

BLEASBY NEWS



DECEMBER 2019





IT WAS EVACUEE ARRIVAL DAY AT THE OLD SCHOOL

WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

What a lot of excellent events have taken place over the last few months – a dog show, Bike Fest and Apple Festival to name but a few. And a most moving and uplifting service of remembering those who we have loved and lost, held in a packed St Mary's. And now Christmas season is upon us. But with constant reminders from the High Street and internet many of us may already be weary of "Christmas", at least its commercial face. The deluge of charity requests, however subtle, and the demands of young children can add to the pressure of the approaching big day. For almost everyone planning of some sort can't be avoided but we hope that community celebrations will offer some respite and an opportunity for relaxation and enjoyment – details are in this edition. And we can't ignore the plight of those in difficult circumstances so a local community initiative is also highlighted. One event which hasn't been much publicised locally because of an unavoidable but welcome change of venue is the Advent Carol Concert in St Mary's on November 30th at 7pm. Hopefully this issue will have reached you by then. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

As always we will be pleased to receive all types of articles, pictures, ideas and news etc – send all your items for the February edition by **Monday, 20th January**, to Rachael at prandrew74@outlook.com or Barbara at barbaracast@btinternet.com

Bleasby News editors, Rachael and Barbara

BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – ALL OUR FUTURES

For the first time ever I was granted the privilege of reading Bleasby News **before** I wrote the Parish Council contribution. Perhaps the editors thought it was time that I wrote with some inspiration!?! Whatever their intentions, I was significantly affected by the many words that had already been written by so many contributors representing so many parish organisations, with all their aspirations and achievements. It was at once reassuring and yet, so frequently, tempered by the underlying local needs, national concerns and world tragedies being identified. Much of the focus and attention of many articles have the concerns and welfare of others clearly at heart and somewhere within the text is rooted a deep seated component of care and compassion for others.

What a great cover picture – so symbolic of the youth, energy, promise and potential within our community. Our young people are helped, encouraged and inspired by the positive attitudes and commitment of their parents, school, organisations and elders. They can, and surely will, 'change the world for good'. This is exemplified by those pupils who designed and created a survival bag for a homeless person (see school news). A tragedy that such a need should have become a focus for young minds – yet how positive that such thinking and achievement lies within them.

The messages from Phil the vicar and St Mary's Church community are always so sincere and relevant to our lives and times, and their objectives so clearly defined by altruism and inspired by their faith. If ever there was a "Thought for the Day" intention, Phil never fails to prompt or provoke us into serious contemplation and, hopefully, inspire us into action. The active focus of all our organisations – Church, WI, School etc – in preparing for the celebration of Christmas have underlying objectives to support others – this can only help reinforce the strong feeling that Bleasby is made up of people who not only care for each other but also for others less fortunate outside our community. Advent this year is certainly going to be 'life-changing' with a General Election 'tucked into' the emerging message of Christmas – let's hope that divisions will be healed and that so many social concerns will be properly addressed by the incoming government.

There are still, in Bleasby Parish, many parishioners who have lived for most if not all of their lives here having a long history of active contribution to the life of the village. And it is good to hear in this edition of three new families who have chosen to live here and we hope that they will quickly settle in and be keen to contribute to our active village life as those before them have.

The invitation to take a holiday in this edition – especially at such a 'grey' time forced me to smile and reflect. Part of the privileges of being on the Parish Council is that you come into direct, often daily, contact with parishioners – which itself is rewarding and allows one to become more aware of and sensitive to, yes, the concerns – but also the delights of living in the Parish of Bleasby and I just wish that all readers could share the good news that is frequently conveyed to me, often by newcomers, about just how much people appreciate and love living here. It is sometimes said that it is 'like being on a perpetual holiday' – here one can find peace, rest, fun, friendship and feelings of comfort, security and wellbeing. Who could wish for more? Let us not take it for granted!

It may seem strange, therefore, that it is with much regret that I have to inform you that I have reluctantly decided to retire from the Parish Council. It was never my intention to do more than the four years that I was elected for but, having been "beaten to the post" by my much valued colleagues, Chris Foster and Charlotte Gent, and knowing that Angela Dunning, with an increasingly busy life, would be unable to continue as a councillor, I was left with no choice but to stay in office until we could recruit other great volunteers from our community. This we achieved by August in Nicola Winn, Sarah Roscoe and Robert Wallin and, having now completed four months of 'life on the Council', they are now familiar with its workings and are already bringing new ideas and fresh perspectives, along with energy and enthusiasm, to our meetings.

It has been, as they say, 'a great honour and privilege' to be able to work in the interests of the parish and to have had the support and encouragement of so many good people. I will miss the company and commitment of my colleagues, past and present, and also the joys and rewards of working with the whole range of organisations and individuals in their various endeavours on behalf of our village. We

have a strong and vibrant community, dependent, however, for this, on the commitment of those groups and peoples to sustain it. I offer to you all my most sincere thanks for all that you bring to Bleasby – I do intend to continue to join you as we all work to bring out the “Best of Bleasby”. There is never a good time to leave behind an important part of one’s life but there is always a good time to reflect and renew one’s commitment and direction to the future.

Peter Cast, Chair of Bleasby Parish Council

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Dear All

’Tis the season of not so much goodwill. Brexit, elections, impeachments, awful royal interviews, flooding, out of control wild fires, melting icecaps... and that’s just this week (of writing). Being always fascinated by elections, I will have a sleepless night on 12/12, but more from morbid curiosity than expectant hope! What about you? Are you any more optimistic?!

On the first ‘Christmas’ night, social conditions and politics were actually a lot worse than today (yes it must have been bad). Nevertheless a message of goodwill and hope emerged from an unlikely circumstance. All is not lost, faith still has relevance, the words and actions of Jesus could make a difference....? In a previous church I had a lovely single parent family with four children who took an active part in church and community life. They had arrived at the railway station late one night with nothing except what they could carry, escaping from an abusive husband/father. (This calls to mind the ‘escape to Egypt’, Herod as a kind of abuser archetype!) The women’s refuge gave them sanctuary and protection until they established themselves. A sad situation, yes - but also a moving story of generosity and new beginnings.

As a church/benefice we try to support the amazing work of the Newark Women’s Aid. This is especially needed as more Government funding has been withdrawn. This Advent we are collecting essential items for them. Please see the list, the **’Reverse Advent Calendar’** suggestion, or below... (see Church News)

We don’t have to accept the lack of good will, nor bury ourselves away from it, do we?
Every blessing, Phil

M: 077 200 100 66 Email: phil_07@btinternet.com

PS lots of ways to express good will...

- a. just donate and drop off...(church, church porch, even Vicarage)
- b. instead of opening a ‘door/window’ on your Advent Calendar and receiving something, donate something into a jar or box/bag, drop off later (hence ‘reverse calendar’)...
- c. have a group of people sign up to each day of Advent to donate something from the list...

CHURCH NEWS

Harvest

Church and school shared a harvest project as usual this year. Gifts of dried and tinned goods were collected at the school harvest service and also at St Mary's harvest thanksgiving service, then packed and taken to the Newark Women's Refuge. A letter of thanks has been posted on the church notice board and in the school newsletter. Donations of money were also made at these services and at the welcome service for Apple Class. £150 was sent with Rev Phil on his visit to St Dorcas Orphanage in Bungoma, Kenya, where he was able to buy large bags of maize and beans.

Open Door

The first meeting was held in school in October when children learned about the story of Noah. In December the theme is "The Holy Family" when they will hear stories and take part craft activities.

Remembrance Sunday

Two minutes silence was kept at the war memorial on November 10th during morning service which was led by Elizabeth Blakey.

Remembering loved ones

This annual service, when we remember those who have died recently in our benefice, was held at St Mary's on Sunday, 17th November. The seven churches came together to support those who have been bereaved recently and to light candles for their deceased loved ones. We were pleased to welcome more than seventy people to this service which was led by Rev Phil.

Baptism

Also on Sunday, 17th November, Zara and Mia Cobley were baptised and welcomed into the church family. The Cobleys recently moved to Bleasby from Dubai and seem to have settled well into village life. This was the first time in his 27 year ministry that Rev Phil had baptised twins. At five years old the girls participated in the proceedings with enthusiasm and infectious enjoyment. We look forward to welcoming them again.

School visit

We look forward to welcoming Years 5 and 6 to church on Thursday, 28th November. They will learn about Advent and associated customs and make Advent Crowns for school and church.

Reverse Advent Calendar

St Mary's is participating in the Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal launched by the Newark Women's Refuge. Members of the congregation have signed up for a day in Advent when they have committed to give a gift chosen from the list below. If any reader would like to join in please leave your gift in the basket at the back of the church before **22nd December**.

Please note: All food and toiletry items must be new, sealed and in date with as long a shelf life as possible. Any bedding, towels or kitchen equipment should be clean and in as good a condition as you would use for your own family. Please nothing other than on this list, especially no clothes! The list has been made after discussions with NWA. Thank you!

Any non-perishable food

Gifts for women eg gloves, scarves, scent, hairbrush and comb etc

£5 Asda Gift cards – for families with no money on admission

Black bin liners, kitchen/toilet rolls
Washing powder, fabric softener
Cling film, cooking foil, dish cloths, washing up sponges
Toiletries – for children, adults, babies, nappies, size 3-5, baby wipes
Tampons and STs
First aid items – particularly plasters
Stationery, paper, pens, A4 paper, envelopes, 2nd class stamps

Church Cleaning

As we have lost our volunteer cleaner we are meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 10am to do a bit of dusting, brass polishing etc. Coffee and biscuits are served to add a bit of encouragement. If you would like to join us please let us know or just turn up for an hour. The next clean-up will be on 12th December.

Open Church

We are drawing up a new rota for the first four months in 2020 for key-holders to unlock and close the church on a daily basis. Each volunteer takes on a week. If you are able to help to plug the one or two gaps, please let us know.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

BLEASBY CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION AND LIGHTS

An opportunity for you, your family and your friends to pop along to the Glebe Field to help decorate the Bleasby Christmas Tree and switch on the lights. From 3pm on Saturday, 7th December, there will be a bauble hunt and quiz for children (accompanied by an adult at all times please) which will end in St Mary's Church where you can then get involved with making colourful paper chains and other decorations; or why not help decorate biscuits whilst enjoying a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream - yummy! Other refreshments, including a mulled fruit juice will be available.

For those seeking a quieter time, please just come along for a bit of seasonal mingling - please bring your own hand-made decorations to hang on the tree or to be used as a window display inside the church. Try to use up-cycled, recycled or natural materials for your decoration and feel free to include a Christmas message if you like - be creative, it's Christmas!

Father Christmas will be turning on the lights shortly after 4pm and we are hoping there will be some music and a few festive songs to follow. Bring your own torch or lantern as there may not be any lighting after dark.

The Events Team



BLEASBY APPLE FESTIVAL WAS A REAL WANGER!

The Bleasby parish community came together in October for a good old-fashioned day of fun and games when families brought their unwanted apples to the Glebe Field and helped scrat and press them into fresh juice. The success of the day was enriched when the event was awarded winner of the Nottinghamshire entries to the National Love British Food Fortnight competition, which seeks to find the best community celebration of British Food across the nation.

Under the experienced guidance of Leo from Summerwood Community Garden in Clifton over 200 litres of fresh juice were pressed during the day; some for tasting, some for Leo to make Blue Barrel cider for his project and the rest to make a delicious scrumpy cider for next year's festival, it already having been named "Bleasby Wanger" after the very popular apple wanging competition that took place on the day! Other activities included an apple bake-off, an apple and spoon race (dressed as Granny Smith), apple stamping, guess the weight of the witch's apple (a giant pumpkin), catch the maggot, an apple shy and bagatelle!

Bleasby Primary School made personalised apple pennants which decorated the site and St Mary's Church served free refreshments and hosted a display of historic local orchards. The Waggon and Horses laid on a barbecue and a range of ciders, whilst the WI were best placed to decide the Bake-Off winners for funniest, most creative and tastiest bakes.



Thanks goes to Starkeys Fruit, Kelham Hall and Nottingham Trent University for their generous apple donations. And a huge "thank-you" also goes to the local organisations who provided voluntary support for the day; Heritage Orchard in East Markham for their wonderful display of apples; Reach Learning Disability for loaning the marquees (£190 of donations from the Bake-Off was raised for their Flower Pod project); Pulp Friction Smoothie Bar with their fantastic smoothie making bike and finally the fantastic atmosphere which would not have been the same without the live acoustic music provided by a number of artists from Eternal Youth.

More photos and reporting from the day can be viewed on the Bleasby Community website

www.bleasbycommunity.uk under Memory Lane.

The Bleasby Events Team is always looking for additional help with events like the Apple Festival so, if you are interested in giving up a few hours to volunteer, please email bleasbycommunity@outlook.com or call Bobbie on 07943 372268.

Bleasby Events Team

NEWS FROM BLEASBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Forty seven children were involved in a recent Cross Country event and they performed magnificently. A special well done to Redmond Petrie who has qualified for the County finals.

The first meeting of the School Council has been held with two representatives from each class, having been voted in by their peers. The council agreed their key aims and rationale for the year ahead which are to: make good decisions for the whole school; care about the school and make sure everyone is following its values: represent the children's views.

Teams of KS2 pupils have been designing and creating a product that could change the world. Each class had voted two teams for the school final and all pupils demonstrated fantastic teamwork, innovation, creativity and collaboration. The resulting products and prototypes were excellent. The class finalists presented their ideas "Dragons Den" style in front of the whole school and three judges from the Southwell Lions. Well done to all. The winning idea came from Molly Harrison, Saphia Kaye and Evie Davidge who designed a special survival bag to help a homeless person. Not only was it a fantastic idea but it demonstrated their understanding of a humanitarian issue which affects every city in our country. They will represent school in the regional final.

Ten of our children have received copies of the Nottingham Monster Poetry Anthology, their poems having been selected from many entries to represent Bleasby in this excellent anthology. Nine schools are represented in the book, which was produced as part of our partnership with Nottingham Girls High School.

The Diwali Dinner and Dance held on 9th November was amazing. Guests were served appetising canapes followed by a delicious three course Indian meal, they were entertained by traditional Bhangra dancers and the charity auction was fantastic. There are so many people to thank, especially Mrs Bhaker and team who organised the event and the support received from local businesses. It has raised the very substantial sum of over £3000 for school and, not only was it a great fundraiser, but also a great night out.

Sam Mensah, Headteacher



Guests at the Diwali Dinner and Dance

BLEASBY SCHOOL FRIENDS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS FAIR

To be held on Thursday 5th December - 3:30pm-5pm at school when BSFA will be supporting our school by providing a variety of refreshments including: home-cooked Punjabi food made by Suki, hot dogs, hot and cold drinks, a tuck shop and a cake sale.

This year's grotto will be the best yet! The cost is £2.50 to visit Father Christmas and his elves in the grotto and take home a gift.

RNLI COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning last month. I am delighted to tell you that we raised £320 and that our souvenir secretary had sales of £302. Congratulations to Veronica Woodward who won the raffle prize of a hamper filled with Christmas goodies. Your generosity will help to ensure that Lifeboats have fuel and are ready when the call comes. RNLI lifeboats are on call 24 hours a day, ready to respond to any emergency at sea.

Ann Buckley

FAREWELL BRUCE AND THEO

Bruce and Theo Toplis live on Boat Lane in the bungalow at Gibsmere crossroads. It is notable that Bruce has lived there all his life but this is about to change. He and Theo are leaving the village for pastures new so we would like to mark this event with a few words. When Bruce was born he lived with his parents in a wooden bungalow to the left of the entrance to the caravan site on the crossroads at Gibsmere near to the poplar trees which are a feature there. In 1949, when he was ten, his parents built the brick bungalow on the other side of Boat Lane where he and Theo now live. He remembers vividly the bungalow being built and even more vividly the floods of 1947 when he escaped the water by moving to live firstly in a neighbour's house and then, when they too were flooded, to the village shop where Mrs Warrener was shopkeeper. He was a choir boy at St Mary's where he and the late Ron Winn took turns to pump the organ. He recalls mowing a path across the Glebe Field so that Shirley Hutchinson could walk to church on her wedding day from her home on Gypsy Lane.

As a young man Bruce worked for eight years at Bentley's Farm in Thurgarton and then at Hoveringham Gravels as a driver, travelling all over the country. Meanwhile, in 1961, he had married Theo who lived across the river in Elston. They moved into a caravan behind his parents' bungalow where they remained for two years, later moving to Manor Close for the following ten years, with son Stephen arriving in 1966 and daughter Jane in 1969. When his father retired the family moved into the Boat Lane bungalow and Bruce took over the farm, rearing pigs and beef cattle, keeping hens and growing wheat, barley, potatoes and vegetable crops. He also took over the management of the caravan site which his father had set up many years earlier. From the beginning the Meadows Boys Club camped there and returned year after year.

Others on the site got to know each other, and Theo and Bruce, so well it became like an extended family.

A small shop was set up next to the bungalow, initially to supply caravaners with gas cylinders as well as free range eggs, honey and vegetables all “home grown”. In season there were also apples, pears, damsons and plums from their own trees. News spread and the little shop became a magnet for villagers, especially for eggs and to see the farm dog Lucy and from time to time her pups! The shop expanded to sell a bigger range of vegetables and fruit which necessitated trips to the wholesale market for Theo and Bruce. This continued until 1998 when Bruce’s failing health meant they needed to scale down a bit and they closed the shop, still retaining the gas cylinders and eggs for the caravan site until that was sold in 2006.

When you are Gibsmere born and bred it is hard to leave (Bob Richardson and Chris Foster are also part of this exclusive club and Sylvia Kershaw hasn’t moved far) but Theo and Bruce have decided the time has come to move nearer to their son in Cotgrave. You might have seen Bruce hedge cutting from his mobility scooter as you passed by. Having used it as a tractor for many years, the reverse gear has given up, so a new one is on order ready for the move. Their biggest regret will be the loss of the view from their windows which overlook the Trent Hills but the view comes with a certain isolation and they now need to be nearer a source of prompt support. I, one among many, will remember them for their unfailing kindness, good humour and serene contentment even in the face of adversity. They will leave after Christmas with our very best wishes for their future happiness.

Rachael Andrew

THE PUMPKIN’S TALE

Nearly ripe, I was – maturing gently in the corner of the kitchen. Very soon my flesh would be soft and juicy, and then I would be ready to fulfil my life’s purpose. What would it be? Soup? Stew? Or would I have my innards removed through an opening in my head, and then shapes cut out from my skin so that a lighted candle could cast its warm glow through my open mouth, eyes, and nose. That won’t happen if Cinders has her way – she has far too much housework and cooking to do to play about like that. But as I was saying, there I was in my warm corner, watching her. She was sad that night – she wept bitterly, and looked so forlorn. I knew why – her wretched stepsisters had gone to the Prince’s Ball, laughing at her desperate pleas to be allowed to go with them. “What, you go to the Palace? You little upstart – and in any case, what would you wear? Those filthy rags?” Her only companions tonight were the cat, the rats, the mice, and me. The cat was fast asleep on Cinders’ bed – no doubt dreaming of catching large rats. Dream on brother, I thought – you are far too fat and lazy to actually catch anything. And I am a very dull companion. Never done anything even remotely exciting – even the worms in the compost I grew up on ignored me.

But I was destined for higher things – I just knew it. Suddenly the outside door flew open – a gust of wind brought a swirl of leaves and a flurry of snow into the room followed by a diminutive figure dressed in pale blue velvet trimmed with snow-flecked white fur. She was beautiful, with sparkling eyes, a bewitching smile that transformed her very determined mouth and chin and the kindest expression on her face I had ever seen. Cinders jumped up, and to my surprise ran to greet the visitor. “Oh Fairy Godmother, I’m so glad to see you! I was wishing –” “Yes, I know all that – now we must hurry up, or you’ll be late”, was the surprisingly brisk reply.

I watched astounded as, in a few seconds and a wave of a glittering wand, which this extraordinary visitor pulled out of thin air it seemed, Cinderella had been transformed into an exquisite looking young lady from the tip of a dazzling tiara to the heels of her sparkling shoes. Her dress was white and encrusted with diamonds, and I had never seen anyone so beautiful. Just as I was wondering what would happen next, the visitor pointed her wand at me and, to my amazement I was immediately outside! The wind had died down, the snow had stopped and the night was still and calm. Then I had the weirdest sensation: I was expanding and changing into something I did not recognise – four round things appeared underneath me and I became hollow. My flesh and seeds had gone and, in their place was a red velvet lining and a comfortable seat. Six rats were changing into white horses and were being backed in pairs in front of me by frogs wearing smart uniforms. I felt myself bouncing up and down as two of these frogs (now handsome young men) climbed up and sat down on a seat that had appeared on my front. The rat/horses were wearing harness and were being controlled by the frogs/men! I was aware of the Fairy and Cinders coming up to my side, a door opened, light shone out, and Cinders climbed inside me!_ Suddenly we were moving, and I heard Cinders calling “Thank you! Yes I will remember – away before midnight!” I was so thrilled - at last I was doing something exciting, even if it was by magic and not by my own efforts. We appeared to be flying along, and then we slowed up and stopped in front of a magnificent castle lit by thousands of lights. Cinders was helped out of me by a young man and was escorted into the castle. I could hear music and laughter, and I realised that magic had touched us all. Cinders’ wish to go the Prince’s Ball had been granted.

So we waited for her. I pondered over her words “away before midnight” and became strangely anxious as midnight approached with no sign of her. The clock started to chime 12 – still no Cinders and I suddenly began to feel odd, as though I was shrinking. 5,6,7,8 – and the horses were changing rapidly into rats and scurrying into the darkness while the frogs hopped away, croaking happily. 9,10,11 – and I was my normal size again, lying on my side in a puddle. The twelfth chime struck – and I saw Cinders running from the castle, wearing her rags, being chased by footmen and guards. She ran out of sight, and the men stopped their chase. “Can’t blame her for wanting to come here tonight – all the young ladies here were hoping the prince would marry one of them. Good luck to her, I say. What’s this?” And the guard who had been speaking picked up something that sparkled in the lights from the castle. I

recognised it – one of Cinder's magic shoes! He took it inside with him and another guard came over to me. "He gets a beautiful shoe, but all I get is a muddy pumpkin! Still, the chef might be able to use it." So he picked me up, and carried me into an enormous kitchen.

And that is where I am now – maturing in the corner of the Palace kitchen. I knew I was destined for higher things.

Diana Temperley

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following newcomers to Bleasby and hope they will be happy in our community and that we will see them all at village events.

Hazel and Tommy Wright, Archie and Hattie to Gypsy Lane
Ian and Janice also to Gypsy Lane
The Russell family to Oak Tree Close.

If anyone knows of a new resident who we may have missed, please let the editors know or, even better, Ali Sutherland at alipetebleasby@gmail.com who will present them with a copy of the Welcome Booklet which has details of all the organisations in Bleasby and lots of other useful information.

LANDMARKS

Those of us who have lived many years in this parish have got used to the landmarks around us and are sad when they disappear, be they houses (however neglected and shabby), hedges which held flocks of small birds, trees which ennobled our street-scene and cleansed our air. These may seem minor losses but each of them is mourned and missed by some of our Bleasby residents.

WW2 EVACUEE RE-ENACTMENT

On Friday, 22nd November, a group of the older pupils from Bleasby School were involved in an enactment of the time when children of about their ages from various parts of the country were evacuated to Bleasby. This was in 1940 at the start of the Second World War when the enemy was bombarding cities and there were fears that our country might be invaded. So it was felt that children should be sent away from the cities and coastal districts, leaving their families behind to live in what were considered the safer rural areas.

All the children were dressed as their counterparts would have been in 1940, equipped with boxes for their gas masks and their food ration lunch. They re-enacted how the children would have been met at the station and walked through the village looking around them as they went, especially at houses which would have been there in 1940 and might have been where they, as evacuees, could have stayed. And then



they arrived at the old school (now the village hall) to be allocated to families for, as far as was known, the duration of the war. How scared and lonely the children of 1940 must have felt and I think our children could feel that too as they were shown to the ladies of the village who were now supposed to be taking them into their families.

A group of 2019 ladies from Bleasby had gathered in the old school dressed as they would have been in 1940, including sporting some formidable hats!

The officer in charge, acting as Mr Morris the Billeting Officer, encouraged the various ladies to take in some of the children, many of which had brothers or sisters with them. All took their parts extremely well – Mrs

Harrod from the Lock House who was worried that any children allocated to her might be in danger from the river – Mrs Selby from North Farm who was looking for some help on the farm, especially if they knew anything about horses – Mrs Amore, from Aerial Cottage (now Cherry Cottage) looking fearsome and suspicious but then kindly offering her precious toy to the little girl allocated to her - Mrs Crowder from Corner Farm, also hoping for some help on the farm and in the house – Mrs Hopwell of the Old Cottage, Gypsy Lane, wasn't sure she was going to provide a light for the children's visits to the privy. Then there was Mrs Denby from a house called St Vincent who sported a feather hat and, shockingly, bright lipstick but welcomed the children into what sounded like a very large house with five bedrooms! And Mrs Williams from Laburnum Cottage who was outraged that the other women should expect the bread she made to be free! Also there was Mrs Hoyland, the headteacher of Bleasby School, who took in Joy Penfold (an evacuee who later wrote of her time in Nottinghamshire) and Mrs Morris of Little Firs who had a brother and sister from Sheffield to stay with her.

In reality the 1940 children didn't stay in Bleasby very long – possibly the authorities became aware that, with an active RAF airfield just across the river at Syerston and the river nearby, Bleasby wasn't very safe after all.

Our modern Bleasby children acted their parts extremely well, speaking up when asked about what sorts of jobs they could do and looking appropriately nervous! Congratulations to all of them. And many thanks to the ladies who took part with such enthusiasm – Viv Mayfield, who recruited them for their parts, said she was “delighted to join in the experience. I think everyone set free their inner drama queen and enjoyed the morning “.

Claire Price and Angela Dunning, teachers at Bleasby School, also took part as member of the WRVS and nurse respectively – thanks to them and “Mr Morris” for organising the experience

Barbara Cast

**A. Rickett & Son,
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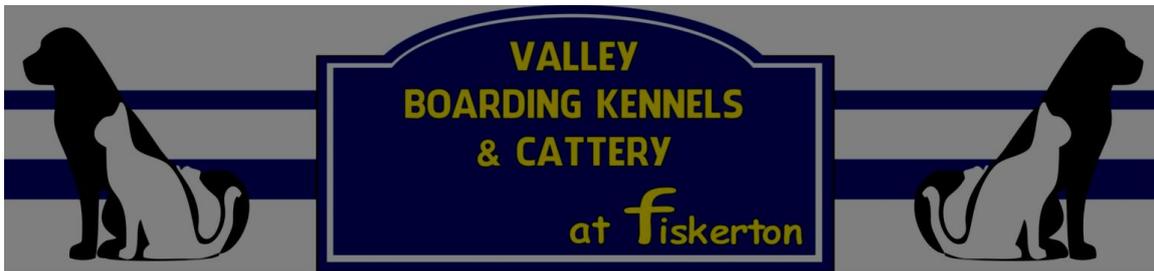
Views overlooking the fells, front and rear gardens,
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Bleasby Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 30 th November	7pm	Advent Carol Concert by the West Trent Churches Choir	St Mary's
Sunday 1 st December	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Thursday 5 th December	3.30pm until 5pm	School Christmas Fayre	Bleasby School
Friday 6 th December	7pm	Christmas Carol Service in aid of Framework	Southwell Minster
Saturday 7 th December	3pm onwards	Christmas Tree Decoration and Lights	Glebe Field
Sunday 8 th December	6pm	Carol Service with the West Trent Churches Choir	St James Halloughton
Monday 9 th December	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 10 th December	7.30pm	Bleasby Women's Institute Christmas Party	Village Hall
Thursday 12 th December	7am until 10pm	General Election	Voting in the Village Hall
Saturday 14 th December	7.30pm	Carols for Everyone (Lions Club fundraising for school in Uganda)	Southwell Minster
Sunday 15 th December	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion	St Denis' Morton
Monday 16 th December	Evening	Bleasby WI goes carol singing for charity - get your cash ready	Anywhere in the parish
Friday 20 th December	7.30pm	Southwell Music Festival Christmas Celebration Concert	Southwell Minster
Sunday 22 nd December	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Monday 23 rd December		School holidays start	
Tuesday 24 th December	4pm	Crib Service	St Mary's
Christmas Day	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Friday 27 th December	Please note there will be no Friendship Coffee Morning in December due to the proximity to Christmas Day		
Sunday 29 th December	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion	St James' Halloughton
Sunday 5 th January	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's

Monday 6 th January		Schools resume	
Sunday 12 th January	10.30am	Morning Praise for everyone	St Mary's
Monday 13 th January	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Sunday 19 th January	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Rolleston
Sunday 19 th January	2pm	Countryside and Footpaths Walk	Look out for notices & emails
Monday 20 th January		Deadline for February's Bleasby News	
Tuesday 21 st January	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with Angela Hall on Hedgehogs	Village Hall
Saturday 25 th January	7pm	Bleasby Local History Society Annual Supper with vintage films	Village Hall
Sunday 26 th January	10.30am	Morning Praise for everyone	St Mary's
Friday 31 st January	10.30am-12noon	Friendship Coffee Morning	Village Hall



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Church Services in the West Trent Benefice (HC = Holy Communion, MPE = Morning Praise for Everyone, EP = Evening Prayer) – services can be subject to occasional changes – please consult noticeboard at church

December	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 1 st	10.30am HC		6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE
Sunday 8 th	At Halloughton for Carols	6pm Carol Service with Choir	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am HC
Tuesday 11 th							10am HC
Sunday 15 th				10.30am Benefice HC			
Thursday 19 th			7pm Carol Service with Choir				
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am HC		10.30am MPE	6pm Carol Service	10.30am HC	10.30am with Methodists	4pm Carol Service
Tuesday 24 th Christmas Eve	4pm Crib Service		4pm Crib Service		6pm Carol Service	6pm Carol Service	
Wednesday 25 th Christmas Day	10.30am HC		10.30am MP		9am HC		10.30am HC
Sunday 29 th		10.30am Benefice HC					
January	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday 5 th	10.30am HC		6pm EP	9am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC
Tuesday 9 th							10am HC
Sunday 12 th	10.30am MPE	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am Plough Service	10.30am MPE	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE
Sunday 19 th					10.30am Benefice HC		
Sunday 26 th	10.30am MPE		10.30am Plough Service	10.30am HC	10.30am MPE	10.30am with Methodists	9am MPE

CHILDREN IN NEED SUCCESS

Thank you to those that attended and gave very generously at the Waggon and Horses pub quiz for Children in Need. It was the Waggon's biggest pub quiz to date! We raised almost £150 for this annual charity appeal.

JUBILEE PONDS – THE CHANGING SCENE

After having experienced the wettest autumn in Nottinghamshire on record, it is hardly surprising that the consequences should not have been felt and 'reflected' on the Ponds. The water levels have been so high that lower parts have been transformed to the appearance of mangrove swamps, whilst the meadow has reverted to a 'marsh' classification and the ground throughout 'soggy and sodden', requiring 'welly-wear' within the compass of Holme Dyke on its borders. The situation has been worse than that – in the past carp have been lost in the overspill of ponds into the dyke; that was before a drain was incorporated to act as an overflow.

There is, however, a silver lining to those black clouds! The site now becomes more attractive to wading birds and dabbling ducks which were, during the time of gravel extraction, far more common. The widespread flooding in the Trent Valley should act as a lure to such birds and we may also benefit as a result. Look out for the little and great white egrets which are currently spending their time in roadside fields between Averham and Fiskerton and which every year choose to share some time with us too.

Our winter wildfowl have dramatically increased with many more mallard on the Ponds than has been usual in recent years, the first gadwall are coming in and settling with us, as are the goosanders. On any day there are now over 100 easily observed waterbirds made up of the above with a large proportion of tufted ducks and coot added for good measure as well as the odd moorhen, great crested grebe, heron and cormorant mixed in for interest and variety.

To get best reward always listen for birds and track down their calls in order to find often otherwise overlooked arrivals. A quiet walk around the Ponds is often the most rewarding in terms of wildlife experience. At this time of year listen for the demanding "chack-chack" of incoming flocks of fieldfare, their "tseep" secretive contact calls as they move discreetly into the scrub and hedgerow and their voracious "chuckling and cackling" as they gorge on our plentiful red berried hawthorns, hollies and wild cherries. Large, loud – but often unnoticed, the winter fieldfares are most handsome birds and always seen as the portents of winter.

The soothing, gentle patter of light rain on the surface of the water, the gentle fizzing of water expelling air and the fall of a single leaf are all treasured sounds to be shared.

Already many of the trees and shrubs have exchanged their summer outfits for ones more becoming of autumn, whilst others shed their entire dress at the beck of the northern wind and first frosts without warning – or embarrassment! - leaving their leafy attire discarded, like a carpet, beneath their feet. Our oaks take on that entirely fresh-rusted look for their winter cloaks and our delight. Hollies, yews and conifers suddenly declare their tall existence in rather severe dark green costumes, standing aloof amongst the shadows and skeletons of those once more brightly garbed specimens that hid them during the summer. Gold marmalade sherds lie around our feet and dying, ember-spangled leaves bring us feelings of warmth and fond memories of cosy winter days at home by the fireside.

As the short winter days close watch for, and count, the magpies retiring to roost “one for sorrow, two for joy, etc”, the long-tailed tits with looping flight linking the trees and shrubs along the banks, the coalescing of waterfowl to tighter rafts, the chevrons of geese with their woeful calls, the melancholy hoot of an owl and the sudden burst of life as an ‘exploding’ pheasant startled into ‘life, colour and action’, erupts into the air like some dormant firework. All this on our doorstep – makes you just glad to be alive!

Peter Cast

FLOOD ACTION GROUP – IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS

Since the last week in October to almost the end of November, the Flood Group has had to be “on their toes” in anticipation of the potential flooding consequences of frequent and heavy rainfall throughout this period with frequent flooding alerts for the Trent and its tributaries being sent out by the Environment Agency. By carefully monitoring Trent levels and checking the levels of our drains and ditches, the Group were able to assess the degree of risk associated with any such alert and, combined with weather warnings from the Met Office, were able to anticipate where and when flooding was most likely. Fortunately, despite a high water table and saturated ground, the River Trent at Hazelford started at a low level and did not rise to its maximum of 14.8m above sea level before most of our excess surface flood water had already safely drained away. Less fortunately, properties in Lower Goverton were affected twice by surface water running down from the saturated fields above Upper Goverton and collecting in the floodplain fields below. The first incident occurred on 9th November but luckily the use of pumps and sandbag diversionary walls, water was confined to outbuildings and only entered one house by welling up through the floor. During the second period experienced on 15th November, at least two properties in Upper Goverton were also only just prevented from being flooded by the prompt action of neighbours, friends and Group members who were literally “all hands to the pump”, shifting great volumes of accumulating water and diverting the flow from fields above. It was a very near thing but it really highlighted the community spirit and support in the community.

The Flood Group is well blessed with committed and capable members who have not only been active throughout almost a month but have also updated the Bleasby Flood Plan, written the Flood Warden Risk Assessment and attended two meetings with County Council backing, to be even better prepared for next time!

Please try to attend our Parish Open Day to be held in the spring, giving information and advice on how to minimise flood risk in your homes and your parish.

Bleasby Flood Action Group

BLEASBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

Autumn for WI members began with the visit to Veolia to see how the contents of our recycling bins were handled. An eye-opening experience for many! We were also reassured that the contents of our general waste bin are sent to an ERF plant in Sheffield to create energy, and not to landfill.

Later in October we helped at the first Apple Festival on the Glebe Field. Two of our members were invited to judge the apple bake-off entries and were delighted to sample so many interesting bakes. A very enjoyable day, yet again helped by the good weather.

In October we celebrated our birthday by having a meal at Tom Browns at Gunthorpe. Twenty nine members attended and were well looked after by the staff there. Our November meeting was a talk by Julian Ellis on Tomorrow's Textiles, which gave us a glimpse into the amazing use of industrial and medical textiles – the kinds of materials we had no knowledge of – we are keen to hear more. Also in November an evening playing Bingo was held at the Village Hall for members and friends. A fun evening for everyone - particularly the winners!

In December we will hold our Christmas party when the competition is, as ever, the prettiest wrapped parcel – all will be given to a local cause. Also in December, keep an ear open for the WI carol singers!! In January Angela Hall will speak about hedgehogs.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Our main meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Sheila Lewis

Bleasby WI - Open Meeting - All Welcome!

An Illustrated Talk given by Ali Sutherland - to start at 7.45pm

Breathless in China!

Comparing Respiratory Health Care in Nottingham and Ningbo.

Wednesday, 15th January 7pm Bleasby Village Hall

Ticket - £8 - - includes a Glass of Wine and Nibbles

Tickets available from Monica on 830231

CHURCH FLOWERS

Will you volunteer to arrange a single vase of flowers for St Mary's once a year? The church is now open every day and the number of visitors during the week is growing.

It is a place of peace, of beauty and historic interest. It also provides somewhere to rest for passing walkers, cyclists and visitors to the graveyard. Refreshments and toilet facilities are available. Wouldn't it be good therefore if there were always flowers? Currently there is a rota for the weeks when there is a Sunday Service. That is most but not all weeks. If you would like to join the rota please contact a warden (below) or Ali Sutherland on 831026. We try to accommodate those people who would like a particular date in memory of a loved one or a special occasion. We look forward to hearing from you. Diana (830314) and Rachael (830296)

HOLIDAYS ARE IMPORTANT!

In these rapidly changing times holidays have become even more important to general wellbeing and the perfect way to choose the right holiday is at **The Hyde Barker Travel Show on Saturday 18th January between 10am and 3pm at the Saracens Head Hotel**. All 26 Tour Operators attending the show are ATOL bonded and the booking through Hyde Barker Travel, as an ABTA agent, ensures 100% protection **at no extra charge**. Hyde Barker staff will be at the show with support and advice. Tour Operator presentations will run throughout the day. There will also be great exclusive show offers, a free prize draw and a £50 voucher to use towards all holidays featured at the show.



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COMMUNITY WEBSITE UPDATE

Additions to the site since the October edition of Bleasby News include lots of new pics and some background information about the Bleasby Dog Show, the Bleasby Bike Fest and the Bleasby Apple Festival – please take a look under the Memory Lane section.

More and more requests for promoting community events and activities are being received from groups and individuals in the parish. These are listed under the Events section of the site which is now becoming a useful diary of future local events. If you would like to receive automatic email notifications about these events, please sign up using the link on the right-hand side on each page of the website.

If you wish to add an event which is open to the community, please email bleasbycommunity@outlook.co with the relevant information or to request a call back to discuss your event. Adding an event to the website, alongside using the village Facebook page, is a really effective way of reaching most residents in the parish.

There are plans to enhance the Useful Links page on the site, so if you have any thoughts about helpful content for this page, please email me on bleasbycommunity@outlook.com

Mike Fryer



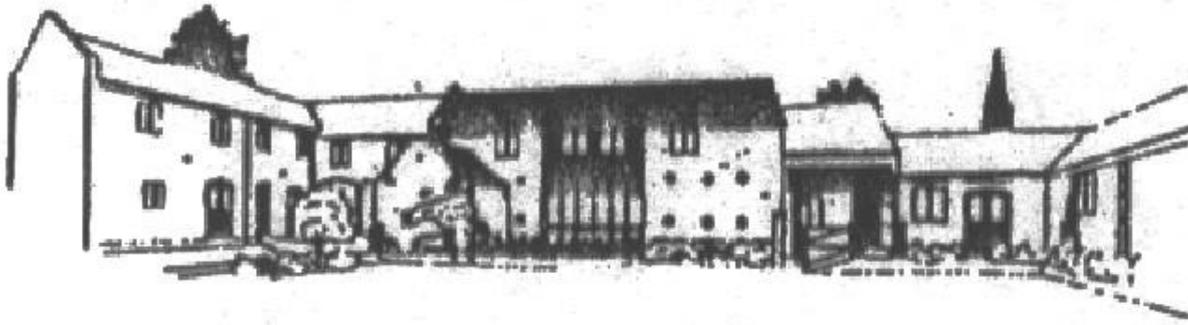
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This Christmas, why incur the cost and hassle of driving to the supermarket? Avoid the Christmas crowds and reduce your food miles by buying locally.

You can place your order now to have your fresh chilled turkey ready to collect on the 23rd December or before 3pm on the 24th December. Turkeys can be collected earlier on request. Turkeys are priced at £3.60 per lb.

Place an order

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Alternatively email your requirements and contact details to rjac900@aol.com

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Sarah Volkes Director of Correct Hearing



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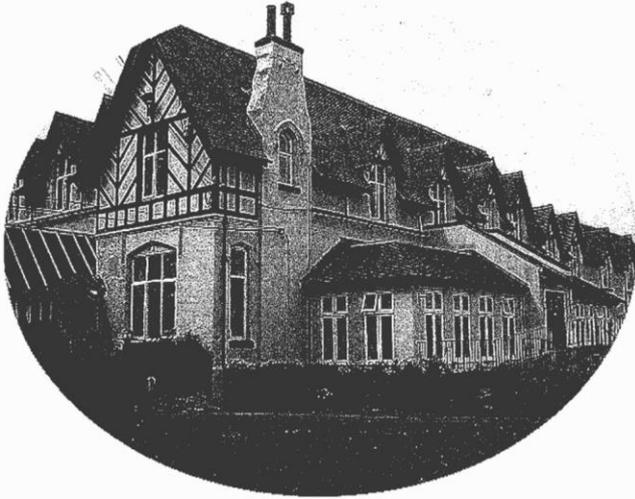


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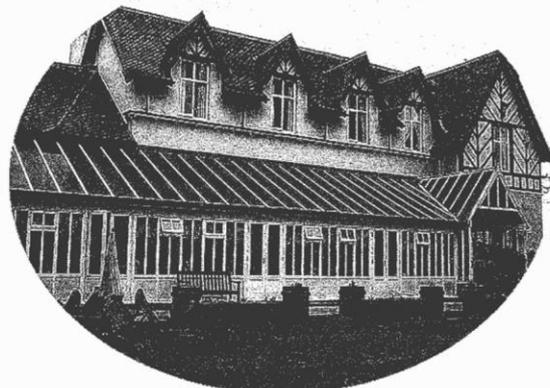
Our aim is to offer stimulating and gentle support where the well being of each of our guests is our main concern. Our highly qualified experienced staff and management team provide you with the best range of facilities to enjoy life to the full.

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BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT – UPDATED 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

BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As anticipated our talks in October and November were extremely interesting – in October Dr Chris Brooke, an expert on mediaeval churches, told us of the amazing hidden aspects of our parish churches using state of the art technology. In November, we had a most seasonal talk by Pete Smith, late of Historic England, on the subject of “Christmas decorations through the ages” – a very enjoyable evening.

There is no meeting in December and our annual faith supper will be held on 25th January and will feature vintage film presented by Bob Massey.

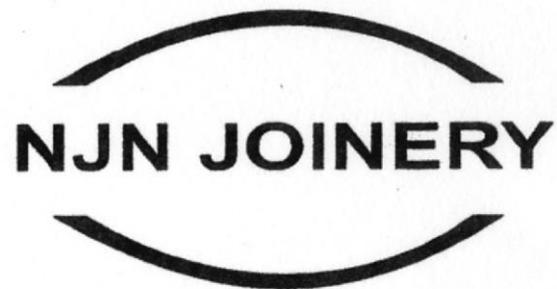
We resume our monthly talks in the Village Hall in February - all are welcome to come – 7.30pm start. Members free (for a small annual fee) and visitors just £2.50. Do come along!

Barbara Cast, President of BLHS

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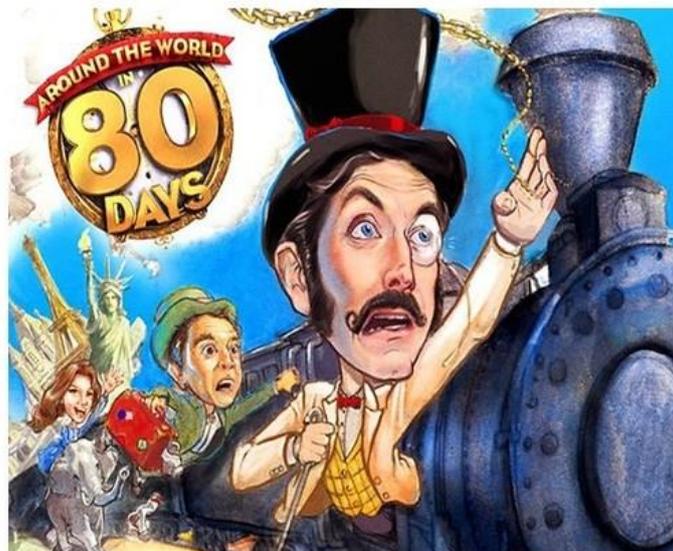
Traditional Bhangra Dancing at the Diwali event

“The over-overflowing of the River Trent began its depredations early this autumn; a small flood on the 8th Nov and another one on the 10th of ditto.”

John Holmes 1811



Freddie Foster the Ferryman c 1900



**10th to 14th December 2019 at 7.30 pm
plus a Saturday matinee @ 2.30 pm**

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