

BLEASBY NEWS



**BLEASBY SCHOOL
THE NEW TAG RUGBY COUNTY CHAMPIONS**



FEBRUARY 2018



WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF BLEASBY NEWS

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

I think we can say that Bleasby did the Festive Season full justice – the Glebe Field looked more splendid than ever with its many trees and lights and we were again pleased to welcome the Salvation Army Band to the celebration of the lighting of our tree; St Mary's was again full to overflowing, as it was also for the Crib Service; lots went on at the Waggon and Horses; the WI went carol singing and had a very jolly and productive time; and then there was the Boxing Day tug o' war! One of the loveliest things about living in a village is being able to join in village events with neighbours and friends. Thank you to all who organised and assisted at our parish events.

Thank you for a good selection of new items this edition! We always look forward to receiving your articles, photos, ideas, news etc so please send plenty for the April/Spring edition to:- Barbara Cast, Little Dower House, barbaracast@btinternet.com or Rachael Andrew, Sutton House, prandrew74@outlook.com by Friday 16th April – once again a little earlier than usual because of the Easter holidays.

Your Editors, Rachael and Barbara

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT – GREAT EXPECTATIONS?

Charles Dickens' story entitled A Christmas Carol has many parallels and lessons for us all today. We are all inspired, chided and moved by his well-chosen words and storyline:

Christmas (just) Past – Everyone's generosity in time, energy, thought – and expense – in making a Bleasby Christmas so very special for all its participants has been repeated again this year. As far as the Parish Council is concerned all this goodwill, participation and community spirit is the essence of a contented and cohesive village population. Our other major partners, the Church, the Waggon, the School, the Village Hall Committee, the WI and the myriad of smaller groups all made significant contributions to a most successful Christmas – as did all the individuals upon which these organisations are founded and, of course, upon whom they are totally dependent. Congratulations and many thanks "to each and every one of you".

Counting the Cost – our Present Predicament – It's at this time of year when we all, including the Parish Council, have to weigh up just how much we have spent and what we can now afford (or do without). It is likely that we all have to "tighten our belts" and calculate how debts can be paid, costs can be met and future expenses prepared for. Scrooge may have been mean but he was certainly, to say the least, careful with his money!

The Parish Council has to set its Annual Budget for 2018-19 and has to ensure that we can "balance the books" whilst meeting all its obligations and, perhaps, some of the village's expectations. At a time of financial constraint, the uncertain

consequences of Brexit and over-stretched national and local services, the PC has decided that we, too, must be responsible and try to keep our expenditure to reasonable and acceptable levels. Taking account of inflation at 2 to 3%, the Parish Council decided to increase its annual allocation (precept) (via the District Council's Council Tax) by a matching 2% - meaning that the PC will receive £214 more in the coming year than last year – an average cost of less than £1 more per household over the year – a small loaf of bread or a half pint of beer! The PC does not feel that this course of action is unreasonable – indeed it may be considered by some as unwise to be so frugal.

In the last 8 years the Parish Council's annual income has only risen by £2k from £8,500 in 2009-10 to £10,500 in 2016-17. For 3 years, from 2014/15 to 2016/17, the figure remained the same at £10,500 per annum. With increases in administrative costs, the increased cost of living and depreciation of the pound, it means that the PC actually now has less to spend with more expenses! Interestingly the precept for 2013-14 of £10750 was actually £40 higher than this financial year! Of this figure around £7k is committed to meeting administrative costs, which new national legislation requires, and essential annual commitments such as the Glebe Field loan repayments and reserves accumulating towards election costs, leaving barely £4k to maintain, replace, improve or develop!

Investing in the Future – the shape of things to come – The Parish Plan will help provide the direction and foci for the future development and the desired improvement of the parish as expressed by a large proportion of the community. To achieve this there will be a cost. In the coming financial year (2018-19) some of these improvements will be funded by reserves which have been kept specifically for such purposes but, in 2019-20, there will be no such 'windfall' and hard decisions will have to be made, bearing in mind the fact that a mobile speed camera costs in the order of £3k, a noticeboard £1k+ and a seat £500 and that the 2019 council election will cost around £1,700!

This Council very much wants to achieve the aspirations of the parish and it hopes, therefore, that residents will expect and accept the need for a substantial increase next year. Increased parish consultation before the 2019-20 precept is set is being planned. Please remember, however, that even a 10% increase would only improve the PC's spending power by about £1k and only increase the average (band D) householder's bill by £3.50.

Will all our 'Christmases' be fine? – The answer to that question is, of course **yes** – if we retain our community commitment and generosity of spirit, endeavouring to remain a self-sufficient, supportive and charitable parish and accept that "you don't get anything for nothing"! And - **if you don't use those assets we already have** (think Playgroup, Medilink bus service, trains, mobile library, Teashop, Waggon, Village Hall, School, Church, the milkman, Fiskerton shop and PO) **you may well lose them!** So let us continue to appreciate, value and work together to protect all that we have, need and love in Bleasby!

Peter Cast, on behalf of Bleasby Parish Council

FROM THE REVD PHIL

Dear All

If the house were on fire and you only had time to take one thing with you, what would it be? Would it be the expensive iPad/iMac with all your personal information on..!? Putting it another way what is your treasure? Where does your heart really lie? It's a good question because we don't know what we have until it's gone.

I read a heartrending story of a young mother in the early 1980s. She was holding her 3 month old daughter whilst in conversation with a friendly woman in the bus station. The woman offered to change the baby and unwisely the mother allowed her to do it. She never saw her daughter again. Today it remains a rare 'cold case', yet to be solved. The mother of course lives with guilt and regret, wondering where her daughter might be.

How aware are we of the good things we have? They are gifts to be appreciated and valued, because they are all too easily lost. One of my favourite parables of Jesus is the one he tells of a person who finds a great treasure hidden in a field, sells all s/he owns in order to buy the field and its treasure. Jesus was saying that the spiritual aspect of our lives, the relationship with God and neighbour is of more value than we give it credit for. We live in communities, families, friendship circles, a world of fellow human beings. What do we value ... and how much!?

So if there is a fire at the Vicarage (assuming all living things are already out!), I would want to take mementoes of loved ones. Relationships are the thing to prioritise - not the iPad/iMac after all.

"Ordinary riches can be stolen, real riches cannot. In your soul are infinitely precious things that cannot be taken from you."
Oscar Wilde

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"
Matthew 6:21

Blessings, Phil

phil_07@btinternet.com - www.westtrentchurches.co.uk – 07720010066

The Revd Phil can be contacted as above or via the administrator for the West Trent Group: Paula Carlin on 07419 176021 or at beneficeofwesttrent@gmail.com

BLEASBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

We held our Christmas party in the Village Hall on December 12th. A more or less full house enjoyed the evening's celebrations, refreshments and entertainment. Our thanks go to the committee for organising such a successful event.

Seventeen brave souls set out on the evening of December 19th to sing carols around part of the village. This year the event began with sherry at Little Dower House. After an hour or so of singing the group finished with a delicious supper at Annie Woolder's house. We were well-received in the many places we sang and we even responded to requests for particular carols. Over £100 was collected for the Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark. The WI would like to thank all those who welcomed, fed and "watered" the singers and made such generous donations. To the gentleman who told the group to go away, sincere apologies are offered for disturbing his peace!!

As a change from our usual activities, Christine Bennett organised a poetry event on January 10th over a soup lunch. Members read some of their favourite poems and Christine introduced us to others, familiar and new. There were quite a few surprises and much reminiscing. Thank you to Christine and to committee members who put on the soup lunch - home made as you might expect from the WI!

Our January meeting welcomed Ellis Morgan of Thurgarton and of the Southwell Community Archaeology Group who gave an enthralling illustrated talk on the history of The Burgage in Southwell, but taking in much more of Southwell's history and the activities of SCAG (yes, we know what the initials spell out!) Members were obviously very keen to hear more about, or even participate in, the activities of SCAG.

February's meeting will include a talk on the Associated Countrywomen of the World and in March it will be the Mitford family. And, of course, there are also plenty of extramural activities to participate in too. New members and visitors welcome.

Rachael Andrew and Barbara Cast

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas Services

The West Trent Group tries to provide a variety of special services across the seven churches, to cater for different ages and preferences. These include traditional carol services, Holy Communion services, crib services and the Christingle service at Thurgarton. The Crib service in its current form is almost ten years old and remains popular, with young families in particular. About 160 parents and children attended this year, all finding room to sit or perch somewhere. It is, however, many years since we had a carol service in the village and this is missed. Whereas it is a pity to suspend a popular event, we need to refresh things from time to time so we will therefore be discussing if it is time for a change in 2018.

The village Christmas event held in the Glebe Field and St. Mary's, again with the Salvation Army Band, was a great success.

Newark Women's Refuge

The retiring collection after the crib service raised £215 which was sent to the Newark Women's Refuge, a charity which has been supported by the West Trent Group throughout the year. Donations of toiletries, bed linen and ASDA Vouchers are always well received and can be given to either Rachael or Diana or left in the church porch.

Lent and Easter

Easter is earlier this year which means that Lent also begins early. As is our custom there will be **Lent Lunches** hosted by different people in the village on Saturdays through Lent which give people the opportunity to get together for soup and cheese, conversation and to make a contribution to the hosts' favoured charity if they wish. Useful sums of money have been raised on these enjoyable occasions. It would be good if there were others who would like to host an event. Usually between 10 and 16 people attend.

The Good Friday Walk will be held again this year on March 30th, starting at Upton, visiting Rolleston, Morton (where we will have lunch) Bleasby, Thurgarton Methodist Chapel and finishing at Hoveringham for tea. There will be a short (10 minute) service at each venue. Please join us for all or a part of the day. Further information will be displayed on notice boards or can be obtained from Rachael nearer the time.

Please also look out for information about a **Benefice Lent Course** to be held at the Vicarage.

Safeguarding

Three members of the PCC attended safeguarding training provided by the diocese at Jubilee House, having completed the introductory course on line. Training at the next level will be on Saturday, March 24th, for those who completed the earlier course. A copy of our safeguarding policy is available on request and in church.

School Club

Once a month on a Monday in school, a small group of children in Years 2 - 4 attend an after school club with a Christian focus. There are stories, art activities and games as well as a teaching element. The club is led by Suzanne and Joel from Holy Trinity Church, Southwell.

Church Services

Rev Phil is in the process of rejigging the service pattern in the hope that he can get to each church more regularly to lead Holy Communion. As this is not yet settled there are no full service times printed in this issue; please see the Diary, notice boards and Diana's email alerts.

Diana Temperley and Rachael Andrew, Churchwardens

ANYONE FOR PARISH COUNCIL?

A new year! A new challenge...Have you clocked that currently there is an opportunity to join Bleasby Parish Council? "Wowzers" I hear you shout, "No, I hadn't, I'd missed that". Well, I thought I might bring this to your attention and also address some of the potential misconceptions you may have. Hopefully this will give you some reasons why it is a great idea to join the parish council.

Misconception number one...It's old people in a cold village hall. WRONG. (Sort of). There's a good heating system, you can keep your coat on, nobody is THAT old, all are young at heart. Number two...Parish councils have limited powers. WRONG. (Sort of). On their own, yes, but they do have the influence to negotiate with the organisations that do make final decisions. So in this respect are extremely powerful. Number three...The meetings are long and boring. WRONG (Sort of). Yes the meetings can go on and correct procedure can be time consuming and finicky but

striving for excellence in your local community is no quick job and how can making your village a better place to live be described as dull?! Number four...It will take up too much of my time. WRONG. (Sort of). You can take on as much as you want to in terms of committees/steering groups to deal with specific subjects/projects. Such meetings won't happen all the time so it's not going to take over your life in the way that embarking on the Peaky Blinders box set does!

That's the possible negatives out the way. Let's look at the positives. You learn and talk about loads of different things that you might never normally think about like local matters, community buildings, planning, open spaces, events in the village and anything that residents bring to the attention of the parish council that concerns them. Seeing changes in your community that you may have helped in gives a sense of achievement and pride. It's nice to speak to people in the village and be someone people can go to with concerns or ideas. The other members (not referring to myself here) are lovely, interesting, kind, fun, positive people and generally just 'good eggs'.

I could go on but you don't need to take my word for it, come along to a meeting or speak to one of us or just apply!

Barack Obama said "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." He also said "Why can't I just eat my waffle". The decision is yours...

Angela Dunning – the most recent addition to the PC

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS – WERE THEY PLASTIC?

Here we are at the beginning of another New Year and, thinking of NY resolutions, did you make any and have you kept them so far? It is at least hopeful to see that the powers that be have declared their resolution to deal more vigorously with the problem of plastic. Plastic causes an increasingly worrying disposal problem which needs a concerted effort from the government, manufacturers and retailers, as well as from us, the public. As an example, it is two years now since Hugh F-W's programme about 'recyclable' coffee cups went out on prime time television, surprising many of us with the fact that the cups are in fact rarely recycled. This is because the plastic lining is difficult to separate. We use 7 million of these cups every day in the UK (Independent Newspaper) and most end up as landfill. Since Hugh's programme nothing of any significance has happened. Amazingly the National Trust, of all organisations, was using these cups when its new cafe opened in the adventure playground at Belton and no recycling arrangements were provided.

Now David Attenborough has highlighted the problem of plastic in the oceans (a long time after the WI!), not just the usual junk that spoils our beaches everywhere but micro-particles and micro-fibres which are ingested by marine life, including the fish which end up on our plates. And so the problem has come home to roost. The solution can start with us. There has been success with supermarket plastic bags

and an extension of the scheme is now in the pipeline. The message is clear, reuse rather than recycle and stop buying plastic wherever and whenever possible. Plastic is wonderful stuff in the right place and for the right purpose but surely we can manage to carry a reusable container for coffee “on the go” and also avoid bottled water and those exasperating over-packaged goods. That would be a start.

Rachael and Barbara

Going away?

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LOST AND FOUND

- One pair of lined black suede gloves found in church after the Crib Service (now claimed).
- One mainly blue scarf with striped ends (Ted Baker), found near where the village shop used to be.
- One bike saddle cover, gel, found in the same area.
- One hand-knitted (?) chunky cable stitch bobble hat found on High Cross Hill.

Enquiries to the editors

Tuesday, 6th February, is the centenary of women over 30 obtaining the vote!

CHANGE AT THE TOP FOR BLEASBY SCHOOL

After 25 years as Headteacher, and before that having served for four years as Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Ann Town has decided to retire at the end of the summer term.

In her letter announcing her retirement to parents, speaking of her time at Bleasby School, Mrs Town says:

“It has been the most immensely rewarding time and an enormous privilege to teach and nurture so many special young people. This is the part of the job I will miss the most but I am fortunate to have so many wonderful memories.”

Many current and former Bleasby residents will be appreciative of the tremendous work done by Mrs Town in leading the school over so many years, not least in achieving an “Outstanding” outcome from its last Ofsted inspection.

Governors are now working with the Local Authority and the Diocese in ensuring that the right person is in place from September to lead the school into its next phase of development as it joins with the Minster School and other feeder primary schools to form a multi-academy trust.

Philip Andrew, Chair of Governors

NEW YOGA SESSIONS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Louise Luiggi will be holding classes in Bleasby Village Hall on Thursdays from 10am until 11am with optional coffee and chat back at Notown Cottage after the class. No previous yoga experience is required and mats are provided. £8 per session. It is a drop in session, not a course, to see how people feel about the class. Louise asks that you contact her before a session so that your mat space is reserved.

Phone Louise on 07815 823155
or email louiseluiggi@immortelleyoga.com

MR JOHN WILKINS

Mr John Wilkins, retired surgeon, who has lived in Goverton for 45 years, passed away peacefully at home on December 11th surrounded by his loving family and friends.

He will be dearly missed. A memorial service will be held at St. Peter's Church in Thurgarton on Friday March 16th at 11.30am.

BERYL GREENWOOD

We offer our condolences to the family of Beryl Greenwood of The Acre, Bleasby, who has recently died. Beryl was well-known for her love of and skill at the game of golf.

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BOB ADAMS - 1931 – 2017

Bob and Irene Adams came to live in Bleasby as members of the new community of Hawthorn Close in 2007, and quickly became involved in many aspects of village life. It was soon apparent to all who met and came to like, respect, and enjoy his company that here was a man who was kind, thoughtful, funny, and a truly gentle man with firm moral standards, with a wonderful ability to communicate with people of all ages. He had three main passions in his life: his family, working with his hands and Tottenham Hotspur. He was born in Barnet and after he left school at 15, even though he would have preferred to make a career out of the carpentry skills he developed during his time at a polytechnic college, he became a quantity surveyor. His training was interrupted by National Service and he then volunteered for duty in the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of Sergeant and being awarded the TA efficiency medal in 1964. He and Irene married in 1961 and brought up their three children Andrew, Kathryn and Alison. Bob was immensely proud of his family and had a wonderful rapport with children, who would be delighted when he spoke to them like Donald Duck or made jumping rabbits out of his handkerchief. He loved playing football and cricket when young and, when he could no longer take an active part, he took comfort from watching his grandson Matty playing, and then discussing the match with him. He loved making models – tanks, boats or planes – often spread across the dining table (probably to Irene's despair on occasions!) He also took up water colour painting – which gave him much pleasure. He was not a man who dwelt in the past – his interest in personal computing and digital photography led him to the fascinating task

of dismantling and reassembling computers and cameras – coming to the rescue of his family on occasions when he tackled their computing disasters!

Sadly he slipped gently into his own dementia controlled world during his last few years, but always retaining a sense of humour and remaining the gentle soul known and loved by family and friends.

Based on Bob's funeral eulogy



The advertisement for Hydebarker Worldwide Travel & Adventure features a central logo with a paper airplane above the name 'HYDEBARKER' and the tagline 'WORLDWIDE TRAVEL & ADVENTURE'. Below the logo are three circular images: a person rappelling down a rope, a tropical beach with palm trees, and a giant panda. The text 'Affordable luxury' is written across the bottom of the first two circles, and 'Escorted touring' is written across the bottom of the third circle. At the bottom left, there are logos for '100% LIVE', 'SPECIALIST', 'Q&A', 'A&A', and 'A&A'. The contact information 'Tel: 01636 816 262' and 'www.hbtravel.co.uk | 1 King Street, Southwell' is displayed at the bottom right.

BLEASBY AIRCREWS MEMORIAL UPDATE

Since the project started back in 2014 much has happened but, I believe that I can now say with confidence, the new Memorial will be completed and be on site in Bleasby within the next six months. The Memorial is larger than originally conceived as we now have the names of 40 young airmen listed on it rather than the original 19. There will also be an inscription for the Unknown Airmen who were killed in the area who have not been individually identified. The Memorial is presently in the stonemason's workshops and is being prepared for the inscriptions to be added.

We are now planning a Dedication Event to take place on Saturday **1st September**, the date exactly 75 years after the day of the fateful mid-air collision of the two Lancaster bombers over Bleasby in 1943.

The outline design for the Memorial was conceived by Derek McGrath and Keith Clark, a Nottingham architect. The concept was then turned into a manufacturing design by Michael Wright of D&M Stonemasons of Nottingham. The construction material is granite which has been specially quarried, cut, sculpted and polished; we are told that the block weighed 60 tonnes. The engraving will be the last step before assembly on site.

The initial target for **fundraising** was £5,000. However, as the Project grew in both size and complexity, so the target was raised to £9,000. We successfully obtained a grant from the Nottingham County Council LIS programme of £3,500 towards this increased cost, with the balance being raised from our own efforts.

In the spring of 2017, after consultation in the village, including an open discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, Bleasby Parish Council agreed that the Memorial be located in the Glebe Field rather than the roadside site at Goverton. (Bleasby Parish Council had already agreed to be the long term owner and caretaker of the Memorial.) This location, next to St Mary's Church car park, will allow much easier access to the Memorial by visitors, particularly the elderly, veterans and those with disabilities. However, the increase in size of the Memorial, and the need to provide for a safe access for visitors, meant that the cost of the foundation work increased considerably. The total cost of this work is £4,150, of which c £1,800 has now been raised. We have applied for a further grant of £2,000 towards the cost of this foundation work, but will not know if this will be awarded until April/May - the award of this grant is by no means certain. To achieve the completion of the Memorial on time, we have had to proceed with the construction of the foundations, and you will see that these have already been substantially completed. The Project team has been most grateful for the generous contributions made to date in a variety of ways by villagers towards this project. However, we need to ask you one last time for further help to complete the funding, and so with this issue of the Bleasby News, we are launching the "Sponsor the Slab for £20" programme, with a target of raising the required £2,000. If we are in fact successful in obtaining the new grant mentioned above, any excess funds raised will be held in the Memorial Fund by St Mary's Church, and will be used for the future cleaning and maintenance of both this Memorial, and the War Memorial that is in St Mary's churchyard.

A **donation form**, including the option of adding Gift Aid, can be downloaded from the Bleasby Community Website, or you can collect a form from the Waggon and Horses (why not buy yourself a drink while you are there), or ask either of the Churchwardens or Bleasby Local History Society Committee members for one, or obtain one from me. Forms with cheques made payable to Bleasby PCC, with Aircrew Memorial written on the reverse, should be placed in an envelope, and can be returned either by handing it in at the bar of the Waggon and Horses, or handing it to any of the PCC or BLHS committee members, or to me.

Thank you again to all those who have so generously supported this project. It has been challenging and most interesting to undertake and involved a considerable amount of raw research. Along the way, we have met many interesting people,

including folk who remember something of these aircraft crashes from their youth living in or near to Bleasby at the time, and also families who are descendants of the airmen who were killed. The project has attracted the interest of the BBC East Midlands News Team on three occasions, including on the Bleasby Primary School “Evacuation Day” event.

If you are interested in learning more about the young men and the location and circumstances of the aircraft crashes, then I invite you to visit the “aircrewremembered.com” website, which has kindly published all the research, making it available to a global audience. The easiest way to do this is to Google search for any of Lancasters JB132, R5698, R5703 and W4232 or Wellingtons R1014 or R1212.

Ken Ogilvie

The Polish Crew’s Funeral



Joe Hanson’s wedding – died aged 24 in Lancaster crash



DR JOHN SAVAGE

For those of you who haven’t yet heard, Dr John Savage died in January aged 91. He was a much loved and respected GP with the Southwell Practice for many years. Subsequently he was often to be seen on his bicycle in Southwell. It was fitting then that his bike should take pride of place at his memorial service in Southwell Minster. Beyond medicine he made valuable contributions to community life, not least in his work to provide a swimming pool for Southwell.



Dale House c1910

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome Raj, Suki, Priya, Lenny and Harley Bhaker who have moved into 17 Station Road and David, Naomi, Sophie and Lois Emerton who have moved into Dale House. We hope that they will be happy in their new surroundings and look forward to meeting them at our village events.

BLEASBY FLOOD ACTION GROUP - WINTER UPDATE

Our small band of volunteers met in January to review the winter flooding risks and activities. Many parishioners walk around the paths and fields and keep us updated if there is a fallen tree or the ditches or dykes are backlogged. Thank you for doing that and please all continue to help us keep the water flowing by reporting any problems you see.

It is a year since the water main burst on Main Street. We got very prompt action that day as multiple people phoned about the incident. The services respond more quickly to a bigger VOLUME of calls. The more people call, the quicker it gets sorted! If you have spot a flooding call straight away and please.....don't.....assumesomeone..... else..... has..... done..... it!

The Internal Drainage Board is also playing its part by managing the vegetation and banks. Currently we are waiting for work in the corner of the Ponds to be completed. Again, if you see a problem, get in touch.

Newark and Sherwood DC is continually reviewing policies and procedures for

emergencies. We do the same. It becomes more obvious that, if there is a crisis, we have to help ourselves locally first - there are very limited resources to help us. To this end we are updating our emergency plan and list of emergency volunteers. We haven't done this for a while. If you have moved into Bleasby since 2007 and want to help... we need to know. It is just for assistance **IF** there is an **EMERGENCY** not a regular commitment.

Equally we are redrawing up our list of vulnerable or at risk households. If you think you would struggle to help yourself in a flood, or you know of someone who might struggle, then get in touch so we know should the need arise.

As with any community we rely on volunteers and all our flood wardens are 10 years older now than when we started. Two have retired so we would welcome anyone who would like to be a volunteer flood warden, so please do get in touch. It means just being willing to help if there is a crisis.

For the last ten years we have kept our equipment, by kind consent of the landlords, at the Waggon and Horses. The Parish Council have just purchased a new store and we are able to vacate the pub store - much to their relief as they get their storeroom back. Very many thanks to Ian and Liz for their generosity in providing it and their patience in our delayed departure!

Lastly feedback from the parish plan showed that 20 % of households had flooded at some point and 27% of them involved sewage. That is 1 in 4! We all affect our friends and neighbours by our actions in what we flush down the toilet. Please do **not** flush **any** wipes or sanitary materials or any other items not designed for flushing down the toilet. The consequences for us all are horrid if you do. And please avoid any fats being washed or poured down sinks or drains! The combination of both methods of disposal is 'drain-blocking'!

To report a leak or issue with sewage or water supply call Severn Trent Water on 0800 783 4444.

To report blocked ditches or dykes in Bleasby Parish. Or to find out more about volunteering or being an emergency contact call any of the following

Elaine France on 830303, Peter Cast 830284 or Ali Sutherland 831026

Ali Sutherland

DID YOU SEE THE RECENT BRAMLEY ARTICLE ABOUT WIPES AND THE HORRIFIC PHOTO OF THE RESULT OF INAPPROPRIATE DISPOSAL?

James Jesic, Managing Director of Production for Severn Trent, explains: "There are approximately 300,000 sewer blockages every year, with around 50,000 of those being across our region. This is costing the country £100m – money which could be taken off bills or spent on improving services. Thousands of properties in our area

suffer sewer flooding caused by these blockages every year, creating misery for homeowners and businesses and leading to high clean-up bills and increased insurance costs. Sewer flooding also has a major impact on the environment. The new research shows that most of these type of incidents could be avoided by the wipes being disposed of properly rather than being flushed down toilets. We want to thank retailers in the UK who have taken the lead with more visible “Do Not Flush” labelling for their efforts, but more needs to be done to encourage individuals to stop using the toilet as a bin!”

Water UK’s Director of Corporate Affairs, Rae Stewart, said: “The recent major study proves that flushing wipes down the toilet is a major cause of sewer blockages, and that means it’s a problem we can all do something about. Water companies spend billions of pounds every year making our water and sewerage services world class, but our sewerage system is just not designed to handle things like baby wipes which don’t break down in water. The good news is that by taking action we can stop the horror people face when their homes are flooded with raw sewage. There are things that we water companies can do, such as improve education about what should and shouldn’t be flushed, and we have a really great programme that does just that. There are things manufacturers can do, such as make labelling clearer on non-flushable products. And, of course, there are things individuals can do – which is bin the wipes rather than flush them.”



A day’s worth of non-soluble waste taken out of the sewerage works – mainly wipes!

Bleasby Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 3 rd February	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Sunday 4 th February	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Sunday 11 th February	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Monday 12 th February	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 13 th February		Shrove Tuesday	
Saturday 17 th February	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Somewhere in parish
Sunday 18 th February	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Sunday 18 th February	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion	St Michael's Hoveringham
Tuesday 20 th February	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with Helen Crowder on the Work of ACWW	Village Hall
Friday 23 rd February	10am to noon	Friendship Coffee Morning - everyone very welcome!	Village Hall
Saturday 24 th February	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Somewhere in parish
Sunday 25 th February	10.30am	Service of Morning Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Tuesday 27 th February	7.30pm	Meeting of BLHS with John Beckett on War Memorials in Nottinghamshire	Village Hall
Thursday 1 st March	2-4pm	Bible Reflections - a Lent course	Thurgarton Vicarage
Saturday 3 rd March	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Saturday 3 rd March	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Somewhere in parish
Sunday 4 th March	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary's
Thursday 8 th March	2-4pm	Bible Reflections - a Lent course	Thurgarton Vicarage
Saturday 10 th March	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Somewhere in parish

Sunday 11 th March	10.30am	Mothering Sunday - Service of Praise for Everyone	St Mary's
Monday 12 th March	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Wednesday 14 th March	10am	Service for Ash Wednesday	St Michael's Hoveringham
Thursday 15 th March	2-4pm	Bible Reflections - a Lent course	Thurgarton Vicarage
Friday 16 th March		Deadline for April's Bleasby News	
Saturday 17 th March	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Somewhere in parish
Sunday 18 th March	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	JPs
Sunday 18 th March	10.30am	Benefice service of Holy Communion	St Peter and St Paul Upton
Tuesday 20 th March	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with John Whitfield on the Mitford Family	Village Hall
Thursday 22 nd March	2-4pm	Bible Reflections - a Lent course	Thurgarton Vicarage
Saturday 24 th March	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Somewhere in parish
Tuesday 27 th March	7.30pm	Bleasby Local History Society AGM	Village Hall
Wednesday 28 th March	6.30pm-7.30pm	Churchyard Working Party	St Mary's Churchyard
Thursday 29 th March	7pm	Maundy Thursday - Service of Tenebrae	St James' Halloughton
Friday 30 th March		Good Friday with the traditional walk commencing at Upton	
Sunday 1 st April	10.30am	Easter Sunday - service of Holy Communion	St Mary's

GREETINGS FROM MICHAEL PETERS, FORMERLY OF ORCHARD CLOSE

"My, oh my, what memories Sylvia's school photograph of 1949 brought flooding back. We moved into no 13 Orchard Close on 13th April 1951, one of the original families to take up residence in these council houses which, I have to say, were looked on with a certain degree of consternation by some of the old villagers back then. I'm sure that Sid Crowder - amazing gardener and stalwart of Thurgarton Cricket Club - was the longest survivor of the original tenants until his death a few years ago.

Back to the school photograph, however. Although this was taken a couple of years before our arrival in the village, I still recognise so many of the pupils. One or two questions were posed alongside the picture and I'm able to say that the Village Policeman, PC Stephens, had two sons - John, the elder, who I recall attended Lowdham school and travelled daily on the same train that took me to Burton Joyce County Primary, and Peter, the younger of the pair.

The three Voces, along our road, were nicknamed Teeny (Jean): Torbon (Gordon), who died relatively young, and Bunny (Alan) who, hopefully is still with us. Many of the children went on to and, were probably, the Edward Cludd School's first ever intake of pupils. There were some exceptions, however, which I can definitely recall - Norman Douglas, an eventual stonemason, attended Netherfield Chandos Boys; Margaret Healey was at Carlton Station Road Girls School: while Ruth Warrener, travelled to Newark Lilley and Stone. I think John and Audrey Hall, plus Janet Walker, all transferred to Burton Joyce Cragmore School before reaching secondary school age. Hugh Watson - who's brickie Father built the bungalow with its twisted brick chimneys, lived there on Gypsy Lane. Linda Murley lived next door to the old school (Village Hall), so I trust she was never late for class! I think just a curtain divided the two classes in the original building.

It is a true delight to be 'reunited' with the village, through your 'newsy' News. Finally, does anyone remember my dear Mum - Barbara Peters - as the Dinner Lady with Linda Walters at the 'new' village school?"

Michael can be contacted on mickytwolegs@yahoo.co.uk

GARDEN PRIDE

It must be green if it's my lawn: there can't be lumps, there can't be weeds,
I have to mow it every week and give it monthly feeds.

The shrubs must all be pruned to size, the orchard rows must all be straight,
Blooms in the borders, summer-long, in hues that correlate.

I never sit to read a book, or doze beneath a shady tree,
Or place my deck-chair on the grass to have a cup of tea.

Whatever would the neighbours think? What hostile views might they endorse?
If I relaxed my daily grind, and nature took its course!

Edmund Salter

ROSEMARY CURTIS nee BAGGALEY

Rosemary, the daughter of Barbara Baggaley, late of the Old House and latterly Court Cottage, died on 1st January. Some residents will still remember her and, of course, her talented artist mother.

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SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

Jim Boot came across these glimpses of the whirl-wind of activities held in 50s' Bleasby.

An extract from "The Nottinghamshire Countryside" of summer 1958

Village News and Notes – regarding Bleasby.

- On Easter Saturday there was a good attendance at the British Legion dance at the Star and Garter Hotel, in spite of the bad weather.
- The Chiropody Service for old age pensioners in the village was started on the 19th May.
- A coffee morning and bring-and-buy sale was held at the Vicarage, by kind permission of the Vicar and Mrs S Curtis, which realised £25 for the Church funds.
- At the Women's Institute Mrs Peers once again gave an interesting talk, this time on "Freiburg and the Black Forest", which was illustrated by coloured slides. At the May meeting Mrs Davis demonstrated – with the cooperation of two members – on the care of the skin.
- Mrs Wright held an "At Home" at "The Moorings", to which members of the village were invited to meet Mr Peter Jenkin-Jones, the prospective candidate for the Newark Division.

CELEBRATING DIWALI THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS WITH BLEASBY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

As a young primary school pupil myself in Jinja, Uganda, I recall Diwali being an annual joyous festival to welcome Lord Rama, Sita, Laksmana and Hanumana back home into our very lives.

All homes were thoroughly cleaned and freshly painted, as were shops along our small town's streets. New clothes were ordered for each, tailors working overtime as there were no factory-made clothes or, if there were any, they would be beyond the means of ordinary folk. Mothers cooked varieties of festive foods like "ghughara, mathia, cakari" and filled the "dabba" (air tight tall containers) days ahead and large plates of these foods would be exchanged between neighbours and families as part of loving exchanges, into which the Lord and His entourage would be happy to return after the fourteen year exile. Together the town would decorate its washed streets with lights, floor patterns called "rangoli"; fresh fragrances of flowers, incense and perfumes would pervade the atmosphere and all doors would be open well into the nights. Fireworks and thousands of little lamps would welcome the Lord and the visitors; many gifts would be exchanged with one and all. Younger people would bow down to the feet of the elders and in exchange get their blessings, a hug of indescribable loyalty and protection. I remember my children when young looking forward to doing this in England too, not least because the elders would usually round off this custom by handing the youngster a note of cash signifying conveying the gift of Sita, the Goddess of Fortune.

The welcome and openness of hearts provided by the children and all the staff of Bleasby Church of England Primary School indeed revived and fanned this spirit of Diwali for me this year. We all shared morning assembly worship and then in each rising class I was able to share different themes from the life of Rama and Sita. We also had a participatory activity involving each child based on the theme of the Ramayana - the unfolding of the transcendental meaning of the coming of the Lord and how and why He and She act in ways so inspirational for us to think about, share and relish together in feelings of mutual exchanges, each building our relationship respectfully.

Don't children, being who they are, ask very deep questions, most innocently? Prior to my visit to the school they had studied "black history". When asked if any of them knew any black people, I was informed that a little girl, my neighbour, had very proudly mentioned my name! I was interested how she'd said this as I recalled how when my boys were small they used to talk about the white milk bottle on the doorstep-delivery as their daddy and the brown apple juice bottle as their mummy! In another Bleasby school class an observant pupil noting that Lord Rama is painted green asked "why is God green?" I had to say, "Why not if He wants to be? Is God limited by how I think?"

It was due to my recently retiring from clinical General Practice that I was freed up to share this delightful festival day with the school. Retiring from body works, my studies

now focus on developing the teaching of the Science of the Soul and this little exchange with the children showed me how important it is to teach them that we are all Spirit Souls. Equally we are all a part and parcel of Him, the Great One Lord. That we are not these temporary bodies, be they brown, black, white, or any colour we care to describe. In Uganda I used to watch chameleons change their vivid colours so rapidly! How much emphasis do our children get in their education on appreciating external bodily values? Compare this with the amount we teach them scientifically about our deeper spiritual nature. In the little time I was at the school my concerns as GP were seconded by the teachers' concerns for children already becoming over conscious of body morphology. We leave the body behind not only at the time of death of the body, but also as the baby body gives way to the child's body. The child's body is soon given up for the adult body and, sadly but true to form, the old body takes over the young one in due course of time. This applies universally to ALL bodies! Yet, despite several changes of the morphology of the body, the soul within the body is the constant non-deteriorating life force. It is part and parcel of One God. The soul is not temporary and not limited by external bodily or mental designations. How can it be, for it is part of the ever-existing Lord? To get this knowledge right in education, from the very beginning, in all our homes and hearts and for all our children would be a worthy heritage to share would it not? What kind of a person or society would that lead to?

Happy New Year, Heena Oliver/ Hare Krishna Devi dasi.

Further interest references: Bhagavad Gita As It Is by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada 2:13

<http://www.sivaramaswami.media/en/.2017/09/29/formula-for-life/>.

<http://www.sivaramaswami.media/en/.2017/06/15/cure-racism-today/>.

HELPING TO LOOK AFTER THE CHURCHYARD

During the last year several people have said they would like to help with maintaining our beautiful and historic churchyard. We aim to keep a tranquil setting that reflects our rural location whilst being mindful that it is still a very used place and has to comply with the health and safety laws of today!

We are going to try a regular evening slot - Wednesday evenings from 6.30 until 7.30pm. Several people have offered to mow, or help control ivy or any of the other jobs. If you would like to join us - even on an occasional basis - we are starting when the clocks go forward in March, so the date for the first session is 28th March.

It is also ten years since we asked for **volunteers on the flower rota**. There are many new families in the village now and perhaps you would like to volunteer for one Sunday a year? It is a simple arrangement on the altar. All details supplied.

For further information on either of the above please ring Ali Sutherland on 831026.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The reality of the Christmas story from Mary's point of view was starkly brought home to me by an article in my newspaper published two days before Christmas Day. The journalist had just had a baby herself and likened her discomforts here in Britain with all, however underfunded, that the NHS has to offer in support, to those of Mary.

She reflects on just how Mary managed to do what she did – “a young woman wading through insane government admin while hobbling more than 70 miles to her in-laws’, in the final stages of her first pregnancy, before facing an accommodation crisis and the prospect of childbirth without a health service.” And then Mary, with Jesus and on the back of the donkey, had to flee to Egypt – a refugee, leaving danger for a strange and probably unwelcoming country to safeguard her precious baby.

The article finishes with “There are young women right now travelling across borders, pregnant and scared, preparing to give birth in camps and in sheds, without support or medical care, who are vilified by innkeepers and landlords and all those other heartless gits who moan about migration and scroungers and the undeserving poor. There are Marys everywhere – and it is our duty to look after them.”

Barbara Cast

OUR VILLAGE HALL

Our Village Hall is suitable for all kinds of events. Coffee mornings, meetings, family parties, lectures, classes etc all take place in our well-appointed and attractive hall.

Each week or month there are regular events and these are as follows.

- On Monday mornings each week in term time the Bleasby Playgroup meets from 9.15am to 11.15am
- On Monday evenings at 7.30pm there is the Whist Group except on the second Monday in the month when it is
-The Parish Council meeting
- Tuesday at 10am there is Swing into Shape
- Once a month the Women's Institute meets on the third Tuesday at 7.30pm and
- On the fourth Tuesday the Local History Society meets, also at 7.30pm
- On Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm there is the Wednesday Group which meets for craft, board and card games and conversation
- New for 2018 on Fridays at 10.30am – yoga sessions (see page 9 for details)

All these organisations welcome visitors to their meetings but it is helpful to be quite young to attend the Playgroup!

The hall costs £8 per hour to hire, fully inclusive - for parties we ask for a deposit. It is equipped with plenty of modern tables and chairs plus lots of crockery and cutlery.

The cutlery, crockery (including loads of mugs), wine and champagne glasses and equipment including electric and thermos tea urns can also be hired separately to the

hall and there are also about forty plastic chairs and some tables for hire which can be used out of doors.

Information on how to book and for hire rates for equipment contact Vivienne Mayfield, on 830929 or email vivmayfield@aol.com.

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BLEASBY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A record number of members and friends attended an enjoyable annual supper in January with, as usual, a grandly spread table of eatables. The varied entertainment was entered into with usual gusto. Thanks to all who helped, especially to our diminutive committee (I can see a plea coming on!)

The lecture on 27th February will be given by Professor John Beckett on War Memorials in Nottinghamshire. John is Professor of English Regional History at the University of Nottingham.

On March 27th it will be the Society's AGM when we are hoping to increase the number of the BLHS Committee and even, maybe, find a Chair. There is very little asked of committee members, the main role being to determine the year's programme.

The AGM always includes more than just the business – come along and see what it will be this year!

You are most welcome to attend our talks – free for members and just £2.50 for visitors. Talks start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Barbara Cast - President of Bleasby Local History Society

NEW BUS SERVICE – 300 MEDI-CONNECT

The new bus service, which runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Lowdham to Southwell and then on to Newark, commenced on 3rd January. The timetable is below and the service 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
Newark bus station	10.30	13.30
Returning stopping point	1st service	2nd service
Newark bus station	10.35	13.35
Southwell, Church Street	10.58	13.58
Southwell, Ropewalk	11.01	14.01
Morton, Main Street	11.07	14.07
Fiskerton	11.10	14.10
Bleasby, Main Street	11.15	14.15
Thurgarton, Bleasby Road	11.19	14.19
Hoveringham, Main Street	11.25	14.25
Caythorpe, Main Street	11.29	14.29
Lowdham Station	11.32	14.32
Lowdham, Magna Carta	11.33	14.33
Lowdham, Epperstone Road	11.36	14.36

Important news – a County Council officer will attend the Parish Council meeting on 12th February to discuss the new bus service – all welcome.

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JUBILEE PONDS – BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The pantomime season is just concluding and Newark Palace Theatre's rendering of Beauty and the Beast has been declared its best ever yet. Meanwhile dramatic performances on the Jubilee Ponds continue!

Our resident male swan (cob), a dedicated mate, defender and protector, has battered and harried a visiting immature (but adult) one of its kind - eventually to death! Hero or villain? Beauty or beast? Our foxy friends have helped clear up those mortal remains by dragging them away, breaking them up, consuming part and leaving the remnants for scavenging carrion crows and magpies. Heroes or villains? Beauties or beasts? That poor despised and murdered swan was indeed the "ugly duckling" of Hans Christian Andersen's moralistic fairy tale but its ending was not so beautiful.

On leaving those mortal remains, I made my way along the 'shallows' to be wakened from my morbid reflections by a high, sharp two-toned whistle and then to be overtaken by a cupid's arrow of blue in level and straight flight which continued along the width of the lake until it was but a dot of electric brilliance on a grey screen of water. That impressive, almost magical appearance of this kingfisher (also known as a halcyon) brought to mind the Greek legend of Halcyon whose true love Ceyx drowned at sea and, in her grief, was united with him by the gods transforming them both into kingfishers. It flies purposefully, legend tells us, (its plumage with the colour of the sky above and the reflected sun below), still searching for the Ark and Noah who sent the kingfisher in search of land.

Over on the far side of the lake, in pantomime role reversal, cowering under the down-sweeping willows, the dowdy female red-crested pochards seemed abashed by the beauty of the showy males with their striking plumage of sharply contrasting bright orange head, black neck and white flanks. These recently established ducks have, over the past 2 or 3 years, seemingly replaced our previously very abundant, winter visiting, common pochard. As the red-crested have spread north from Peter Scott's Slimbridge waterfowl collection, the common pochard increasingly stay in Europe, not needing to move westwards to the British Isles as they previously did, as winter conditions in mainland Europe have improved to their liking.

Our beastly, cold, wet and grey conditions this year have not held much appeal for we humans but it has certainly proved attractive to egrets which have been drawn to the Ponds by the waterlogged ground conditions (and also to just beyond Diana and Brian Temperley's garden and to the field nearby the school). Could there be a more beautiful visual contrast! You may have missed them though if you were out on our one day of snow so far, as their washday white plumage blended into our snow bleached fields!

At this time of year the sky-lined trees stand as dark but beautifully intersected frameworks, laced against all manner of winter skies. Now is a time when we can fully appreciate how much they add to our landscape both in the village and the fields around, as well as on the Ponds themselves. They are surely worth protecting and

valuing so that they can continue to enhance our rural idyll. Perhaps we should all try to plant at least one more tree in our gardens before it is too late this year. How about planting damsons in our hedgerows as was previously the practice in this area; their early eye-catching star-like white flowers in the spring contrast with their black twiglets, producing an abundance of richly flavoured fruit in the autumn. Two varieties are very specific to this area but unfortunately are yet to be recognised as being as important as the famous and equally local Bramley apple. The Merryweather Damson (created by the Southwell family) is still easily available and, with a bit of research, you can locate sources for the Bradley's King which was first grown in the nearby village of Halam.

I think a good New Year resolution might well be that we do our very best to ensure the perpetuation of the Rev Henry Williams' words of 1897 "Bleasby – one of the pleasantest spots in the country"!

Peter Cast

Late news – a kite was seen by the church, flying towards the Ponds – a first for Bleasby?

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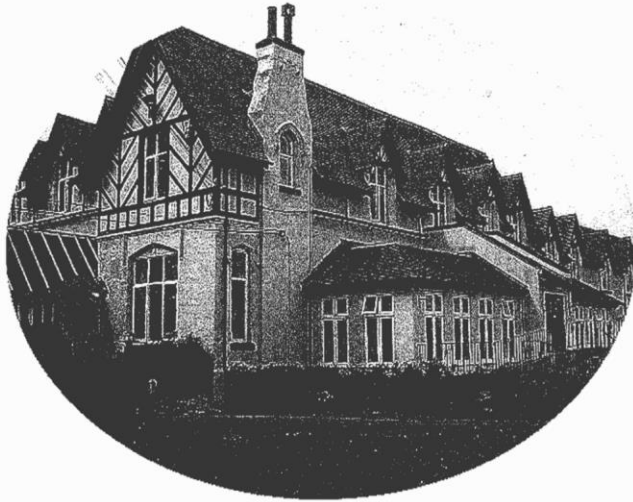
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We have a person centred approach to the care of the residents: this approach is vital to ensure the best possible outcome and wellbeing.

Dementia care is a specialist area: we ensure with sensitivity that the resident is supported continually with person centred care planning, reinforcing daily the aspects of their lives they enjoy to ensure wellbeing and pleasures on a daily basis as, sadly, the previous day may be forgotten.

Our aim is to offer stimulating activities, with one to one time for those who may have dementia: we specialise in this area and our approaches create a relaxed harmonious environment for all.

Our bedrooms are large with views over the countryside and offer a choice of colour and furnishings, personalising them to suit our residents' preferences and choice.

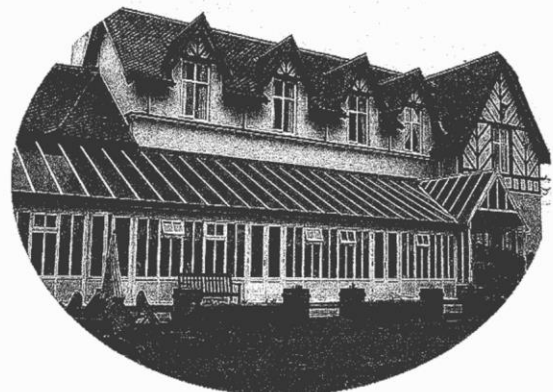
Please feel able to visit our home at any time – a warm welcome awaits you. We encourage families to also have an input into the plans the home may make. We hold family and friends of the home evenings.

With spring and summer comes along a plan of social events: for the summer an annual garden party, summer fair and schedule of outings to various venues.

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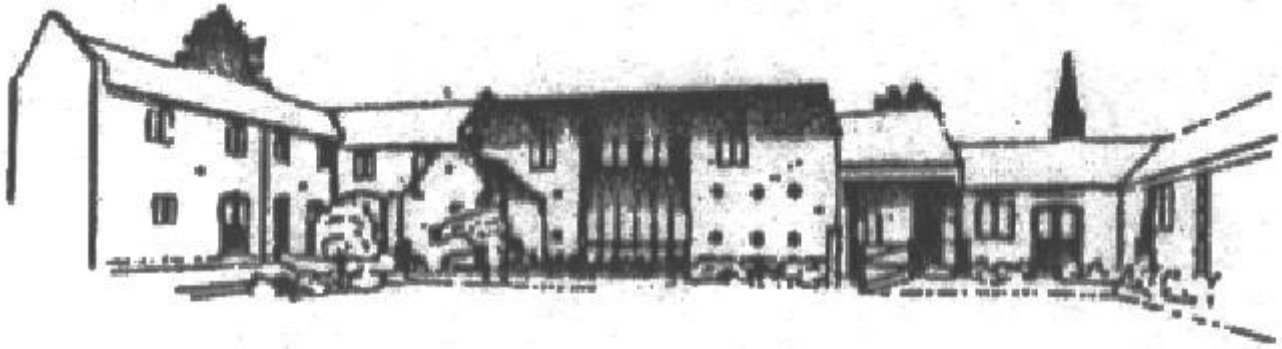
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MORE FROM JOHN HOLMES, EARLY 19th CENTURY RESIDENT OF THE OLD HOUSE

1818 – The Old Ash Tree, which had been standing for many a year as an ornament to the Churchyard gate, was felled the 4th of March this year.

This village and the surrounding country was visited on the evening of the 4th March by a most tremendous tempest, from the west south west and continued with unabated fury throughout the greatest part of the night. The wind blew a perfect hurricane, and the ravages in the village and neighbouring towns was very extensive. A small flood on the 6th March.

At the quarter sessions held at Southwell April 4th Joseph Dixon of this town was found guilty of stealing a gamecock, belonging to J Bailey from the premises of John Reynolds, and sentenced to three months imprisonment in Southwell House of Correction.



The Old House as John Holmes may have known it



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