserves to be remembered.

How does one reconcile faith with war? I can't really say how. Though my Dad did read the lesson in his local church he hated sharing the peace, he loved a good debate and he sent me a rare letter timed for my first day on being ordained in the Church of England. Thanks Dad!

The Revd Phil

ONE MAN'S STORY or WHAT'S BEHIND A NAME?



It all began in Blackpool in November 1941 when recruit 1738518 was being harshly drilled on the promenade and an outraged elderly lady berated the RAF drill sergeant whilst flourishing her umbrella, demanding that he should "desist from screaming at those boys!" It was the first, and the lightest, of many future conflicts that this conscript was going to endure. He had been recruited to become RAF crew and was being trained as a W.Op/Gunner (wireless operator and gunner). He progressed well, rising to the rank of Leading Aircraftman because of his aptitude for aircraft recognition. However he

failed to achieve aircrew status due to his inability to decipher Morse code messages at 8 words per minute. Unknown to him at the time, this was actually good news as, at only 5'5", he would almost certainly have been quickly 'despatched' as a rear gunner in an aircraft such as a Lancaster

bomber. His training and capabilities as a gunner meant that he was then quickly stationed to defend various airfields around southern England using twin Lewis machine guns and the rather more effective 40mm anti-aircraft Bofors guns to attempt the shooting down of incoming Luftwaffe aircraft. In 1942 he was assigned to 2739 Field Squadron within the newly forming Royal Airforce Regiment and sent to Castle Toward at Dunoon for training for combined operations, this area being a good match for the Normandy beaches. Prepared now for beachhead landings, 1738518 was surprised to be mustered with his 2739 Squadron members and escorted by military police to the railway station to take a waiting train to Greenock where they were put aboard the “Athlone Castle” with destination unknown – at least, not until they had traversed the Mediterranean and docked at Suez, there to be issued with tropical pith helmets! Next stop Bombay (Mumbai)! The journey from east to west, crossing the sub-continent to Calcutta (Kolkata) at 2000km was hot and arduous, continued to the British military base at Secunderabad and thence to Chittagong, a port city on the Bay of Bengal – and now part of Bangladesh. The war in the Far East was about to begin for 1738518, being now on the fault line between allied forces from East Africa, India and the UK and the determined combined resistance of both the Japanese and Indian National Armies straddling the border between India and Burma. The allied counteroffensive, begun in the spring of 1944, was now gaining momentum. Critical battles at Imphal and Kohima had been won and now the push back into Burma was about to begin and the “Road to Mandalay” – and ultimately to Rangoon – was calling. 2739 Squadron were there to defend the airfields which were needed to keep the army supplied and to then move forward, taking and securing Japanese airfields as the advance continued from Maungdaw.

Increasingly brought into forward action and meeting the enemy head-on, 1738518 established a lifetime friendship with his Bren gun partner from Dundee, Duncan. Always at the sharp end, the two were welded into a survival pairing, each entirely dependent on the other as they advanced as the “point of the arrow” made by the rest of their flight coming behind and on either side. Complete familiarity with the weapon was essential, as was carrying all the spare ammunition – even a spare barrel in case of jams – before firing in short bursts to left and right to protect their compatriots behind – especially so in the action at Ngakyedauk Pass.

1738518 was married to Dorothy on June 6th, 1943, whilst on leave. It was with much delight and excitement that, whilst in Burma and reading a letter from her year after their wedding, he discovered that he had become a father, at which point he went wild around the camp shouting “I’m a daddy!”

I'm a daddy!" and from that point on he was always known as "Daddy". One of the first words son Michael said was "Burma!" in response to his mother's question "Where's Daddy?"

Unfortunately a serious misfortune fell upon him when, having just washed his hair in petrol (as was the practice at the time) and laid down on his camp bed, one of the group thought it would be funny to drop a lighted match on to his head which, of course, immediately set his hair alight. At first he tried to douse the flames with his hands and arms to no avail so, grabbing his blanket, he rolled himself in it. He was badly burnt on the face, hands and arms and he was rushed away and smothered in bandages, to be flown out on a Dakota for further treatment, fully expected to need plastic surgery. Fortunately this proved unnecessary and, just as he was expecting to be returned home, and as the war was ending, he was staggered to discover that he was to be posted to the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) to flush out the remaining fighting Japanese, free the many Dutch and Allied prisoners (think Tenko) and to detain captured and surrendering Japanese in their own POW camps.

He left Madras (Chennai) on the troopship Largs Bay in January 1946 and sailed via Malaya and Singapore to Sumatra where he was stationed at Medan. This episode proved to be a worse trial than being in Burma as the Indonesians had joined forces with the remaining Japanese to resist a potential reoccupation by the Dutch. Now he was fighting a very determined combined resistance in the jungles of Sumatra, intent on making life as uncomfortable as possible. His only relief from the pressure of this warfare were the regular letters from Dorothy and the life-long companionship of his other comrade-in-arms, Peter the "Kid". Peter, as a fresh young recruit, had initially acted as an officer's batman and, having been thrust on to the frontline of action, was taken under 1738518's wing, and they were then linked together in their almost daily battle for survival. On the fateful night of Monday, 10th June, 1946, whilst guarding a radio station outside the airfield perimeter, they were attacked by rifle fire to which they replied with sufficient force and confidence to discourage any further action and so settled down to sleep in their tent whilst one stood guard. However, at about 1.30am, following an initial grenade blast, the flight found themselves being attacked by 40 knife and sword wielding Indonesian "Black Panthers". In the hand-to-hand fighting in and around the tent the seven fought for their lives, killing 4 Indonesians and eventually by their sheer courage driving off the insurgents - but at their own cost – two of their group had been killed and another two seriously injured. Airmen Higgs, Lawrence and Cast survived with minor injuries, bringing Peter "Kid" Lawrence and Albert "Daddy" Cast (1738518 14th

Army) even closer through adversity. Just two crosses in Albert's diary mark that day – it was Whit Monday and a Bank Holiday in England – in Britain people were enjoying the holiday and still celebrating the end of the war - ten months or so before!

Thank God Albert Cast survived or I would not be here.

Peter Duncan Cast

So when you read of Allied might
On Europe's plains and beaches,
Just spare a thought for those who fight
Midst jungles, swamps and leeches.

J Tofts

OUR SCHOOL WORKING IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Well done Year 6, Maple Class, Apple Class and our Keyworker groups. You are all been working extremely hard. And well done to all our children who are learning at home. You are all working very hard and showing real resilience in these tricky times. We are very proud of all our children of Bleasby C of E Primary. And to the staff and parents who are supporting our children with their ongoing education - thank you all!

Samuel Mensah (Headteacher)

The children were very excited at seeing the Red Arrows display from the school playground and there was much waving. Soon after the display a video was received from Pilot Red 2 who, among greetings from the team, told them that they could be seen waving and it was then that the Arrows had released their vapour trails in salute.

THANK YOU BOBBIE

Now that the "Bleasby Mask Factory" has closed we owe a debt of gratitude to Bobbie Desbruslais (previously anonymous!) for making face masks for anyone to collect from a delivery point above the newspaper box outside Cherry Cottage. 150 free masks have been taken by grateful villagers over the last few months so Bobbie has now retired! You might get the opportunity to admire her handiwork next time you venture into a supermarket, doctors' surgery or on to public transport!

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WHY TREES ARE SO IMPORTANT AND NEED OUR CARE AND PROTECTION

Global warming is happening at a faster rate than ever, very few people deny the truth of this. Our polar ice caps are melting and our forests are burning - we're in a climate emergency and it's threatening our planet - once we've reached the tipping point we'll be powerless to intervene. Changes will be irreversible as ecosystems collapse. So we need to act fast – if not our planet will be an unrecognisable and inhospitable place.

We need to seriously reduce our emissions, and find a way of reducing the damage already done. CO₂, the biggest culprit, must be removed from the atmosphere; technology is being explored but technological solutions would be expensive and complex. There is a simpler solution – and it's our most powerful weapon in the fight against climate change: **trees**. Trees are the ultimate carbon capture and storage machines: through photosynthesis, woods and forests absorb atmospheric carbon and lock it up for centuries. A young wood with mixed native species can lock up more than 400 tonnes of carbon per hectare in its trees, roots and soil. Carbon accumulation continues in woodland that's centuries old as well.

And trees do more than just capture carbon. They also fight the effects of the changing climate. They can help prevent flooding, reduce pollution and keep soil nutrient-rich – just some of their benefits – and they also help our mental health and wellbeing.

The stark fact is, we need more trees *and* we need to protect the ones we already have. Only 13% of the UK is covered by trees (the EU has an average of 37% tree coverage). Unfortunately, our woodlands are still being threatened with destruction, often due to road or building developments. It is essential that we protect the trees we have, especially old, established woods and trees – these are wonderful for sustaining wildlife.

However there is something we can do to help. We need to plant many more trees, quickly. Native trees are most likely to thrive: they are more resilient against pests, diseases and the effects of climate change and they suit our environment and landscape. As well as planting to mitigate climate change, the other great benefit of good tree cover is that they restore precious habitats and create havens for wildlife, boosting our threatened biodiversity. Have you got room for a small native tree in your garden? Over the years the Parish Council has planted many trees along field boundaries and roadsides for the benefit of all. More are planned for

the future (see the offer below. We can all do our bit to preserve or improve our environment for future generations – just plant a tree.

Your tree loving Editors

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Get a Free Tree

In July 2019 Newark and Sherwood District Council pledged to work towards developing measures to offset global warming. As part of this they have started a major programme of planting more than 10,000 trees across the district. This programme includes a free tree scheme for residents, schools, parish councils and local volunteer groups etc. This project will assist the government in meeting its target of planting 11 million trees by 2022.

Bleasby Parish Council has been given a number of trees - they are small, 40 being less than 1m tall and only five are above 2m. As such, these are very young trees and will need to be carefully looked after, well-watered and kept clear of weeds for at least the first two years. Some protection from animals may also be a good idea eg a biodegradable plastic sleeve. The varieties available are as follows:-

- 7 Oak. 3 less than 1m high, 3 at 1m and one more than 2m.
- 3 Ash. All more than 3m high.
- 1 Beech. More than 1m high.
- 4 Horse Chestnut. 2 under and 2 over 1m.
- 1 Walnut. Over 1m.
- 19 Holly. 11 under 1m and 8 over 1m high.
- 6 Hazel. 5 at 1m, 1 at 2m.
- 7 Rowan. All under 1m.
- 6 Field Maple. All under 1m.
- 11 Hawthorn. All under 1m.

At the moment the Parish Council is considering planting some of the trees in the Jubilee Ponds area and on the edges of the Glebe Field. Another possibility, with the agreement of Highway Authority (Notts County Council), are the wide verges on some of the roads approaching Bleasby where there are no underground services eg gas mains.

If anyone would like a tree or two to plant in their garden or field in Bleasby Parish, please contact *Robert Wallin*, Parish Councillor, on 831393.

ELIZABETH (LIZ) COUSINS 1944-2020

Liz was born in Beeston, Nottingham, the youngest daughter of Constance and Alan Douglas. Having developed a love of children, she trained to be a nursery nurse.

Liz and Peter were married in 1966 and in 1972 moved to Wyngates in Bleasby with their children Iain and Adele. In 1981 Liz took over the Fiskerton Pre-school and, over the next 21 years, looked after children and, subsequently, their children. Only when great-grandchildren were being put on the waiting list did she decide it was time to retire!! There will be many of those pre-school children, now parents themselves, who remember happy times with Liz and her team, which included Monica Richardson, Pam Brandreth and Sharon Vocatura.

Whilst in Bleasby, Liz became an active member of the community. She became an important part of the local WI and a member of its Darts Team. She enjoyed the annual WI competition at the Newark and Nottinghamshire Show - especially the year it was a cricket theme when she was ably assisted by Mavis and Monica. She was a volunteer driver with the Bleasby Lunch Club and kept a close eye on elderly neighbours. Being a founder member of the Southwell Probus group and the Southwell U3A, Liz had a busy social life but also managed to be a member of the Ladies Circle and then Tangent. Her hobbies included spinning, gardening, knitting and photography (an interest she inherited from her father). More recently she enjoyed playing bridge with her Probus and U3A friends.

Peter and Liz felt fortunate to have so many wonderful friends, travelling with them regularly to their favourite spot in North Yorkshire. New Year's Eve was a regular fixture for a get-together. Liz continued to join in as much as possible after Peter's death. A devoted Granny to Christopher, James, Andrew, Ffion and Erica, Liz retired to spend more time with them and to travel with Peter visiting Iceland, Scandinavia, Canada, America, and New Zealand over the years. After Peter died, Liz continued to travel, visiting Russia and going on cruises with her sister Susan. Earlier this year Liz moved to be nearer to her daughter in Long Eaton. She is very much missed by her neighbours and friends in Bleasby.

Bleasby Diary of Events

Maybe you are finding life a little more flexible - it will be great when our usual activities can be resumed - hopefully a proper diary next edition!

VILLAGE HALL

It was a sad day when we had to close the village hall to users due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Bleasby Village Hall is home to so many activities and events, and is one of the main hubs of the community. But the good news is that we are now moving towards re-opening the hall.

During the lockdown period various people on the management committee have continued to keep an eye on the hall, and make sure it is clean, and maintained as well as it can be. We are also using this period to get up to date with essential electrical work so that everything is ready. Of course things will be a little different for the first few weeks and the management committee are working through guidance and what we need to address before re-opening. It is likely that some events or activities will be able to re-start before others, and this will depend on government advice about social distancing, and how many people can meet at once.

I hope it won't be too long now until we can use the hall again for our usual activities and get together again with village friends.

Lynda Ogilvie, Chair, Bleasby Village Hall Management Committee

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GOOD NEWS

The Hoveringham Mammoth is coming home – it has arrived back from Nottingham Trent University and will soon be installed back in Hoveringham thanks to the village's Vintage Vehicle Society.

WAYSIDE FLOWERS

I suppose it was village fete competitions that first got me “hooked”. “A jar of wild flowers” in the children’s section was the spur for forays into the fields and hedgerows. A short bike ride away, on the limestone ridge that runs through Lincolnshire, my dad showed me where to find flowers that didn’t grow nearer to home. Later on in my childhood, when petrol became freely available again and the Austin 7 arrived (BCT 505), we were able to look further afield on seaside marshes. Yes, even the Lincolnshire coast was exciting then! And eventually coastal sand spits and cliffs. The habit was formed and I still keep a look out wherever I go, including on my daily walks along the local lanes and footpaths, to see if I can find anything new to me. There is always something. Their names, especially the common or local names fascinate me too - those associated with animals, the “worts” (medicinal plants) and the names that give you a clue as to what the plant was once used for or looks like. I learned a little about plant families and the occasional botanical names but I am no botanist! I like lists: the shipping forecast fascinates me, but that’s another story.

It’s a good year for wild flowers as you will probably have noticed and so I began to compile a list of what’s on show. Even in a good year the number has surprised me, especially when I think of all the ones I have identified in spring and early summer and are now spent, those that are still to flower and those I will find elsewhere in the village and beyond - deep blue cornflowers on Lowdham bypass for example. Over two or three days in July, on the verges between the railway crossing and Little Rudsey Farm Lane and along the railway line footpath between Bleasby and Morton. Here is the list; it is in no particular order, a small sample in time and place.

By the way, if you haven’t visited the wildflower meadow at Hill Farm, Edingley (open at weekends when the farm shop is open), it’s a treat and would form the basis for another long list - orchids, scabious, yellow rattle etc. etc.

Rachael Andrew

Wild flower list – all seen around Bleasby Parish paths		
white clover	woundwort	Good King Henry
red clover	arum lily	nipplewort
bird's foot trefoil	dock	yellow vetchling
hop trefoil	greater celandine	ragwort
goat's beard	self-heal	groundsel
dandelion	speedwell	pineapple weed
knapweed	betony	lady's bedstraw
rest harrow	feverfew	sow thistle
red campion	ox-eye daisy	hog weed
herb robert	tufted vetch	stinging nettle
meadow cranesbill	spotted persicaria	white dead nettle
silverweed	mugwort	agrimony
large thistle	meadowsweet	buttercup
knotgrass	rose-bay willowherb	Jack by the hedge
fox and cubs	red bartsia	wood avens
lesser bindweed	corn thistle	comfrey
great bindweed	white campion	hemp agrimony
yarrow	sun spurge	great burdock
camomile	pale persicaria	small thistle
nightshade	field poppy	figwort
fat hen	white mellilot	chickweed
ribwort plantain	great hairy willowherb	stitchwort
cinquefoil	small flowered willowherb	toadflax
great plantain		

WILDFLOWERS – A LOVE AFFAIR

Like Rachael, my love affair with wildflowers also started in my childhood which was spent in rural Suffolk. I was able to wander around the fields and paths near my home where I would find lots of different flowers which I got to know. My knowledge was helped when I discovered the Flower Fairy books – written and beautifully illustrated by Cicely Mary Barker. I collected them all – one of them, The Flower Fairy Alphabet, was presented to me by my school in summer 1952 for “Good Progress”. I don't think I ever owned a proper flower identifying book until I was an adult but I loved my Flower Fairy books – I still have them.

I was particularly delighted by the simple plants found in abundance in the fields in those days such as fumitory and heartsease (the wild pansy) and of course the flowers of the spring – primroses and cowslips especially – they grew profusely everywhere in my young days – and then the swathes of bluebells in the woods. When I was seven I had my tonsils out and didn't enjoy being in hospital at all – no visitors allowed – but I had a distant cousin who worked in the hospital and she brought me in a vase of pagels (the East Anglian name for cowslips) which so cheered me up.

It has been a delight this year to see so many flowers growing round and about our parish, especially abundant on Goverton Hill – at the moment it boasts agrimony (yellow spikes), restharrow (pink flowers on a very tough plant which did indeed stop the harrow), meadow cranesbill with its soft lilac-blue flowers, birds foot trefoil with their touch of red amongst the yellow, white clouds of a small umbelliferi, yellow bedstraw and many more.

Barbara Cast

BLEASBY WI

It has been a strange time for WI members, as it has for everyone. None of our usual events, meetings, outings etc have been able to be held, so we have had to resort to the telephone and emails to keep in touch with each other. We have all been encouraged to access our e-mails regularly as this has been the way in which information has been easily shared. Even the annual report of our last year's activities was shared in this way and it reminded us of the good things to come once "normal service is resumed." It has also proved to be a great support, particularly for members who live alone.

The committee made and distributed origami tulips to all members to show that we were not forgotten and as a little "keep cheerful" call. Some members will have taken the chance to begin work on gifts of scarves, hats, mittens etc for the shoebox appeal, which are normally requested in the autumn. We do not know yet if that will be the case this year, but one can only hope for a return to the norm soon. As soon as the go ahead is given for indoor meetings to be held, our usual programme of events will be up and running, and all members are looking forward to this.

Sheila Lewis

THE GREAT PEOPLE OF BLEASBY PARISH

There has been so much support and goodwill from the people of our parish, Bleasby, Gibsmere and Goverton, plus outlying areas. So many of us here have benefited from the care of others, from companionship by phone, email or over the hedge, neighbours fetching from shops and the surgery, etc etc. Our sincere thanks!

AND THE NOT SO GREAT PEOPLE

It is therefore sad that we have some in our village, or who visit our village, who take pleasure in being anti-social – these few include those who insist on driving on our 30mph roads and narrow lanes at ridiculous speeds without thought for pedestrians and other road users – many of us will have noticed these cars, and sometimes motorbikes, plus their drivers. Please slow down before someone gets hurt!

Thurgarton Parish recently held a check/record/report campaign – something for us to think about maybe?

A GENUINELY LOCAL MILKMAN, DELIVERING IN OUR VILLAGES



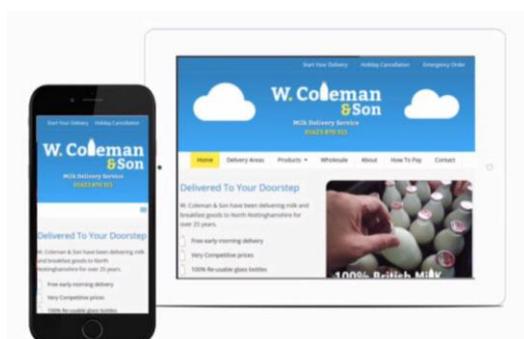
Have you ever fancied having milk (and other basics) delivered to your doorstep? Imagine doing this, whilst helping the environment and supporting local business. What could be better?

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



BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

It is still the case that BLHS cannot meet for its usual lectures nor go on its usual summer visit. But we do hope to resume our meetings as soon as possible.

What historic times we live in!

Barbara Cast, President of BLHS

FLOWERS BY CHRISTINE YOUR LOCAL FLORIST

“Flowers by Christine” is based in Thurgarton. I have a floristry workshop at my home, I was lucky enough to have a large outbuilding at our cottage and my husband and I had this converted into a beautiful space for me to create with my flowers. I love my workshop - it is my happy flower place! I came into floristry a bit later in my life having had a career in teaching first (quite a change!). I had always loved flowers and colour and design and it was my dream to be able to work with flowers and share them with others too. Finally, it was time and I gave up teaching and took a floristry diploma. The course was amazing and I enjoyed every minute of it. After a year at college, learning all the techniques, I worked in two different florist’s shops, (my first 14 hour Mother’s Day shift was totally crazy!!). I then worked for a wedding florist doing more than thirty weddings in one year alone. Last autumn I took the plunge and set up ‘Flowers by Christine’, moving into the new workshop space we had made during that summer. I am now available for all your flower needs. I love making gift bouquets and baskets and, of course, it always a privilege to be involved in making flowers for weddings and sympathy tributes. I can provide regular flowers for your own house or business too. I plan to run floristry workshops in the future, either from my workshop in Thurgarton (for groups of up to eight people) or from the Village Hall for larger numbers. My first workshop will be ‘make your own Christmas door wreath’. Later ones will include Easter baskets, hand tied bouquets and seasonal arrangements. Why not drop me a message if you are interested in a workshop?

Please contact me (Christine!) any time to order flowers. I offer a personal service and I am always happy to discuss your flower needs and offer suggestions where necessary. Thanks everyone and I hope to hear from you soon.

07733416626 info@flowersbychristine.co.uk

Instagram....@flowersbychristineross

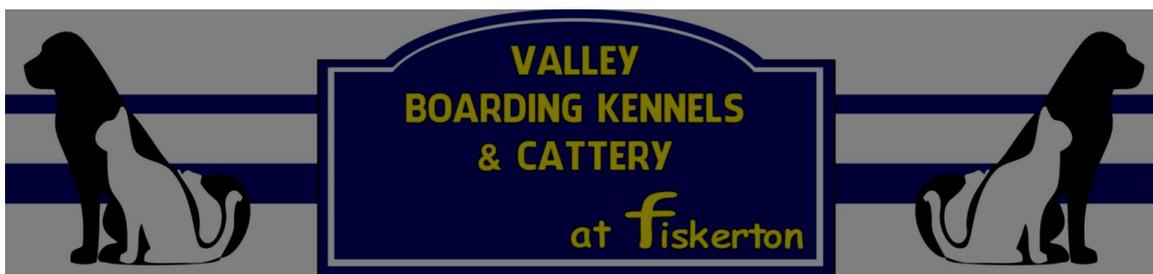
Please remember that you can get up-to-date news of what’s going on in Bleasby Parish by going to www.bleasbycommunity.uk – and to sign up for email alerts email bleasbycommunity@outlook.com

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

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.



Going Away?

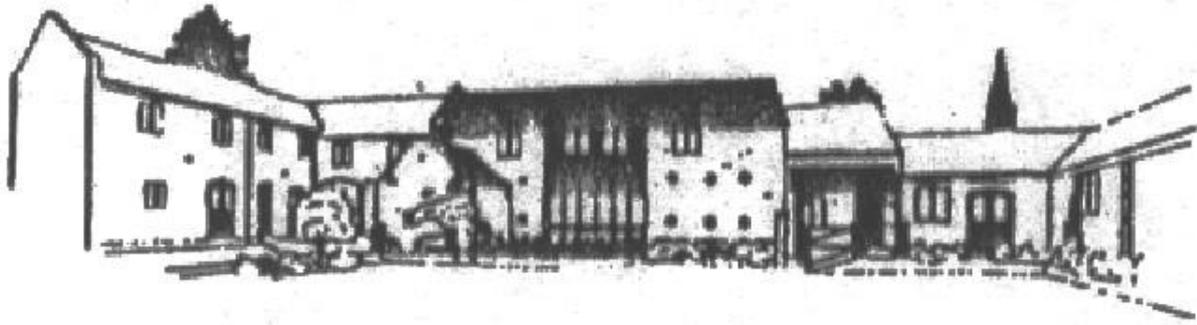
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BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT TIMETABLE

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

FOOTPATHS AND COUNTRYSIDE GROUP

RIGHTS OF WAY, A PROVEN PARISH ASSET

Covid 19 has brought a renewed awareness of the important therapeutic effects of the countryside and the critical importance of our access to it. Never before since the advent of widespread ownership and use of cars, have we as a population reverted to “Shanks’s pony” for fresh air, exercise, convenience and pure delight and interest in our rural environment.

Footpaths and bridleways (actually the basis of most of our current rural road system) were initially created by local people in order work their fields, access their markets, attend church, cross rivers and to seek natural food, herbal remedies and, indeed, poetic, literary and artistic inspiration. Probably not since the Edwardian period have

our footpaths been so important to us and so well used. Our springtime and early summer lockdown brought more people out into our countryside as a result of limited travel, enforced home-stay and as a means of having safer human contact. These previously overlooked, or taken for granted, facilities have suddenly become essential highways once more, providing routes not only for pleasure and exercise but also for essential tasks, contact and, occasionally, visiting the nearest shop!

A very special mention has to be made of our farmers and landowners who may well have found this additional presence of walkers surprising, perhaps at times less than convenient. However their acceptance, along with the excellent behaviour of walkers in respecting the Countryside Code, must have led to a better understanding and respect between both parties. People have become much more aware of the extremely important role undertaken by our farmers in feeding the nation at a time when our food supply's fragility was being highlighted, even being rationed, and obtaining the necessities of life became a source of anxiety and frustration. We have been able to see for ourselves the practical and economic cost to our farmers of our changing climate - our sodden and flooded fields towards the end of last year making it impossible to follow the pattern of sowing 'winter' cereals in the autumn, followed by spring cereals being seriously affected by the drought. Rotten potatoes, ageing maize and stunted wheat have all been readily observed and the vulnerability of our food supply emphasised. The good maintenance, open routes and broad field margins, (along with set-aside land) demonstrated by our farmers ensures easy access and plenty of wildlife and wildflower interest on our walks.

Never has the Footpaths and Countryside Group been so inundated with requests and queries associated with parishioner forays into their forgotten and under-visited countryside. Neither has our supply of yellow maps of the local area before been so heavily drawn upon for reference, loan or purchase. (Available from the Bookcase, Lowdham). There has also been an unprecedented amount of feedback about the state of the rights of way network and its signage.

Our footpath network has served us well, although it was once more extensive. Many of our paths were lost when the widespread gravel workings of the recent past were flooded or, once filled in, the rights of way were never reinstated. Others were never claimed by the parish council of the time when, after the Second World War, rights of way had to be so claimed to become definitive. However, there is a chance that some of these lost footpaths might be re-established – the Government has given councils, communities and groups an opportunity to submit worthy cases up to the deadline of 1st January 2026.

Let us hope that our "new norm" will include enjoyment and appreciation of the countryside as well as a much wider understanding of our nation's food supply and the essential role of our farmers in keeping us fed, as well as caring for and enhancing our rural environment and our ecosystem – for a better and healthier future for us all.

Peter Cast

TEACHINGS FROM THE PAST – RELEVANT TODAY?

I've been studying Queen Kunti's teachings from ancient India and thought to share these with my fellow villagers - one can see how the challenges we face today, with our irresponsible relationships with our environment, were thought about even then, some five thousand years ago. Queen Kunti is a magnificent person with realisations that these gifts of nature are given by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appreciation of whom and appropriate reciprocation with whose laws, we can all stand to benefit from - for the environment and ourselves.

Queen Kunti said:

“All these cities and villages are flourishing in all respects because the herbs and grains are in abundance, the trees are full of fruits, the rivers are flowing, the hills are full of minerals and the oceans full of wealth. And this is all due to Your glancing over them.”

The original verse Kunti spoke is in Sanskrit language with translation and purport by His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada who visited the UK several times in the 1960's and 70's. The book reference is Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1:8:40. Published by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust 1987.

Her tenet is that human prosperity flourishes by natural gifts and not by gigantic industrial enterprises. The more we go on increasing such industries, the more there will be unrest and dissatisfaction of the people in general, although a few only can live lavishly by exploitation. The natural gifts such as grains and vegetables, fruits, rivers, the hills of jewels and minerals, and the seas full of pearls are supplied by the order of the Supreme and material nature produces them in abundance or restricts them at times. The natural law is that the human being may take advantage of these godly gifts by nature and satisfactorily flourish on them without being captivated by the exploitative motive of lording it over material nature. The more we attempt to exploit material nature according to our whims of enjoyment, the more we shall become entrapped by the reaction of such exploitative attempts. If we have sufficient grains, fruits, vegetables and herbs, then what is the necessity of running a slaughterhouse and killing poor animals? A man need not kill an animal if he has sufficient grains and vegetables to eat. The flow of river waters fertilises the fields, and there is more than what we need. Minerals are produced in the hills, and the jewels in the ocean. If the human civilisation has sufficient grains, minerals, jewels, water, milk, etc., then why should it hanker after industrial enterprises at the cost of the labour of some unfortunate people? But all these natural gifts are dependent on the mercy of the Lord. The indications of divine mercy made by Kuntīdevī are just to the point.

Heena



*There's
been a
wonderful
display of
wildflowers
on
Goverton
Hill this
year*

THE BLACKBIRD

A blackbird came and sat outside my window.
He ate the berries on the nearby bush, and then,
as if to reward the giver of this meagre meal,
he sang his heart out to the evening air.

How can his tiny frame produce such sound?
It is a marvel that his wondrous song
Can captivate the listener's ear,
And melt away the fear and sadness
That lingers deep within one's soul.

All God's gifts work in this way.
Miraculous sights, sounds, scents await us all –
We only have to look, and listen,
and when at last we open up our hearts,
we can receive with joy and thankfulness the bounty we are offered.

Diana Temperley

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This young hare was spotted on a twilight walk along the Brackenhurst track; to our amazement it kept running towards us until it was only around three metres away!

Annie Cast-Coombs

The logo for 'Flowers by Christine' is written in a cursive font, with 'CHRISTINE' in a simple, spaced-out font below it. The logo is surrounded by various colorful flowers, including red, yellow, and blue blooms, and green foliage. The background is a light cream color with a green border.

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