

# BLEASBY NEWS



**APRIL 2020**

Some of the local residents have set up a support group to offer help to those that need it in Bleasby, Gibsmere and Goverton.

Our aim is to support anyone in self-isolation, either through COVID-19 or showing other similar symptoms. Also to help those that might struggle to get essential items if they don't have transport or have additional health or access issues, even if not in true self-isolation.

Many people will have family and friends locally based and we don't plan to replace that support, but not everyone has that, or their support network might be in the same situation as themselves.

- Picking up shopping / medical prescriptions
- Helping with any cooking
- Walking dog/s
- Offering time to have a friendly phone call
- Posting mail/running errands
- Sharing urgent supplies
- Advice on current situation

If we can help or you just want to talk to someone, **please** contact one of the below. We are here to help you and each other.

Nicola Bennett	07402 449863
Pam Farquhar	07929 040614
Joanne West	07989 581843
Jennifer Waters	07734 419255
Julie Stone	07530 656321
Lynda Ogilvie	01636 830661
Louise Luiggj	07815 823155
Barbara Cast	01636 830284
Reverend Phil	07720 010066
Rachael Andrew	01636 830296
Diana Temperley	01636 830314
Jenny Sterland	01636 830987

**COMMUNITY ACTION RESPONSE- COVID-19**  
It's important to make a positive difference in your community



Alternatively, you can email [Bleasbycommunity@outlook.com](mailto:Bleasbycommunity@outlook.com) and someone will get back to you as soon as they can

## WELCOME TO THE APRIL EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

Over the past few days we have needed to make significant changes to much of the copy sent to Bleasby News for publication. It could be that between going to the printers and arriving on your doorstep information will already be out of date, such as the speed of developments in response to the spread of coronavirus. The reaction to the crisis from people in the village has been focussed on how they might support those of us classed as 'vulnerable'. It has been swift, generous and highly organised. Many of those stepping up to help are not the usual 'leisured', more mature residents but the next generation down, often with full-time jobs and/or families to look after. It is truly heart-warming. Communication systems have been working overtime to pull all this together in the few days between the "social isolation" advice from government for vulnerable groups and the deadline for printing. You will find details of the help on offer on the previous page and in Church News. For many older people the telephone remains their chosen method of keeping in touch - do not hesitate to use the contact numbers given. We hope that as the feeling of isolation bites, all of us will go out of our way to do what we can to keep in contact with friends and neighbours in this way. Speaking of neighbours, many elderly residents have already been approached by those living nearby offering help of all kinds without waiting for a 'group' to be formed. Bleasby has always been considered a supportive community and so it proves. And another thing - get out in the air in your garden, round the ponds or over the fields. There is nothing like spring sunshine and the natural world to lift the spirits.

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, 18<sup>th</sup> May**, to Rachael at [prandrew74@outlook.com](mailto:prandrew74@outlook.com) or Barbara at [barbaracast@btinternet.com](mailto:barbaracast@btinternet.com)

*Bleasby News editors, Rachael and Barbara*

## A GAP IN OUR SCHEDULES

It is so disappointing that so many events have had to be cancelled, especially the celebration of VE Day on which the members of the Events Group have been working. At the moment it is likely that most of the events will not go ahead – several articles which had been written for this edition have been removed – the mile of pennies, the Bleasby in Bloom initiative (*we could still make the street scene florally splendid*), other VE Day celebratory events. Hopefully some things will happen to remember this special day and information will be forthcoming on what is available.

All kinds of help have been offered to those whose lives are somewhat changed by the need to keep in isolation. See page 9 for details of the support being offered by the Waggon and Horses through the local support group's efforts.

We will have to hope that we will soon be back to normal – maybe even more aware of how precious our parish life is and how friendly and supportive its people are.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

The Parish Council wishes to support all parishioners during this testing time and is actively supporting the excellent initiatives of local people in setting up the coronavirus support groups which will help meet the everyday needs of adversely affected residents.

The Council realises that the Jubilee Ponds will become an important local facility for exercise and recreation during periods of isolation and confinement and, with the support of the Bleasby Carp Syndicate, has ensured that the footpaths there are clear of obstacles and better surfaced after the recent storms and floods. People exercising their dogs around the Ponds are asked to ensure that they are kept on a lead throughout the area as a matter of health and safety for all users. You will find two new dog waste bins strategically placed on dog walking routes at the junction of the roads and footpaths at both Goverton and Gypsy Lane.

Parish Council meetings are likely to be disrupted due to the coronavirus epidemic. Further information on the Annual Parish Meeting will be forthcoming via the website and notices.

A little good news - County Councillor Sue Saddington of the County Council has kindly enabled funding to be made available for Bleasby Church of England School towards their climate change and environment project in the sum of £200 and for the purchase of a gazebo to be used for events in Glebe Field to the sum of £75. We are grateful to her ongoing support.

*Stephen Andersen, Chair*

## **FROM THE REVD PHIL**

Dear All, as I write we are approaching a crisis caused by Covid-19 - as you read this I'm sure the situation will have moved on. I heard on the radio of an opera singer in Italy singing with gusto from her balcony of self-isolation. The video has gone viral and inspired a saxophonist to do something similar playing "Somewhere over the Rainbow" with great passion and length! The point of this, and why it proved so popular, was that it was being received as a gift of kindness to the Italian people.

Some people are giving what they have to encourage and support others in their community. It made me think what I could offer to anyone, especially given the need for social distancing or even the later possibility of self-isolation! Somewhere I have read that what we should do is think of ourselves as 'having the infection' and behaving towards others in a way that would reduce the chances of passing it on. This is subtly but significantly different from making sure I/we don't 'get it'. Do we avoid in order to protect ourselves or to protect others as well as ourselves? What do you think? Is this a no brainer or hardly needs saying, or that being selfish will be good for everyone else? We live in a wonderful society where 'individualism' reigns, we have the freedom to choose in almost every aspect of our lives in ways that no previous generation has ever been able to. On the other hand it is true that sometimes

'community', the sense of mutual interdependence and inter-relatedness, is under threat. Perhaps this is expressed by the number of security gates in rural villages, the reality of social isolation (that not caused by Covid-19) or political nationalism?? Does Greta Thunberg represent an appeal to become more of a global community? Should this be the future even if it curtails individual freedom? Whatever you think, being kind, thoughtful and aware of others 'can't do any harm'!

Can we all find our proverbial 'balcony' and sing for someone else, Covid-19 or no Covid-19? By the way I offer my phone number for anyone at any time to call to talk/listen. Please avoid staying anxious and alone.

*May Blessings be infectious!  
Rev'd Phil, 077 200 100 66*

**PS** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - all public worship in the Church of England was suspended until further notice. Please note that we are working out how to stream virtual worship and discussion (probably using Zoom), the church will continue to be open for anyone to enjoy the space for quiet reflection, funerals and weddings are not necessarily ceasing but will have to adapt to minimal attendance at social distances....

**PPS** A Bleasby response is being worked on as I write and will include the following *'The Reverend Phil is available for confidential one-to-one chats on the phone if you need to talk through any concerns. Please phone on 077 200 100 66 or email phil\_07@btinternet.com.'*

*Phil will also be running support groups online on Zoom on Mondays at 10.30 am and Thursday tea-time at 5 pm where people can meet and chat together. You can access Zoom from a smartphone, tablet or computer. Please email or phone Reverend Phil if you wish to join one of the groups. Phil will email you a link and if you click on the link you can join the meeting.'*

*'This is a non-faith related initiative. Anglican clergy are appointed to be there for every parishioner irrespective of faith or no faith...'*

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **Ash Wednesday**

This year the churches in the benefice celebrated Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday together at St Michael's, Hoveringham.

### **Open Door**

The theme for March was "Looking towards Easter" which engaged the children in stories from the Bible and craft activities, including decorating cards and egg rolling!

### **Church Clean**

On Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the cleaning volunteers met again to clean areas of the church. If you would like to join us we normally meet on the second Thursday of each month from 10am for a little cleaning and polishing, conversation and coffee. All physical capabilities welcome. Choose your own activity, and stop when you feel you've done enough! However, it may be some time before we meet again - unless anyone feels like a bit of solitary polishing.

### Friendship Coffee morning

Friendship coffee mornings remain popular and normally take place on the last Friday of the month in the Village Hall from 10am until 12.00. Unfortunately we have decided not to meet until further notice as many of those who come fall into the “vulnerable adult” category.

### Lent lunches

Lent lunches have been taking place on Saturdays during March in different locations. The most recent one raised £100 for Save the Children. It was a lively occasion as those attending feared (rightly) that it might be the last social gathering for some time so were determined to enjoy it.

### Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

Tenebrae, a service of shadows, has been practised by the church since mediaeval times. Once a service for the monastic community, it has become an important part of Holy Week. It begins in candlelight and, after each reading tracing the story of Christ’s passion, a light is extinguished. At the conclusion of the service only one flame remains because the story is not yet over. Thus the church is left in silence and sadness but anticipating the celebration of Easter. It can be a powerful experience. Unfortunately it won’t now take place this year. But keep it in mind for 2021!

### Good Friday Walk - April 10<sup>th</sup>

This is part of the benefice tradition, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. It was introduced by Revd Claire Goode when she was appointed to the seven churches of the benefice in September 2011 and has been an item on the benefice calendar ever since. We normally visit six of the churches for a 10 minute service of reading, reflection and hymn, stopping off for refreshments from time to time and enjoying a leisurely pace that allows for conversation on the way. It is unfortunate that we have found it necessary to cancel this year. Walking two metres away from everyone else doesn’t quite have the same appeal!

The “Seven Churches Walk”, a considerably longer route, takes place in July when we raise money for Bungoma and vow (for at least a week or two) never to do it again!

### Church Services including Easter Services

The Church of England has issued instructions that all worship be suspended for the time being. The church will remain open as usual, thanks to our loyal team of key holders. Please use it for prayer, reflection, thanksgiving, reading, admiring the building or just sitting in “glorious isolation” from everyone except the presence of God. A walk round the churchyard among the spring flowers is also recommended.

### Labyrinth

A labyrinth will be set up in Rolleston Church to provide a route for personal pilgrimage. This year’s theme will be the “I am” sayings in John’s Gospel. Each of the seven churches, and normally the children of Bleasby School, set up a prayer station within the labyrinth to provide a haven of peace and a space for inspiration and contemplation. We invite you to visit the labyrinth between Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### Coronavirus

We are taking seriously the letter to parishes from the Archbishop of Canterbury in paying particular attention to the needs of the elderly, vulnerable and isolated. In considering what steps we can take to support one another, it is crucial that we give attention to those most at risk. We know that many people who live alone will have

supportive neighbours and means of contacting them in an emergency, living as we do in a community aware of its responsibilities. There may be some, however, who would appreciate the assurance that they have a number to call for urgent shopping or/and other kinds of help. Nicola Bennett and others have set up a support group of volunteers to do just that. We are grateful to all those younger members of the community who have volunteered to do those things which we, as a church, would normally try to do. Many of us may now find ourselves isolated and in need of help ourselves!

The following numbers can be used for telephone advice or support of any kind even if it is simply a friendly voice for those who choose to self-isolate or are advised to so. If we can't respond we will find someone from Nicola's list who can. Revd Phil is also available for spiritual support.

830314 (Diana Temperley) - 830296 (Rachael Andrew) – 07720 010066  
(Revd Phil White) - 830284 (Barbara Cast) - 830987 (Jenny Sterland) – 830072  
(Angela Green) – 831322 (Kathy Smith)

*Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens*

### **BLEASBY V.E. DAY CELEBRATIONS**

It is with much disappointment that, owing to the measures being implemented to help slow the progress of the coronavirus epidemic, the Events Group has been obliged to cancel its plans for a full day's celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. This comes as a great blow as much input has already been made by Events Group members and various village individuals and organisations in planning what would have been a really memorable and exciting programme of events, activities, games and festivities to have been held on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

There is a suggestion that a necessarily more limited event combining both VE and VJ Days could be held on the weekend of August 15<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> 2020 which could still incorporate some of the planned programme. Unfortunately village take-up may be seriously depleted by a surge of summer holiday commitments but even a spontaneous community response on that weekend could prove a worthwhile recognition of these two very significant dates in our history, as well as providing an opportunity for a celebration of relief for the winning of the war against the coronavirus!

Nationally, this celebration event, has been cancelled but there is no reason why we should not still celebrate with a patriotic Bleasby in Bloom show around the parish now that some of us have more time for gardening!!

Many thanks to all individuals and groups for all your input into the planning of the May event – it may yet prove not to have been a futile commitment!

*Peter Cast*

## LUNCH CLUB

In February we celebrated Irene Cox's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She brought her "telegram" from the Queen to show us, which we all admired, and also a card from the Department of Work and Pensions! Members presented Irene with flowers and chocolates, and her family ensured we were able to enjoy a glass of bubbly to wish her continuing good health. Irene is an example to us all, continuing as she does to live alone (supported by her family), to do household tasks, to walk (with a stick) and to knit! As usual, and as we have come to expect, the Tea Shoppe came up trumps with a wonderful birthday cake. Thank you to Caroline and her team for making this a memorable occasion. Looking around the table at the assembled members I think it is more than possible there will be more 100 year celebrations in the future!

*Rachael Andrew*

## MRS IRENE COX

On behalf of my mum and our family I would like to thank all friends and neighbours, the members and helpers of Bleasby Luncheon Club and the staff of the Manor Farm Tea Shoppe for helping to make her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday so memorable.

*Thank you, Angela*



Here at The Waggon we wanted to create a way we could help our local community in Bleasby during these testing times.

We will be doing a takeaway menu including our classic beef pie, fish and chips, pizzas and more. These will be available to order 6-8:30pm Monday-Saturday. Takeaway drinks will also be available at these times.

We are also doing a food shopping service for the convenience of our customers- see overleaf for more details.

We would like to assure you that we are continuing a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness.

## HOW TO ORDER

### TAKEAWAY FOOD AND DRINK

Call us on: 01636830283  
between 5:30-8:30pm

For collection  
at an arranged time.

### FOOD SHOPPING SERVICE

Order between  
9-11am via text or email  
for next day collection  
from midday

Free delivery  
for elderly residents

Card payments can be made  
over the phone

Text: 07920523880

Email: neilmckechan@aol.com

## WAGGON & HORSES BLEASBY

TAKEAWAY MENU  
FOOD AND DRINK  
AVAILABLE FROM  
20TH MARCH

SHOPPING SERVICE  
AVAILABLE FROM  
23RD MARCH

CONTACT US: 01636 830283

## TAKEAWAY MENU

*Meals and drinks available for takeaway*

### Mains

Smaller portions available for £5  
excluding burger and pizzas.

#### Fish & Chips £8

fresh beer battered haddock with  
chips and mushy peas

#### Sausage & Mash

on a bed of cheddar or mustard mash  
with veg and onion gravy

#### New Orleans £8

chicken breast with bacon, mushrooms,  
onions, bbq sauce & cheese with chips

#### Scampi & Chips £7

whole tail scampi with chips and  
mushy peas

#### Mediterranean Pasta £8

in tomato, garlic and herbs, with feta,  
olives served with garlic bread

#### Pasta Carbonara £8

in garlic & cream with parma ham served  
with garlic bread

#### Waggon Burger £7

8oz burger with bacon and stilton or  
cheddar cheese with chips

### Pizzas

Margherita £7

Funghi £7

Pepperoni & Mozarella £8

3 Little Pigs £8

Hawaiian £8

Portion of chips £2.50

### Drinks

9 Pint IPA or BG Sips Mini Cask £24

2pt Draught Beer Carton from £6.66

Red Stripe Cans £2 or £7 for 4

Carling Cans £1.75 or £6 for 4

White Wine Bottles from £12

Red Wine Bottles from £14

Rose Bottles from £12

Other wines available on request

Cans coke/lemonade £1

50ml spirits bottles available

All other beverages offered at a 10%  
discount to takeaway

## SHOPPING

*Order by 11am*

6 Atherley's bread rolls £2

Atherley's Large Sliced Loaf £2.50

4pt Semi Skimmed Milk £1.50

6 Eggs £1.50

2 8oz Burgers £3

6 Best Pork Sausages £4

6 Rashers of Back Bacon £2.50

2 Chicken Breasts £3.50

Wedge of cheddar £1.50

Wedge of Stilton £2

Wedge of Brie £1.50

Pork Pie £3

Topped Pork Pie £4.50

Tinned Tuna £2

Heinz Beans £1

Tinned Mushy Peas £1

Baking Potato 60p

Mixed Salad Box £1.50

All products are subject to suppliers and stock availability



**A. Rickett & Son,  
Bleasby  
Builder & Contractor  
Tel: 01636 830468**

**IT IS NESTING TIME! – PLEASE TAKE CARE OF OUR BIRDS!**

Wildlife is under greater threat than ever! You have probably noticed that you are not seeing as many birds as you used to. Many of us do what we can to attract birds to our gardens, we try to make it a good environment for them, we feed them appropriate food – but there is a danger which we could do more about eliminating. Every year lots of young birds, recently leaving the safety of their nests, are killed by cats. There are a couple of important things that cat owners can do – keep them in during the nesting and fledging season and, at all times, make sure they are wearing a bell. We need our birds and they need us!

Another worrying issue is that work to trees and hedges is sometimes being undertaken during birds' breeding season, which is March to August. It is against the law to destroy or disturb nests, eggs or nesting birds but the RSPB advises that, even if no nests are evident, works should not be undertaken during this period. In any case, trees (and hedges) should be valued for their contribution to many aspects of our lives - as well as that of wildlife. Let us pledge to plant, not destroy, these green treasures which cleanse our air, cool the land and give us so much joy.

*Please remember that you can get up-to-date news of what's going on in Bleasby Parish by going to [www.bleasbycommunity.uk](http://www.bleasbycommunity.uk) – and to sign up for email alerts email [bleasbycommunity@outlook.com](mailto:bleasbycommunity@outlook.com)*

## DEAR MUM

Mrs Betty Ogilvie, nee Buchanan, was born in Scotland in 1919. After passing the Scottish Highers, University studies not being an option for her, she passed the Civil Service examinations, and started work in Glasgow. At the start of the war Civil Servants were not allowed to volunteer to serve in the armed forces. She never said very much about the war, always adding that she had signed the Official secrets Act, but she did say that she was living and working in Glasgow when the Luftwaffe carried out the largest air raids of WWII on the city on the nights of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1941. 528 people were killed and 417 wounded in these attacks, and 48,000 residents were forced to leave their homes. She immediately volunteered to serve refreshments at Glasgow Central Railway Station for servicemen passing through. As soon as the Civil Service restrictions were lifted, she volunteered for, and was called up to serve with the ATS on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1942.

After her death at the age of 97, a large bundle of letters that she had written home during the war were found in her home. Her mother, who was bed bound throughout the war due to chronic illness, must have kept them all. They all started with the words "Dear Mum". Herewith some extracts from the letters:-

29 4 1942 – age 22 - York – *"Your letter arrived on Monday and it's the only one I've had since I left home. This is the worst of not having a settled address. I don't think I will be here very long though. I was early to bed last night but was wakened at 2.45 am with the sirens. There were lots of bangs and plenty of planes. I thought I heard one being shot down. I went downstairs and found the other three girls were already there, so we shut ourselves in the cubby hole under the stairs. After about ½ hour, there were four terrific bangs, one very near. The house rocked and there was crashing of broken glass. When we emerged, we found the house had got a good blast. The bomb landed in the Barrack Square across the road. 2 soldiers were killed and 40 injured. The only windows that are complete are in the kitchenette, and in my bedroom. Several doors are off their hinges and have locks blown off. When I saw all the broken glass on my pillow, I felt very thankful that I hadn't done the usual and stayed in bed"*.

8 8 1943 – No 3 Intelligence School, Herne Hill, London – *"no word on my promotion yet, but there is a lot of gossip... today, the Major came in while I was standing with an electric soldering iron, some solder, and a condenser in my hand (I have joined a class on machine maintenance). He seemed to think it was funny, as I had used about six times too much lead. He asked me if I had any news of my posting. I said no. By the look he gave me, I realised that he did know... He finished by saying – it doesn't do to plan ahead in the army."*

15 8 1943 – No 3 Intelligence School, Herne Hill – *"I tidied up my things today ready for my removal. About 14.30 hours, the Commandant came in and told me that my promotion (to CSM) had come through and I was being posted to South Eastern Command HQ. I did not want to go but could not refuse."*

27 8 1943 A Coy, 7 Command Signals ATS HQ, SE Army, Home Forces – CSM Buchanan *"I got word on Wednesday afternoon that my posting had gone through, and had to chase round being medically inspected, visiting stores, mail office, orderly*

– and get packed. Caught the 10.18 train to Victoria, had to change trains there, and again at Redhill. A porter helped me with my things and refused a tip. At ----- ((this place) – her words)) we were met by an army truck and were taken to the Company office. I share a bedroom with another sergeant, but she is on different shifts so I seldom see her. We have a marvellous room, complete with hot and cold water. The district is heavily wooded, the water soft, and the air relaxing. The command is underground, and though strange at first, I find it well aired and well lit (artificial). I am in charge of a shift.”

26 1 1944 – No 3 Intelligence School, Herne Hill, London “On Thursday night we had a pretty stiff air raid and I didn’t get to bed until 1 o’clock in the morning. The next morning they explained that the reason for the sudden posting was that I was being lent to Australia House for 10 days. This morning I reported to AH. The work is very interesting and all we do is communicate with Melbourne and Washington. I need to get a pass to go back to get the rest of my things tomorrow.”

15 4 1944 No 3 Intelligence School, Herne Hill, London “Would you believe it I am posted back here. The officers at GHQ were highly indignant because they had not been consulted in the matter. The ATS officer said I had been specially asked for at the school. The CSM (chief instructor) tells me that he thinks I am here for about 6 weeks to help them out with a great rush of work – and I am on loan.”

D Day 6 6 1944 16 6 1944 Herne Hill “I expect you will have heard on the news about the new pilotless planes (V1 rockets, or “Buzz Bombs”). It started on Tuesday night when we had an alert, heard a plane coming in with its guns going full blast, but before we could get out of bed the engine stopped, there was a terrific bang and flash, and then silence. Last night, the alert sounded. The raid started with a repetition of Tuesday’s performance, but still we didn’t think about pilotless planes. They were coming in very low, and you hardly heard them approach until they were overhead. One came over at about 100 feet with tracer bullets riddling it all over and searchlights covering it all the way. It had lights on its tail and wings, and we thought at first that they had got a grip of our recognition signals. Then the lights went out and there was again the huge flash and explosion. This happened four times so we spent the night under the stairs. The show was still on when we went to breakfast, and later at the school. The next day, we had sirens and gunfire all day – as a matter of fact I don’t know why they bother to sound the “all clear”. We watched a fighter chasing one and pumping it with cannon.”

13.7 1944 – SQHS C/O Herne Hill, London “We have had our fill of excitement lately, but the main danger seems to be flying glass and falling plaster. No-one has any scruples about going under tables when we hear them (the Buzz bombs) screaming down, and everyone is in grand spirits.”

4 8 1944 – No 5 Intelligence School, Ilkley, Yorks “not sorry to see last of London. Jerry gave us a good send off. Started at 11.30pm and carried on till 1.30am. Most were gliders. We were loading the lorries... and had to scatter. When train finally left Kings X, the alert went. A glider went over the train at terrific speed. There was a wild scramble to get under the seats, and we felt the blast as the thing went off”

16 9 1944 – Ilkley, Yorks. “By the way, the last row I had with the JC was when I queried an order on the grounds that it wasn’t common sense. I was seriously told that it was not my place to query whether orders make sense or not, but merely to

*carry them out. I was quite amused when I realised that she was up against 20 years of training in common sense by you. If only she knew."*

*13 5 1945 – Russell Square, London "We were granted 48 hours leave for VE Day, and managed to get Saturday and Sunday tagged on. It is exceedingly hot down here. We headed for Trafalgar Square but were stopped for 10 minutes by a huge Canadian Air Force Parade. There were several bands including pipers. London is very bomb scarred, but now gay with flags. They have been improvising all sorts of bands, taking out barrel organs etc., and dancing in the streets. The King and Queen were to go through London today and the streets were crowded at noon. I never saw so many police in all my life – and lots of St Johns Ambulance people."*

Postscript

Towards the end of her life, we helped her to claim her service medals. She wore them only once for a Remembrance Service and told me that one man asked her if the medals were really hers. She told me that she gave him a hard stare and said quietly – "Yes".

(extracts from letters home - to Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland – 1942 to 1945)

*Ken Ogilvie*

## **LAKE DISTRICT HOLIDAY COTTAGE**

**Borrowdale Road, Keswick**

**3 Bedrooms | Sleeps 6**

**TO LET**

Fully refurbished holiday cottage with gas central heating,  
open fire place and private parking

Views overlooking the fells, front and rear gardens,  
superb location

**For further details please ring**

**01636 830209 | 07812 101303**

## **TONY BUCKLEY**

We extend our sympathy to Ann and family following the death of Tony in late February. The funeral took place at Gedling Crematorium on 21<sup>st</sup> March. We hope to be able to write more about Tony in the June edition.

### **Bleasby Diary of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>What can we say? Not much happening so here are just some of the special days in April and May</b>			
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March		British Summertime begins	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April		Palm Sunday	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April		Maundy Thursday	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April		Good Friday	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April		Easter Sunday	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April		Easter Monday	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April		St George's Day	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May		75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day	
Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May		Deadline for Bleasby News items	

## **JUBILEE PONDS – MAKING SPACE FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING – AND A TRIBUTE TO THE ANGLERS**

We are on the cusp of spring with our wintering wildfowl now dispersing and our spring migrants appearing. The goosanders have completely disappeared and the gadwall are down to a handful, whilst our 'summering' chiffchaffs are already setting up territory with their repetitive name-calling song. The greylag geese wander in small flocks uncertain of their course and purpose in the confusion of nationally expanding summer breeding populations, challenging instinct with mixed migration and movement messages. Violets and primroses are in full flower, with even bluebells making a cautious showing of blue buds, whilst blackthorn and gorse are showering our margins with a myriad of white and yellow bursts of colour.

And here and there, in subtle greens and quiet repose, can be discerned the outlines of anglers blending into the greenery and subsumed and immersed into the sounds and silences of the forthcoming spring. I watch as a fishing line quivers on the rasping of a carp nibbling on 'boiler bait' – and then the rod flexes downwards at its tip as this discerning and elusive fish takes the bait into its gulping mouth. The fisherman allows the fish to play on the line and then he gently and slowly draws in the shortening line. There is no struggle by the fish, no desperate fight for escape – just an apparent reconciliation to playing its part in the friendly game played out between angler and fish. The fish is gently drawn to a natural resting site by the reeds, so carefully chosen

by its captor, and then the capacious landing net is eased beneath the fish whilst it still breathes easy below the water's surface. On the bank a landing mat has been purposefully laid out, awaiting the soft landing of the fish in cushioned carrier to which the carp and net have been smoothly transferred at water level. Once ashore in its soft hammock, the fisherman oh so gently removes the hook from its mouth in a matter of seconds whilst the fish lies obligingly still and apparently without distress upon its soft and enclosing bedding. A beautiful mirror carp dressed in olive greens and golden browns with its distinctive mirror-scaled flanks reflecting the sky above. For the first time since its capture the fish is raised within its handled cocoon, weighed and then returned directly to the water. More care and attention to the welfare of the fish could not have been given – the whole operation was so delicately, sensitively and smoothly performed. It was beyond criticism and a joy to behold the mastery and sensitivity of the angler.

The parish is blessed to have such a carefully selected and managed team of anglers. Paul Wood, the Syndicate owner, is totally demanding on the standards of behaviour, dress code and practice of its members and leaves nothing to chance. As oft stated, the Syndicate contribute massively and totally voluntarily to the management of the Ponds, ensuring the paths are clear and appropriately surfaced, that fallen branches and trees are removed and our path-side verges and the Centenary Wood are kept clear and mown.

Please honour them and give them the acknowledgment, appreciation and consideration they deserve.

*Peter Cast*

## **V.J. DAY**

I was interested to read Diana Temperley's piece in the last Bleasby News about why we don't seem to celebrate V.J. Day. My father served in the Fleet Air Arm on HMS Indefatigable from 1944. At that time it was the largest aircraft carrier in the Navy. It went to Norway and then prepared to go to the Far East as part of the largest naval fleet ever to fight against the Japanese. My mother went to Scotland to see him off and did not see him again for 2 years. She was left with my sister aged 7 and me aged 4 to bring up with minimal communication or news of him during that time. In Norway they attacked the Tirpitz but didn't inflict much damage and then set sail for the Pacific. When they got to Sumatra they attacked Japanese oil installations with great success. They then joined up with the US fleet and prepared to attack Tokyo. During this time they were frequently under attack from Kamikaze suicide bombers. The Indefatigable was hit several times and some of my father's comrades were killed. In August the US dropped the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, ending the war without the naval fleets needing to do their jobs. Even then it was not a straightforward return home for my father. He did not get home for some months after. The ship returned via Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Australia and Cape Town. In Australia she was docked for repairs and my father spent some time working with a family on their sheep farm. He was so enamoured with the life on returning home that he was

keen for the family to emigrate, but my mother didn't want to go having just got the deposit together for their first house - otherwise this Pom would have been an Aussie!

This was an important part of WWII and, as Diana said, after V.E. Day there were many lives still tied up with fighting the enemy in the Far East. V.J. day does seem to be almost forgotten.

*Bill Brazier, Gypsy Lane*

## **FEBRUARY FLOODING IN BLEASBY**

We have an excellent team of trained and qualified Flood Wardens in Bleasby. During the recent floods they were out at all times, in all weathers, to close roads where there was danger, and offer help and advice to those in distress, many going 'beyond the call of duty' to keep people safe and advised. They deserve our grateful thanks as well as those other residents who offered extra help if needed. Thank you all.

The flood team do work throughout the year, not just in times of flood, to upgrade training, review potential hazards and check all the dykes are flowing normally. Currently we are working with a specialist flood adviser from the County Council, looking at areas throughout the Parish which we know to be at risk and trying to find solutions to mitigate serious flooding to properties, although we cannot 'hold back the tide' if it decides its course !

Following the lifting of restrictions on public gatherings it is proposed that we hold a FLOOD AWARENESS EVENT in the village hall and I strongly advise that you watch out for notice of this and visit if you are able, both to find out our concerns and give your own on how best we all can try to address problems. With global climate change reportedly going to get worse it is the responsibility of each household to make provisions for protecting their own property. Sandbag supply can no longer be guaranteed and to this end some people have already purchased their own supply of Aqua sacs which do the same job as sand bags and are easily stored and quick to use when needed. These along with other safeguards are available on the internet and sometimes can be cheaper if neighbours and friends band together to buy in bulk. We hope to have comprehensive advice at the Flood Awareness Day.

The Bleasby Flood Action Group (or BFAG as it is known) may not have a high profile in the parish but please be assured we do work quietly and continuously to do as much as we are able to keep the parish dry! Every flood over the past 20 years so far has been different, and we are learning more every time on how to cope.

*Elaine France, Chair of BFAG*

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

The recent British Science Week was a big hit with all the pupils. Mrs Green joined Oak Class for an exciting science session teaching them about good bacteria and bad bacteria. An experiment was set up to explore how much bacteria there was

around school, using slices of bread to harvest and grow the bacteria, and then they would see what happened to the slices of bread, having predicted that they might be rather green and furry! Apple Class was very busy celebrating 'Our Diverse Planet', including collecting different coloured natural objects, looking at planting and life cycles, including planting sunflower seeds. Maple Class had great fun with Mrs Green making and launching foam tube rockets! Willow Class were given the task of finding out which material would make the best coat for an Antarctic explorer - thick curtain fabric and foil were found to be the best insulators and kept more heat in. Cedar class had to construct three boats of the same dimensions and made from 3 different materials of their choice, then predict which boat would hold the most weight before sinking. Many thanks to Mrs Green and Mr Cast (Science link governor) who came to assist us with activities and enhanced our scientific learning.

The Green Girls-Environmental Group, our "Green Girls", led a fantastic service on Tuesday, explaining that this year's Easter Bonnet Parade would have a theme of "Recycle and Re-use". All Easter Bonnets would be made of recycled or re-used materials and they shared a beautiful example of one they had made. The girls also wrote to Councillor Sue Saddington – the school has received £200 of funding from the County Council to be spent on promoting recycling. Well done Laura, Hannah, Mariah and Lois for inspiring others to recycle.

## **WELCOME TO BLEASBY**

We extend a warm welcome to Malcolm and Maggie who have moved into the Moorings and to the McCartneys into Sycamore Lane – recent news is that there are also new residents at Lyme House. We look forward to hearing more of you all and we hope that you will soon feel "at home" - we look forward to meeting you at village events when things return to normal.

## **BLEASBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The WI had a very interesting meeting in February with a cookery demonstration by Terri Swift, one of our members. She made Leek and Potato Soup, Flatbreads and American Pancakes and, of course, we were given the opportunity to sample them all!! Delicious. While demonstrating she also gave us some useful tips on economising when doing our grocery shopping.

During February some members took part in the Scrabble evening organised by the County and had a very enjoyable time. Unfortunately a planned Rummikub evening in March has had to be cancelled. The Darts pairs competition went ahead with Bleasby WI being represented and acquitting themselves honourably.

Our March meeting unfortunately was cancelled, due to the government announcements re social distancing because of the coronavirus.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March, just before the government announcement, a small group of members visited Whisby Nature Park and Pennells Garden Centre on a sunny day.

A very enjoyable day before we were confined indoors! And again prior to the virus restrictions, the Ladies to Lunch group visited The Horse and Plough in Bingham and The Bromley at Fiskerton. The Book Group met to discuss 'Bookworm' by Lucy Mangan. This was subtitled "a memoir of childhood reading" - it sent us on a nostalgic trip down Memory Lane and our own, and our children's, introduction to reading.

Our next meeting, when the present scare is over, will be the Annual Business Meeting when new officers and committee are elected.

*Sheila Lewis*

## **KEEPING OCCUPIED FOR THE SELF-ISOLATED**

Most of us will be casting around for things to keep us occupied over the coming months. Some suggestions below - gathered from various sources, the blindingly obvious, the not so obvious, the easy, the challenging and the obscure:-

Gardening, indoor or outdoor

Reading

Photography

Writing- letters, articles for the Bleasby News, postcards using all those you bought thinking you might use but didn't, a diary, journal or memoir

Listening to or paying music

Telephoning someone you haven't spoken to for a while

Trying a new recipe

Crosswords, sudokus and other puzzles and table games

Crafts of various kinds including artwork, sewing, knitting, woodwork, repairing

All those odd jobs you have been putting off for months or even years, including small decorating jobs.

Cupboard and drawer tidying

Spring cleaning house, garage and/or attic — a bit extreme

Discarding and bagging unwanted items ready for the possibility of going to the tip or charity shop

Document sorting and discarding both paper or computer items

Regular, at least daily, spells of exercise, either indoors or better still a walk or cycle ride when the weather allows

Origami - recommended for calming the mind and encouraging the personal qualities of persistence and playfulness to overcome challenges. Tutorials available online

Getting to know some of the things your computer can do that you haven't tried yet but possibly thought about, eg Skype, Netflix, Spotify, and online food shopping when the delivery slots are back to something like normal

Online courses of various kinds. Futurelearn and Couseira — free and open to all, covering a range of topics

Open University now making some of its courses available at flexible enrolment times and reduced prices.

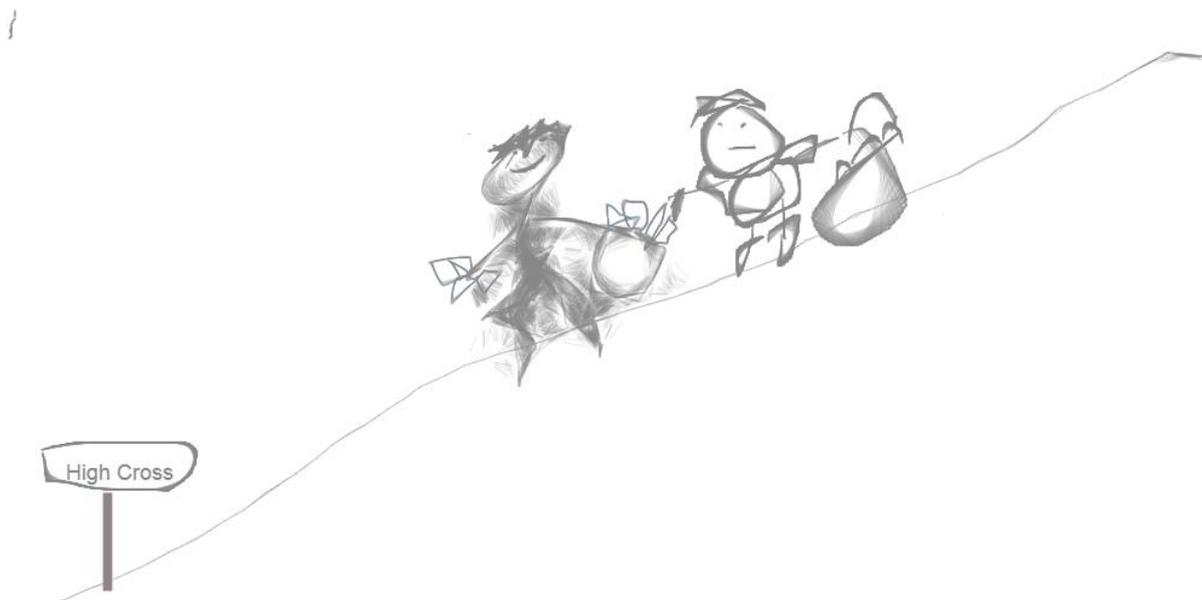
And to motivate yourself when the going gets tough and there is no one to encourage you, establish a daily, varied routine and follow it  
Share your ideas with others!

### **“ZOOM” - A CHALLENGE TO SILVER SURFERS**

Why not try the App Zoom which allows groups of friends to “video conference” at a given time. If you have a computer, laptop, tablet or I-phone it is “easy” to set up. Make sure the kettle’s on and enjoy a virtual coffee morning!

### **WE NEEDED SOME GOOD NEWS**

NG14 7GF Orchard Close has just come up on the post code lottery winning £1000.



This is Maria Dunning’s depiction of Rachael and Barbara on their walk – it is entitled “Rubbish” – unfortunately that is quite true, we do nearly always find some rubbish to pick up!

### **BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Like most organisations BLHS has been affected by the virus and the AGM had to be cancelled. We have an exciting series of lectures planned for this year and we hope that we will be able to carry on with them. Look for information on the website and noticeboards. The first of the new season should take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 entitled Framework Knitting, the Ruddington Museum and the Luddites and given by Julian Ellis. We will have to see what happens.

Our final talk of the 2019/20 year was excellent: it was entitled The Mayflower Pilgrims – why did they come from here? It was given by Adrian Gray to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower voyage. It was most interesting to learn, as Adrian explained the pilgrims’ local roots, that Nottinghamshire was so fundamental to the development of Christianity at that period.

*Barbara Cast, President of BLHS*

## **SAVE THE DATE: BLEASBY EVENTS – 2020**

Please “save the date” for the following Bleasby community events that are planned for 2020.

VE Celebrations: not now likely to be held in its entirety until later in the year

Bleasby In Bloom: following on from the success of last year, the plan was to get those floral displays out in time for the VE celebrations; and then keeping them going for as long as possible during the summer months. This is something that could still go ahead to brighten us all up. Here’s a few ideas: wallflower, daisy, viola, peony, iris, geranium (hardy varieties), aquilegia, bergenia, primula, thrift, forget me not.....

Bleasby Bike Fest: 12<sup>th</sup> July – hopefully this, the third such event, will be able to take place. It will be on the Glebe Field and Gypsy Lane – no better event around to get the kids up and biking! **Event contact:** Bleasby Events Group - Bobbie Desbruslais (07943 372268)

Bleasby Apple Fest: 10<sup>th</sup> October - following on from the success of last year, the event will take on a similar format with juice making from your unused apples, live music, a Bleasby Bake-Off and plenty of family fun & games. Hopefully the “Bleasby Wanger” will have stopped fermenting by then and be ready for tasting! **Event contact:** Bleasby Events Group - Mike Fryer (07970 649091)

Bleasby Christmas Lights: 12<sup>th</sup> December: yes, having just switched them off after a fabulous afternoon on the Glebe Field in December, they will be back on again this year. **Event contact:** Bleasby Events Group - Bobbie Desbruslais (07943 372268)

The Bleasby Community website [www.bleasbycommunity.uk](http://www.bleasbycommunity.uk) will provide the latest info about each event (sign up for email notifications) and you can see photos from last year’s events on the Memory Lane page of the site. Also follow the Bleasby Village Facebook page to stay in touch, keep an eye out on notice boards and keep reading Bleasby News.

If you would like to get involved with organising any of these events, or helping on the day, please get in touch with the contact directly. We really need more hands available on the day and would welcome new ideas and skills to help with the planning – getting involved is a great way to help make community days a success and to have a bit of fun along the way!

If you would like to organise your own event, either independently or with the help of the Bleasby Events Group, please get in touch with any of the Bleasby Events Group contacts above.

*Mike Fryer for the Events Group*

## **BLEASBY NEWS – ISSUE NO 1 JULY 1980**

Below is the introduction in the first edition of Bleasby News, back in 1980.

*“Here it is. The first edition of Bleasby News. We hope this newsletter will inform, entertain and generally tie up all the loose ends of village life. Its regular feature will be a diary of local events, so if you know that something is going to happen, tell the editors! We intend that there will be articles and reports of local interest supplied by – you! We also plan regular features, e.g. starting in this issue, an occasional series of village profiles. We thought that a good start for our newsletter would be brief outlines of organisations based in the parish. This will be of help to newcomers, and hopefully will interest the long-standing inhabitants too. Remember, this is your newsletter – what goes in is largely up to you. Many thanks to those who have helped already; to John Davies and David Bowyer who have supplied enough paper to last at least two years, and thanks to the leaders of the organisations who have supplied us with our first articles, and of course to the Parish Council who are supporting this venture.”*

The personal profile in this first edition was David Durant who, with Christabel his wife, lived at the Old House (the last house out of Bleasby village before reaching Gibsmere). The Luncheon Club was about to start in the Village Hall and the diary included a village walk, and talk to the WI by PC Chalk on drugs, the children’s cycle competition for the WH Warrener Cup, the Play Leadership Scheme, a village barbecue and a WI afternoon market.

There is also a piece headed “WANTED” – it reads “An Editor – until found, copy to P Andrew, B Cast or D Temperley.”

**That last item shows that nothing really changes – the same names arise – the same request is made.**

**On that note it is with regret that we have to let readers know that the December issue of Bleasby News is to be the last which Rachael Andrew and Barbara Cast edit. If Bleasby News is to continue – and you have shown how much you appreciate it – a new editor or editors will have to step forward.**

**Please do think whether you could take on the role, assist or form a team to put future issues together.**

**More from John Holmes' Diary, his notes for 1816 (he lived at the Old House) this his spelling throughout!**

*“On Thursday the first of Aug was drowned near Hazelford-ferry Joseph Islip of Wisbech; proprieter of the “Little John” packet boat, trading from Lincoln to Nottingham. His life was lost through thoughtless folly, for he was scuffling with a passenger for a bottle of ale, he fell overboard and was drowned. What an awful warning to the young and careless, not to trifle with time, but it calls loudly to be always prepared for death. He was found on the Sunday following, within a few yards of the spot where he was drowned. Mr Robert K Kelham Esq came with his family to reside at the Hall (who purchased it of Mr Falkner) the beginning of July this summer. He added considerable additions to it, by building a housekeepers room, wash-house etc. The church began to be repaired on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1816, and was opened again for divine service on Sunday Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> following. The outsides was drawn and sand-dashed; the tower and church slated with capitol king-post roofs; also a new porch at the entrance; the windows new glazed and enlarged, the interior raised and new pewed throughout. Also a new pulpit and door; a large fane was affixed at the (blank) of the tower (made by William Buck, the village smith) with the date of 1816 thereon. The cost was (blank)*

*At Newark Michelmas Sessions came on for trial, between Bleasby and Upton, concerning the settlement of a pauper (Thos Dailey). Mr Parsons of Nottingham pleaded the cause of Bleasby and Mr Barrow of Southwell for that of Upton. The contest was determined in favour of Bleasby. The expenses on the part of Bleasby amounted to the sum of £33. 17s. 1d. The house of Thos Welch of Weldon in the parish of Southwell (about two miles from this village) was broke into by seven villains on the night of Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1816 and robbed of good and money to the amount of nearly forty pounds, and got clear off with their booty. John Hervey of Notown built a new dairy, this summer and Mr Horspool, at Hazleford-ferry a new barn. The summer was remarkable wet; the hay in general got very bad, and the corn greatly damaged, by the long and constant rains; so that it was the latter end of Nov before the harvest was finished. The beans was almost rotten in the fields and a quantity of the barley sprouted. A small flood happened in Nov and another on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. The prices . . . . .”*



William Buck was a smith who lived at what is now called Dale House at the end of Sycamore Lane - there was a rather splendid forge until a few years ago.

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## Summary train timetable – until May 2020

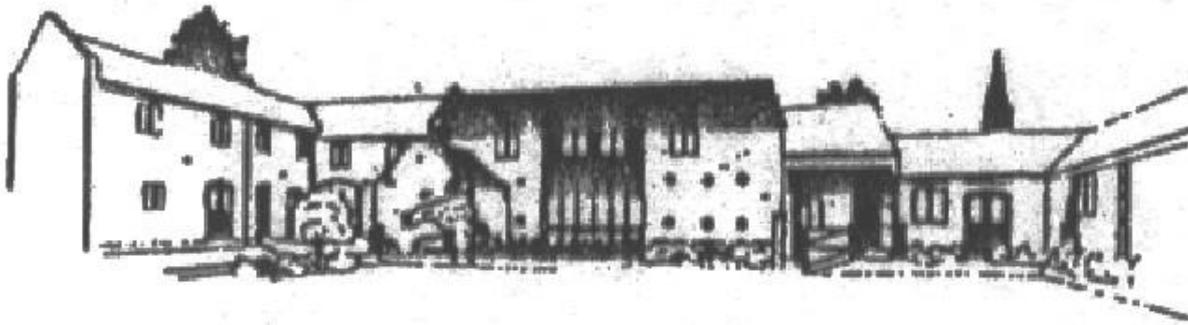
	<b>From Bleasby to Nottingham *</b>
Monday to Friday	6.21;6.55;7.52;9.50;11.52;14.52;16.53;17.52;18.11;23.05.
Saturday	6.22;7.54;8.55;9.51;11.52;14.52;16.51;17.52;18.09
Sunday	9.41;11.54;15.07;16.58;18.46;22.50
	<b>From Nottingham to Bleasby</b>
Monday to Friday	05.54;06.53;07.56;09.49;11.51;14.50;16.50;18.17;19.19;22.26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

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

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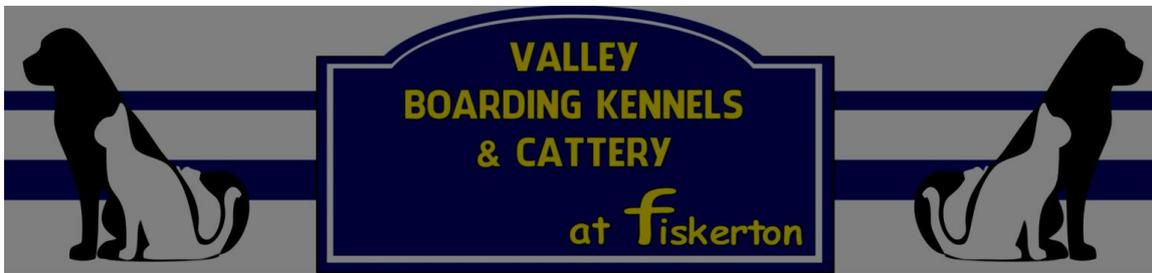
## **BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT – UPDATED TIMETABLE**

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.

<b>Outgoing stopping point</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> service</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> service</b>
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
<b>Returning stopping point</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> service</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> service</b>
Newark bus station	10.43	13.43
Upton Main Street	11.00	14.00
Southwell, Church Street	11.08	14.08
Southwell, Ropewalk	11.11	14.11
Morton, Main Street	11.17	14.17
Fiskerton	11.20	14.20
Bleasby, Main Street	11.25	14.25
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	11.29	14.29
Hoveringham, Main Street	11.35	14.35
Caythorpe, Main Street	11.39	14.39
Lowdham Station	11.42	14.42
Lowdham, Magna Carta	11.43	14.43
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	11.46	14.46

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

**Remember to keep an eye on [www.bleasbycommunity.uk](http://www.bleasbycommunity.uk) for the latest Bleasby news!**



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