



# BLEASBY NEWS



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DECEMBER 2015



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## Welcome to December's Bleasby News

Here we are in the sparkly season! The School Fair is on 5<sup>th</sup> December at the school; the Christmas Tree will be a feature of the Glebe Field again this year – lights will be lit on 6<sup>th</sup> December; the annual Trent Choir Carol Concert is on 14<sup>th</sup> December at Rolleston Church and the Bleasby St Mary's crib service happens on Christmas Eve. Lots to look forward to. We are so pleased to welcome Liz, Ian and Gavin to the Waggon and Horses, bringing a renewed lease of life to our favourite pub!

We are also pleased to have Revd Phil with us – many people have met him now he has been here for a couple of months and they find him to be friendly, down-to-earth and sympathetic – a continued welcome to Phil as well.

We have had to say farewell to a number of long-standing residents – family members remember them in this issue.

Please send your articles etc for February's Bleasby News to:-

Rachael Andrew, Sutton House, [pran@suttonhs.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:pran@suttonhs.fsworld.co.uk) or

Barbara Cast, Little Dower House, [barbaracast@btinternet.com](mailto:barbaracast@btinternet.com) by 18<sup>th</sup> January.

The editorial team wish you a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

*Your Editors, Barbara, Rachael and Sophie*

## Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to Andrew and Gina Lane and their son Daniel who have moved in to Elmore's Meadow; to Ian, Mishka and Jacob Edwards who have moved into Orchard Close and to Mr and Mrs Bosley and family who have also moved into Orchard Close.

We hope that you will all be very happy in the parish of Bleasby and that we will meet you all at some of the future events.

## New Arrivals

Pam and Stuart Brandreth are pleased to announce that they are the very proud grandparents of beautiful twin girls, Arabella Merryn and Rosenwyn Constance, safely delivered to Rachael and Dominic Brandreth in Cornwall on October 2nd.

*Bleasby News is published by Bleasby Parish Council and distributed by local volunteers.*

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*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.*

*The Parish Council also wishes to make clear that the content of the village website does not necessarily reflect its views.*

## Bleasby Parish Council News

Six months have now passed since the new Parish Council members were elected and it seemed appropriate that we should produce a half yearly review of our work and progress. To this end a report has been duly written and published in full on the Newark and Sherwood District Council website and on the village noticeboard. To produce it in Bleasby News had been our original intention but its length and format made it “too big a worm to swallow”.

Much of its content refers to our focus on the tying-up of loose ends and completing the work of the previous Council. Internal and External Audit recommendations, fulfilment of the requirements of the newly introduced Transparency Code, the carrying out of an Internal Review and the changing of the banking arrangements have been four of our biggest bureaucratic tasks, whilst the appointment of a new Parish Clerk, the installation of a defibrillator in the old telephone box, the creation of a new website and ongoing focus on the improvement and development of the area of land called Ferry End at Hazelford have proved to be four with a higher public profile.

The early preparations for the ultimate production of a parish plan have recognised the critical importance of being able to communicate effectively with all members and parts of our village community. Our focus initially will therefore be to ensure effective exchange of ideas, observations and information between us all. The different organisations within Bleasby Parish will have an important part to play and there will inevitably be an important focus on the key roles of major components of the village community life and spirit – the school, the church, the village hall and the Waggon.

Bleasby Primary School, under the able leadership of Mrs Ann Town, is a great asset to us all, providing an Ofsted recognised “outstanding” education for our young children (as well as to those in Thurgarton and Hoveringham) with well above the national results and amazing success in a wide range of sporting activities. This provides the “life-blood” and future for the village, bringing an essential rejuvenating element to our community as well as high property values! Thank you, all you hard-working team of teaching and non-teaching staff.

The Church provides the stability, the continuity, the history, the culture and above all the focus, unity and pastoral and spiritual support, guidance and leadership. We warmly welcome the Reverend Phil White who, despite six other parishes to care for, has come into our community with great energy, commitment and openness. Thank you all – stalwarts, regulars, officials and incidental supporters!

The Waggon and Horses provides that third strand critical to the survival, dynamism and social cohesion of any village – embracing young and old, religious and non-religious, local or visitor, and a focal point for community interaction and activity. We heartily welcome Liz and Ian who, like Phil White, have come in with vision, ambition and enthusiasm. It is hoped that much of their vision for the business and village will be fulfilled. Thank you both for “picking up the reins” without a falter.

It is hoped that some of the above will provide residents with an insight into the working and progress of the Parish Council over its first six months in office. The Council’s mantra for any of its decision taking is “What is best for the village?” and it is hoped that its progress towards a Parish Plan will enable all members of our community to become

involved in establishing what is valued by villagers, what might be improved for the benefit of the village and the ways in which these things could be achieved. The means by which whole village involvement in this project is ensured will be various, but it is hoped that the new village website will prove a key component. Please, once it is fully functioning, log in and sign up so that we will be able to pass all relevant information to you just as soon as we are fully operational.

The Council wish to thank you all for your support and forbearance this year and to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas with a New Year wish to you all for a peaceful and productive 2016, full of promise.

*Peter Cast on behalf of the Parish Council*

**The new Bleasby website will be found under the domain address of  
[www.bleasbyparishcouncil.uk](http://www.bleasbyparishcouncil.uk)**

## **NEW EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATOR IN TELEPHONE BOX**

Would you know what to do if someone collapsed in your home or had a serious accident and was unconscious? Probably the first thing you would do is ring 999. If the casualty was unconscious the operator would give you the location of your nearest defibrillator. They will also give you the code to the cabinet it is kept in.

Bleasby Parish now has a machine called a defibrillator located in the telephone box. (Corner of Main St and Sycamore Lane) You get the code, remove the orange machine and bag and take it back to the casualty.

You still have to perform CPR to give your casualty the best chance but the defib is like giving a jump start to the heart. It talks to you and tells you how to use it. The difference between life and death is truly being able to have access to one of these machines and using it.

We are going to provide a short training in the Waggon and Horses at 7pm, 8pm and 9pm on Tuesday 8th December, please come along if you can...and see the new pub if you've not yet been!

Please pass by and see it, be familiar with it and, hopefully, if you ever need to use it you give your casualty the best chance. We are a significant distance away from an ambulance and time is precious. If you would like to see the machine I am more than happy to meet at the telephone box and talk it all through with you.

*Ali Sutherland*

## A Message from Reverend Phil White

Dear All,

Now and then have you had the feeling that you are actually doing the right thing!? The reverse is perhaps more common, so it's a welcome relief when it happens! This was how I felt on being licensed to the seven Parishes of the West Trent Group in October, and subsequently as I slowly get to know and be known. The welcome has been warm and the challenge positive. I am pleased to introduce myself to you via this newsletter for Bleasby. Whilst I'm sure you will understand my need to manage time spent across seven parishes and eight villages, I am available and contactable via the details below.

It is a blessing to have come to a beautiful rural area with amazing and historic churches and distinct communities. I will miss the sea and moorland around Scarborough where I've spent 14 years as a Vicar and Lay Training Advisor in the York Diocese. I have also been a Team Vicar and Curate in York; a travelling worker in North East schools with Scripture Union, whilst living in Middlesbrough; a theology student in Nottingham; and a teacher of Geography and Careers Education in a large comprehensive in Hull. I have spent a lot of time in rural western Kenya and am co-founder of our charity 'Bungoma Calling', supporting an orphanage and church training links; look us up via [www.bungomacalling.co.uk](http://www.bungomacalling.co.uk).

I enjoy sports even when my team is doing badly which, as an English cricket and rugby supporter, is too often! I love Manchester United, and have loved even more playing football, cricket and hockey in the past! I enjoy walking and a variety of other activities.

I have been drawn to this area not only for a new challenge but also to be nearer family, my daughter (Ruth), son in law (Pete) and 18 month old granddaughter (Annabelle) live in Nottingham. I have a son (James) living in Edinburgh, so more accessible via the rail link here. I'm going to miss Yorkshire and Yorkshire folk, but I am feeling at home and looking forward to a first Christmas here. I hope you are, though it is a difficult time for many, perhaps for you? It is also a special time, not least because of the message that God is closer than we sometimes might imagine.

I hope we will meet soon!

Blessings

*Phil*

The Revd Phil White

Priest i/c of the West Trent Group, Southwell & Nottingham Diocese.

Bleasby, Morton, Rolleston & Fiskerton, Upton, Hoveringham, Halloughton & Thurgarton.

The Vicarage, 208 Southwell Road, Thurgarton, Notts. NG14 7GP

[phil\\_07@btinternet.com](mailto:phil_07@btinternet.com) | 07720 010066 | 01636 830406

## Bleasby School Friends Association Newsletter

**Recent Fundraisers** - Well done to the children at Bleasby School for the fantastic art work they produced in the 'My Art Project fundraiser and thank you to all the teachers for their support, both the Christmas and non-Christmas artwork projects were lovely. As this is our 3rd year with My Art Project the BSFA will earn an additional 7.5% for our loyalty on top of the £1 per item!

FOOTSTEPS



Helping Bleasby School move Forward

A whopping £725 was raised at the recent Monster Mash party. It was great to see all of the fantastic costumes from children and parents alike. Thank you Mr Allington for being our DJ and our pumpkin and fancy dress judge and to all who attended. We listened to the feedback we received in last year's children's survey which resulted in our most successful autumn party to date!

On November 10th we hosted an evening with Fiona Thornewill. Fiona enthralled **us all** with her amazing story of her epic climb of the Nose of El Capitan, together with stunning video and photographs. A wonderfully motivating evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all and which raised over £200 for BSFA funds. Thank you Fiona, we look forward to your next challenge.



### Upcoming Events:-

#### Saturday 5th December - Bleasby School Christmas Fayre

(see the advert on page 13 for more details)

#### Friday 29th January - Quiz Night

Tickets will cost £10 per person and include hot food. For further information please contact [Samb1000@hotmail.com](mailto:Samb1000@hotmail.com)

As 2015 draws to a close BSFA would like to say an enormous thank you to the teachers, parents and the wider Bleasby community for the amazing support you continue to give us. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*If you would like to contact the BSFA please email Sam Bennington  
[Samb1000@hotmail.com](mailto:Samb1000@hotmail.com)*

*Janene Scurfield (Chair), Sam Bennington (Secretary), Nic Bennett (Treasurer)*

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## An Obituary: Bill Wilson, DipEE CEng MIET 27<sup>th</sup> July 1932 – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Born in the ship building town of Barrow in Furness before moving to (Proud) Preston as a boy, Bill started a lifetime of ‘projects’. He built his own bicycles and narrow gauge railway in his parents’ garden before motorcycles and eventually a car became a more attractive way of travel. He started his working life as an apprentice electrician in 1947 learning the trade in which he would be involved throughout his career. In the 1950s he returned to his studies and, having developed an interest in organising things, he became a Planning Engineer and moved to Stourport on Severn (yes this is where the name for his house in Bleasby came from) in the West Midlands working for the Central Electricity Generating Board. A transfer to Shirley was followed by a further move to Staythorpe before establishing the Engineering Training Centre at Eakring, by which time he was developing and taking on senior roles and a progressive interest in training and the health & safety aspect of the power generation industry as Principal Engineer. Meanwhile the National Grid had been born and adopted the Safety Rules for which he had been co-author. Earlier this year the Institute of Electrical Engineers recognised his 50 year membership.

Bill and Doreen met in Preston and, despite the rationing of petrol, meaning they could only meet when sufficient coupons had been saved, they married in 1957, producing a son, two daughters and in turn seven grandchildren. Bill’s interest in golf lasted 50 years when initially he would play at 7am on a Saturday to minimise impact on the family weekend. Although they only tried skiing for the first time in their 50s, Bill and Doreen subsequently frequently visited the Alps and once narrowly missed disaster as their coach crashed in the early hours in northern France due to driver fatigue. Bill was proud of his croquet lawn, variously chasing off the attentions of moles and rabbits with appropriate enthusiasm. Projects remained a constant in his life and were always meticulously deliberated over before their execution at the ‘Wilson’ standard. (Waking early each day, he became knowledgeable in the interests of farmers as he eaves-dropped on their programme ‘Farming Today’ on his beloved Radio 4 each morning.)

He claimed never to have retired but instead to have ‘changed his occupation’. He became a consultant, advising on and writing safety rules for Peugeot Talbot, several of the water utilities and the power industry in the Channel Islands. When he did eventually slow down just a little, he and Doreen joined more or less every society in the region where they played a full role and led a matching social life. These interests ranged from local history to wine tasting and the airfields of Lincolnshire. In late 1992 he masterminded a convoy of Land Rovers, driven by colleagues, taking emergency supplies to war-torn Bosnia.

Since moving to the village in 1977, Bill and Doreen worshipped at St Mary’s, and Bill (despite his hayfever) regularly selected his most appropriate lawn mower to help keep the churchyard presentable.

Bill suffered a number of health set-backs in very recent months but died peacefully with his family by his side. A service of Thanksgiving was held at St Mary’s, Bleasby, at the end of October at which friends joined the family, paying tribute to Bill’s life, confirming that he will be sorely missed.

*Many thanks to Nick Wilson for this thoughtful piece*

## **Church News**

### **New Vicar**

It's good to have a new priest in church to lead the church's ministry in our village and to welcome him again through Bleasby News. Everyone who attended his licensing service and buffet supper afterwards will know what a wonderful occasion it was. It was Bishop Paul's first licensing service since he took up office in the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese. Having taken the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and shared lunch with us, Revd Phil has led various other Baptism and Thanksgiving services, including the Harvest service for the school. We hope he is beginning to feel at home and getting to know people quickly. It is hard to remember that he has six other churches to lead, but remember we must. He is living in the Vicarage at Thurgarton and is happy to be contacted there. His mobile number is 07720 010066 and his email is phil\_07@btinternet.com

### **Harvest Services**

Church and school came together again to donate food to a food bank. This time we delivered it to Sycamore House Refugee Centre in St Ann's Nottingham. The centre provides help and support of various kinds for refugees and asylum seekers and welcomes donations of food and toiletries.

### **School**

We were pleased to welcome the whole of Bleasby Church of England School to St Mary's for their Harvest Celebrations. As usual they were in fine voice, each class making a contribution of a song or poem, some written by the children themselves. There are so many children that there isn't as much room for parents, but such is their enthusiasm they don't seem to mind that they might have to stand. We look forward to welcoming Year 6 for an Advent Experience at the end of November, when they will be making Advent Crowns for use in school and in church.

### **Baptism**

We were pleased to welcome Georgina and Holly Staniforth into the church family. This was another first at St Mary's for Revd. Phil. It was a joyful occasion and one which we hope the girls will remember with pleasure. Revd Phil has taken baptism preparation for three families in Bleasby and would be pleased to hear from others who are considering baptism.

### **Memorial Service**

Bleasby residents were among those, recently bereaved, who gathered at Rolleston for a memorial service and lighting of candles on All Saints Day.

### **Crib Service**

We will be holding our usual Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. It would be good if children came dressed as kings, angels, shepherds or sheep. Revd. Phil isn't sure what he is going to encounter so let's make an impact!

## **Christmas Services**

Please see the service schedules for details of other church services and concerts over the Christmas period. For those of you who would like attend a Holy Communion Service, please note that there isn't one on Christmas Day at Bleasby but there are options close by at 10.30am at Hoveringham and 9.00am at Morton. There will also be a Holy Communion Service for the whole group at 10.30am at Halloughton on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a beautiful little church and it would be a treat to fill it on this occasion.

## **Trough**

It has been known for some time that a large stone trough, discovered on the Glebe Field when work was being done on the churchyard extension, was covered over again for security reasons until a decision was taken about where it should go. It is now positioned under the church tower and has been planted with winter pansies to brighten up the path from the car park. We are grateful to Brian Lewin, Andrew, James and Henry Rickett for the planning and work they did to lift it into place without doing any damage to walls, path, kerb stone or themselves! It was wonderful to watch it happen. Thank you also to Alison Sutherland for doing the planting and other work to maintain the churchyard and to Roger Bennett who continues to mow into November!

## **Wilson Family**

We are extremely grateful to the Wilson Family for suggesting that donations in memory of Bill should be made to St Mary's. The church was full when his family and many friends attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Bill's life. St Mary's congregation will miss Bill and the support he has given to the church, including a spell as treasurer over many years.

## **Think and Pray for Paris**

We are still reeling from the horrors of Paris in November and the aftermath. It is impossible to comprehend the fanatic cruelty of such people as caused the carnage in Paris and Beirut and in so many other places.

We need to also think and pray for Paris too as it hosts the Climate Change Conference - this looks to be the most promising step towards a global agreement on cutting harmful gas emissions, those greenhouse gases which threaten the future of the planet as we know it. We are rapidly reaching the tipping point beyond which global warming becomes irreversible and catastrophic. So we need action by all nations to avert this planet-wide disaster.

Whether it is terror and violence or the ways in which our actions endanger our planet, ultimately we humans must deal with it. What a challenge for us all!

## December Church Services

	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday Dec 6th	10.30 HC		6pm EP	9.00 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 All Age	10.30 H C
Tuesday Dec 8th							10.00 HC
Sunday Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 MP			10.30 All age	9.30 HC	11.00 Christingle	10.30 MP
Thursday Dec 17th			Carol Service 7.30pm				
Sunday Dec 20th	10.30 HC	Carol Service 6pm		Carol Service 6pm			4pm Carol Service
Thursday Dec 24th	Crib Service		Crib Service 3pm		6pm Carol Service	6 pm Carol Service	
Christmas Day			HC 10.30	9.00 HC	9.30 All Age		10.30 HC
Sunday Dec 27th	10.30 Morning prayer	Benefice HC 10.30					

## January Church Services

	Bleasby	Halloughton	Hoveringham	Morton	Rolleston	Thurgarton	Upton
Sunday Jan 3rd	10.30 HC		6 pm EP	9.00 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 All Age	10.30 HC
Tuesday Jan 5th							10.00 HC
Sunday Jan 10th	10.30 MP	6pm EP	9.00 HC	10.30 Plough Sunday	9.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 MP
Sunday Jan 17th					Benefice HC 10.30		
Thursday Jan 21st							4pm Zip Bam Boo
Sunday Jan 24th	9.00 HC		10.30 Plough Sunday	10.30 All Age	10.30 All Age	Methodist Service	10.30 MP
Sunday 31st							

### IMPORTANT ADDITION TO NOVEMBER SERVICES

We are delighted to tell you that the Trent Choir will be leading us in an

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE AT BLEASBY CHURCH  
SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER AT 4 P.M.**

Please come and bring your friends.

Light refreshments will be available afterwards

# Bleasby School Christmas Fayre

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sponsored by  
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- Christmas Carols around the tree
- Frozen fun
- Christmas arts and crafts activities
- Drink or Drank



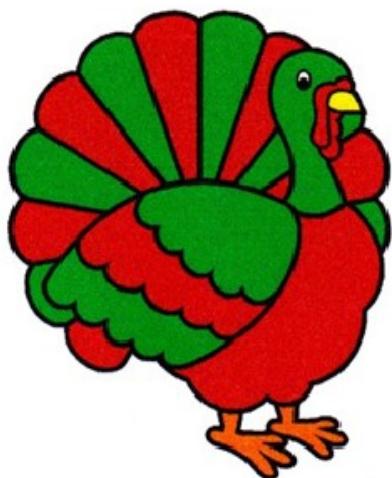
FOOTSTEPS



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## Blue Rabbit Christmas

Cathy took one last look round the empty church. She had cleared away all the sweet papers, the screwed-up yellow gift aid envelopes and the abandoned paper tissues, but had left the tinsel, the squashed holly berries and the mince pie crumbs until she felt stronger. She stretched her back and let out a sigh of relief. The annual Nativity play had been as successful as always, and the church had been packed. From where she was now standing, she could see the manger, and she thought back to the day when her husband had produced it from his workshop, and the furore that had been caused when the format of the play had been altered to include adults as the main characters, using the straw-filled manger as the focal point. This year there had been no babies born in the village since the rather large Jones baby in January, and so they had used a carefully draped doll. Cathy loved being in the church on her own, especially after one of the Christmas services. The church was still fairly warm, and the smell of candles and pine, with a faint reminder of the mulled wine still in the air, added up to an atmosphere of comfort and reassurance that she recognised and rejoiced in. She walked over to the manger to pick up some bits of straw, and gasped. The doll was there, but on top of it was a bedraggled knitted blue rabbit. She snatched it up, and realised it was a much-loved toy. The ears were long and somewhat soggy, one of the legs had been darned with a different coloured wool, and the tail was missing. As she wondered what to do with it, she heard hurried footsteps outside. The door opened, and in came her friend Val, with a tearful little girl in her arms.

"Oh, thank goodness you've found Flotsam," Val said, and gently put her granddaughter down. Her face transformed by a look of sheer delight, the little girl ran to Cathy, holding out her arms. Once she had the rabbit safely enfolded in a tight cuddle, her granny explained that Ella had been unable to get to sleep, because Flotsam was missing. She was crying bitterly, and all she could say was "Baby Jesus has him!" Which had apparently somewhat unnerved Val's atheist son-in-law. To avoid a family row on Christmas Eve, Val had swept up the howling child, and rushed to the church, hoping Cathy would still be there.

Ella was now sitting quietly in a pew, near the manger, and Cathy sat next to her.

"I thought Baby Jesus wouldn't go to sleep without something to cuddle, so I put Flotsam with him, and then I forgot to take him back to Granny's house," whispered Ella. "Do you know," said Cathy, "I think that was the nicest thing anyone could have done for Baby Jesus, and you were the only person to think about it. Let's go and see if he's asleep now, and then you can take Flotsam home".

They went hand in hand to the manger, and as they bent over it, for a split second Cathy could have sworn that there was a real baby nestled in the straw, fast asleep, with a tiny smile on his face.

"Thank you, Ella", she whispered, and she and Val took the drowsy little girl home.

*Diana Temperley*

## **Thinking of Visiting Shropshire?**

Richard and Wendy look forward to welcoming  
you to their 4\* B&B

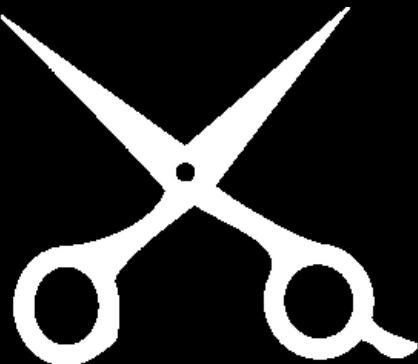
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## **The Waggon and Horses**

For those of you that don't know, Colin retired at the end of October after six and a half years of running the Waggon. We all wish him well for the future and his new ventures.

We got the keys on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and have proceeded to give it a makeover inside and out. You will probably recognise the new staff behind the bar as Liz has worked for previous landlords here and all of us already live in Bleasby. Because this is our village too, we are as passionate about making the pub a hub of the community as you are.

As you may have already noticed, we have started to make changes inside and outside the pub and plan more over the next few months. We are currently refurbishing our kitchen and hope to start serving food in the New Year if not before.

We are now open from 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, from Midday until midnight on a Friday and Saturday, and from Midday to 11.00pm on Sundays. The quiz on Sundays will continue after a short break, and we will advertise the start date within the pub shortly.

We look forward to welcoming you in the coming weeks!

*Liz, Ian and Gavin*

### **Congratulations to Dr Yvonne Dede**

Congratulations to Yvonne Dede who has been awarded a PhD by Nottingham Trent University. Yvonne, of Orchard Close, was formerly a pupil at The Minster School, Southwell. She gained a first class honours degree from Nottingham Trent University, staying on to carry out research into the identification of prostate cancer associated tumour antigens and biomarkers at the Jon Van Geest Research Centre under Professor

Robert Rees.

# TRENT CHURCHES CHOIR

## “Christmas in Good Company”

# CAROL CONCERT

IN

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ROLLESTON

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4.00 PM

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## **Christmas Open Morning at Bleasby Play Group**

Bleasby Play Group are excited to announce that we will be hosting a Christmas Open Morning on Monday 14th December! This will be an exciting opportunity for local residents to join us at our Play Group for festive refreshments and a chat with the families and friends who attend the group.

Bleasby Play Group feels very lucky to be able to offer our families a fun, happy and stimulating environment in which carers and children can meet, play and socialise. We meet every Monday morning (term-time) from 9.15-11.15am, and we offer a wide range of fun, educational and exciting toys and activities for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. In response to all the wonderful comments, ideas and fantastic variety of toy donations that Bleasby Play Group has so far received from local residents, on Monday 15th December we would like to throw open our doors and invite our wonderful community to join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie.

So if you are a local resident, and would be keen to see what we do every Monday morning at Bleasby Village Hall, we would be absolutely thrilled if you could join us from 9.15am onwards

We look forward to seeing you!

Monday 14th December - Bleasby Village Hall, Bleasby 9.15-11.15am



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## **Helping Hedgehogs in our Village**

### ***Hedgehogs are in big trouble - they need our help!***

There is now convincing evidence that hedgehogs are declining severely in Britain and that we have lost a third of all our hedgehogs in the last ten years. They seem to be doing just as badly in the wider countryside as they are in towns and cities. The picture is complicated and it seems likely that several different factors are at play.

Fortunately, we know that hedgehogs love gardens and we know what features they need to survive and thrive. One factor is that **no one garden is enough; hedgehogs need neighbourhoods of linked-up gardens if they are to survive.** One thing you can do to help is to maintain your hedges to allow hedgehogs free access between you and your neighbours but, if you need to put up a fence or build a wall, just make a hedgehog sized hole in the fence or wall to let them get through.

Hedgehogs will be going into hibernation any time now, in fact most will already have done so. Watch out for them having chosen a pile of leaves or stuff destined for a bonfire for their sleeping site!

For next spring when they wake up it is useful to remember that bread and milk is **not** good for a hedgehog's digestion – they are lactose intolerant so milk is especially bad for them. Pet food is okay as a substitute for their usual diet and they will also relish unsalted crushed peanuts, sunflower hearts and dried meal worms. In the wild, their diet is made up mainly of invertebrates such as **worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes.** Water is essential for a healthy hedgehog so leaving some available is really helpful.

For more information on hedgehogs and how to help them there are some useful websites – try these - [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) or [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

## **Watch Out – There Could be Thieves About!**

At the Southwell Neighbourhood Watch group meeting in November we were given a timely reminder about the likelihood of increased risk of theft and burglary as homes and outbuildings become filled with expensive Christmas presents in the run-up to seasonal celebrations.

You would be wise to ensure that all outbuildings are secure (especially as some may serve to store the likes of new bicycles etc), that gifts are out of sight and that doors are locked and windows closed, even when going out for a short while to do some gardening or chat to neighbours. Strangers calling at the door should be treated with the usual caution and never allowed into the house without absolute certainty of their identification and authority. If in doubt – check them out! Be mindful too of computer scams which appeal for money for good causes or seek details of your banking arrangements.

Christmas is a time of goodwill and peace to all people but, unfortunately, the odd individual might take advantage of your goodwill, trust and generosity.

*Derek Whitman/Peter Cast*

## Bleasby Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	4pm	Advent Carol Service	St Mary's Bleasby
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm-6pm	School Christmas Fair	Bleasby School
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	Jubilee Ponds
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion with Revd Phil White	St Mary's Bleasby
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Early evening	Christmas Lights Switch-On	Glebe Field
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	Jubilee Ponds
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm 8pm &	Short defibrillator training sessions	Waggon and Horses
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Service of morning prayer	St Mary's Bleasby
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	The Trent Choir's Annual Carol Concert	All Saints Rolleston
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am – 11.15am	Bleasby Play Group Open Morning	Village Hall
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	Bleasby Women's Institute Christmas Party	Village Hall
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	Jubilee Ponds
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion with Revd Phil White	St Mary's Bleasby
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Halloughton Carol Service	St James' Halloughton

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December		School holidays start	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	St Mary's Bleasby
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion with Revd Phil White	St James' Halloughton
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	Jubilee Ponds
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		School term starts	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	Jubilee Ponds
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Jubilee Ponds Working Party	Jubilee Ponds
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January		Deadline for February's Bleasby News items	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30pm	Meeting of Bleasby WI with Sandra Hart on Bee-keeping	Village Hall
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	7pm	Bleasby Local History Society's Annual Supper	Village Hall
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January		Bleasby School Quiz Night (further information in BSFA article)	

**Jubilee Ponds Working Parties are regularly held on the first Saturday, the second Tuesday and the third Sunday of each month—dates included in the diary. You will be very welcome – there's always plenty to do—and see!**

## Jubilee Ponds and Nature Notes

### The Rural Scene – Past, present and future

We probably all have a nostalgic vision of the perfect English countryside and of places special in our hearts that epitomise all that represents the popular rural idyll.

The English countryside is actually a harmonious combination of many hundreds of years of human interaction with nature – fortuitously creating between them landscapes that have not only helped put food on our plates but which have also been the sources of inspiration for artists, poets, writers and “common folk”. It is a critical component of our shared heritage, culture and daily joy.

Unfortunately the pace of change is now becoming such that we are in danger of losing much that we hold dear in our countryside. In Bleasby we can still enjoy much of that cherished green and pleasant land. Few will have failed to appreciate what a wonderfully coloured and enchanting scene was set out for us by our hedgerow and garden trees during a glorious October (such a contrast to our rather dark and dreary November) when one could register just how important trees are in our landscape - if only for aesthetic reasons, let alone for all the other benefits that trees provide.

The Jubilee Ponds are well provisioned with a chequer-board landscaping of trees and even in bleak November the silver birches in particular have shone out in picturesque groupings lightly festooned in a delicate yellow haze of gracefully aging leaves.

The Centenary Dowager Wood is now one year old and, thanks to a considerable amount of labour by the young and old of the Jubilee Ponds Working Party, is looking distinctly established and each commemorative tree now stands free of the summer weed invasion that threatened to engulf every one of them. Thanks also to careful preparation and the involvement in the planting by each adoptive village family, every oak has survived its first year, as have all but two of the hazels which are to be ‘renewed’ by replacements offered by one of our villagers.

The loss of the magnificent ash tree which stood on the bend opposite the old chapel is very sad. It had begun to fail and was therefore considered a danger to road traffic in particular. Its loss might have been expected to have had a very significant impact on our rural street scene but fortunately the remaining trees in that hedge-line seem to have already compensated for their elder brother’s demise. The count of the tree’s annual rings undertaken by the felling contractors put the age of the old ash as 201 years. Was it planted to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo in 1815? Who knows?

What will the people of Bleasby Parish of 2215 have to say about our investment in their environment’s future? We all have a responsibility in making sure that their rural inheritance is even better than ours!

*Peter Cast*

## **Gervase Leyden of Gibsmere Remembered**

Gerv, who has lived in Gibsmere for the past 33 years, died on October 7<sup>th</sup>. He had been diagnosed with prostate cancer some 15 years ago and, more latterly, was struggling with a brain disorder that affected his physical and mental abilities.

Gerv was a very remarkable man. Born in Radford, Nottingham, in 1939, he grew up during the war years, experiencing the privations and stresses associated with great poverty. His father had left the family home and his mother was obliged to work 12 hours a day in the Raleigh factory. Unlike his sister and two brothers who went to grammar school, Gerv failed the 11+ and was sent first to a secondary modern school and then to a building college. There his intelligence and flair were spotted by a perceptive teacher, and he transferred directly to a 6<sup>th</sup> form college and took 4 A levels in a year. He went on to university to study psychology, became a teacher and then an educational psychologist, and came back to Nottingham to the post of senior psychologist for the City Educational Psychology Service. A spell as a lecturer at Birmingham University and then senior tutor to the Nottingham University Educational Psychology training course resulted in him being awarded a Doctorate at the age of 60.

Gerv and Sue married in 1980 and moved with the three boys to Gibsmere a year later. Gerv was deeply affected by his early experiences and his mission in life was to improve the life chances and defend the rights of all children, those of deprived or disabled children and their families in particular. He became a prominent figure, nationally and abroad, admired and respected as a leader in the field of educational psychology. Apart from his family, Gerv's great loves were football (a Nottingham Forest supporter since the age of 6), cricket and music. He was wise and witty, and very funny, but above all, warm and loving and yet so modest, able to make everyone he met feel special. The hundreds of emails and cards received by the family, as well as the tributes paid to him at the celebration of his life at the Nottingham Forest Stadium, showed how much he was loved, respected and admired.

His grand-daughter from Australia wrote: “*My memories of Grandad Gerv are full of laughter and love. He always made me feel incredibly special and he had so much time and interest in me. He was wonderfully unique and so different to anyone else I know. I know he's in another place now, probably playing his piano accordion and singing. But he lives on with me every day in my memories*”.

Sue Leyden

## **Condolences**

We offer our condolences to the families of Gervais (Gerv) Leyden of Gibsmere and Christine Jacklin of Orchard Close and to Bernice McGrath whose mother, Iris Lawrence of Hazelford, also died during past weeks.

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## **Christmas Memories**

How the memories come flooding back when I reach for the old box holding the Christmas tree decorations. It was delivered to my mother in November 1953, and as I open it I can smell, hear, and visualise so many fragments that make a mental collage of the spirit of Christmas. The unmistakeable fragrance of pine needles: the wonderful aroma of roasting turkey: the rich and slightly smoky tang of the hot brandy as it was poured on to the pudding before it burst into mysterious blue flames. And the contrasting stench one disastrous year when the goose had been allowed to hang too long! I shall never forget the sight of this horrific greenish mass hanging, dripping, in the dark cellar; nor of my mother's face!

Echoes of the different sounds I remember come crowding into my ears – the lone choirboy's opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' from King's College Cambridge, which still sends shivers up my spine. The very different sounds from carol singers, sometimes well organised and a pleasure to hear, other times, a few tone deaf youngsters: church bells in the darkness as the midnight service approaches: the wonderful variety of Christmas carols, old and new, available on radio throughout December, culminating with all the verses of 'O come all ye faithful' sung in splendid voice on Christmas morning. When I was growing up, we had a fine organist, who opened every stop he could find for the last verse. One year he started playing very quietly after the blessing – but he'd forgotten to put the stops back! A huge chord blasted out, nearly causing our poor vicar to lose his footing as he came down the nave.

I remember the looks of eager anticipation and wonder on our children's and grandchildren's faces as they opened their presents on Christmas morning: and over many years, the glass ornaments on the Christmas tree, glittering and shimmering in the subdued lighting of the tree lights. The intense concentration of schoolchildren as they intoned their lines at the Nativity Play, with anxious parents mouthing the words in the audience, and teachers holding their breath, hoping that Mary didn't get hysterics again, or the baby angels start fighting. But all these memories fuse into one thought – the true joy of Christmas comes from the memory of a helpless baby born in Bethlehem, and the wonder and awe that we feel for that birth and for all that came after instils in us hope and faith for the future.

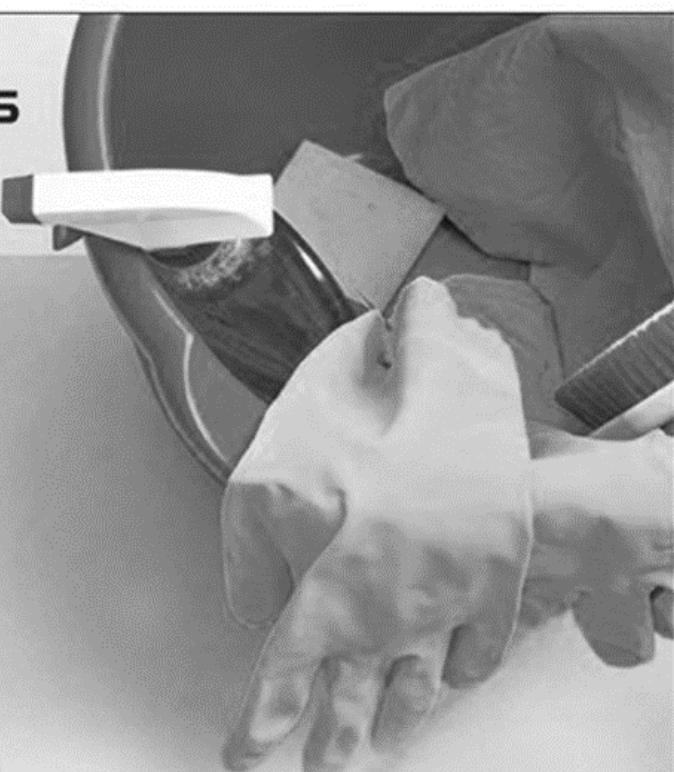
*Diana Temperley*

## **Southwell Folio**

The inspiration for a local arts magazine arose out of the first Southwell Festival, held in 2005. But it wasn't until about five years later that that initial idea was able to become reality when its editor, Penny Young, found herself with the time (in theory!) to set up a new magazine.

**Folio** is an A4 glossy, full-colour magazine, bi-monthly for the first four years, becoming quarterly in 2014. It covers most things to do with the arts – music, art, literature and poetry, creative writing, books and bookshops, libraries, exhibitions – as well as local history and archaeology. Articles are written by local people or people with a local connection. Recent contributors have written about the work of Grinling Gibbons (the 'Michelangelo of Wood'); 'Memoirs of a House at War' by Geoffrey Bond who lives in Byron's former Southwell home; Bromley House Library; Nineteenth-century Nottingham writers; The Workhouse; Southwell's House of Correction; and archaeological discoveries of Roman Southwell.

A year's subscription costs £10, and copies are on sale at £3 each, in Southwell Library, Five Leaves Bookshop and Bromley House Library in Nottingham, and The Bookcase at Lowdham. For more information, to subscribe, or to discuss possible contributions, contact Penny Young: tel. 01636 814506, or email: [pyoung932@btinternet.com](mailto:pyoung932@btinternet.com)



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## Bleasby Women's Institute

Congratulations to our **Routes to Roots Team** who successfully completed their expedition to Anglesey in recognition of the founding of the Women's Institute in Britain in September 1915. The six intrepid members travelled without using money or their own transport from Bleasby to Llanfairpwll and raised at a recent count £3,000 for the University of Nottingham's Children's Brain Tumour Research Unit. We also thank the back-up team which made sure no one fell by the wayside.

The talk at the September meeting of Bleasby WI had the intriguing title of "John Bishop changed my life", and was a most interesting account by Wayne Brewin of his cycling experiences. And in October we celebrated our 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday with a really splendid meal at Ramsdale Golf Club – it was a great evening. The November meeting had a talk entitled "Oprah Winfrey touched my elbow!" – "why?" and "how could he tell?" were a couple of the questions we wanted answering!

Bleasby Book Group were welcomed by Liz Vickers at the Waggon and Horses for their regular meeting and were very grateful to her for the use of the room as they were in the process of refurbishment.

The Christmas Party is on 15<sup>th</sup> December and when we meet on 19<sup>th</sup> January there will be quite a buzz! The talk is on beekeeping!

New members are always welcome or come as a visitor to see what we are like. There will always be something to make you smile (often it is the President!)

*Barbara Cast*

## ADVERTISING IN BLEASBY NEWS

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## **John Kirton of Gypsy Lane Remembered**

John was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1923 in Shuttlewood, Derbyshire, but grew up in the Mapperley area of Nottingham and attended High Pavement School.

In the summer of 1939, aged just 15, John hitchhiked to Germany to visit friends he had met during a Boys' Brigade trip the previous year. Luckily he arrived home just a week before war was declared. On his return, John was keen to take part in the war effort and worked at the Treasurer's Office on Shakespeare Street before joining the Merchant Navy and then the Royal Navy in 1941 at the age of 18. The Merchant Navy took him to Iceland and his service in the Royal Navy involved sailing around the Indian Ocean, taking in such exotic locations as South Africa, Mombasa, Mauritius and the Seychelles. He had many memories from this time, including the capture by his ship of a German submarine and its crew. He would often recount the stories from this period, recollecting the great community spirit and longstanding friendships he made. As those of you who knew him might expect, John got himself into a few 'situations' during his time away involving smuggling, falling off a train in Johannesburg, being woken by a thundering rhino whilst trying to sleep off a hangover and visiting a sick friend in hospital whilst drunk and not remembering the visit afterwards, although his friend definitely did!

After leaving the Navy, John briefly returned to his pre-war office job. However, unsurprisingly finding this dull after his war time exploits, in 1947/8 he decided to take advantage of the one year 'emergency' teacher training course being offered by the government to ex-military personnel; one of his lecturers here was the novelist Anthony Burgess. John went on to teach in several schools in Nottingham before eventually becoming head teacher at Scotholme Primary School in Hyson Green, where he stayed until his retirement in 1983 aged 60.

In 1949, John married his first wife, Doreen, and they had two sons, Richard, and David. He married his second wife, June, in 1972, gaining two step daughters, Katharine and Rachel. June and John's own daughter Sarah was born a few years later. June and John were married for almost 38 years, until June's death in 2010. John also had five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Following his adventures during the war, John still enjoyed travelling. He returned to South Africa alone in 1975 and then again with June in 2005. He also hitchhiked back to Germany in 1988 at the age of 64, recreating his original hitchhiking trip from 1939. There were also many holidays to France, staying with a French family whom June, John and Sarah met in Brittany in the mid-1980s. More recently John was a member of the U3A with June and they were part of the organisation's travel group, enjoying holidays throughout Britain and across Europe.

Having lived in Bleasby for almost 45 years since building the family bungalow, Woodlea, in 1970, John was well known in the village and made many friends here. He was a regular in the Waggon and Horses, although he was barred, twice! John was also an active

member of the village, campaigning both for and against various developments and enjoyed the “sport” of attending Parish Council meetings to argue his case. In the mid-70s John was invited to judge at the Southwell Ploughing Match & Show; this was originally met with surprise by the local farmers who thought a relative newcomer to the village unworthy of such a prestigious role. However, when John revealed that he was to judge the children's classes rather than one of the 'important' agricultural ones, there was laughter all round and he was subsequently affectionately known as 'Judge' by village friends.

John was a keen gardener and up until last year very proudly grew a wide selection of his own vegetables. John was also very keen on sport, playing rugby for Old Paviors, High Pavement's 'old boy' rugby team, on Saturday afternoons. He last played for them aged 40 when he was expecting to be a spectator at the match and was asked to make up the numbers on the pitch. Unfortunately, as he had to take his glasses off to play, his subsequent erratic performance led (to his great embarrassment) to him being clapped both on and off the pitch. He was also a keen supporter of Nottingham Forest until more recently when he found he could, in his own words, watch better games on TV. In the 1950s however he had a season ticket and attended games with his father. Music and films from the 1930s and 40s were also important to him. He particularly enjoyed the music of Vera Lynn, but also the more “modern” music of Hildegarde.

I'm sure that many of you are aware of John's rebellious nature, at odds with his respectable profession and upstanding nickname. He wasn't renowned for his tact and diplomacy. He didn't always follow the rules himself and had a definite tendency to get himself into hot water as a result. You may even have been lucky enough to have heard about some of his escapades. He revelled in describing them in lurid detail, to all who would listen. John was fiercely independent and determined, with a huge curiosity for life, and it is this indomitable spirit which enabled him to pack so much into his years and to live in his own home here in Bleasby until he fell and broke his hip last June.

John died in August this year: he is remembered with love, and not a little laughter, by his family and I'm sure by his village friends too.

*Katharine*



**GIBSMERE FROM THE JUBILEE PONDS**

## FLOODING AT YOUR HOUSE?

Have you ever thought about what would happen if your house got flooded? Have you got ideas of what you would move first? Pets, photos, children, neighbours? Not necessarily in that order! Who would you ring locally for help?

Bleasby has flooded in the past and the flood team continue to work hard to make sure that, for instance, the dykes and ditches are kept clear by dealing with or reporting problems. In times of flood, the flood wardens have put out signs, assisted people to get themselves and their possessions safe, directed traffic and generally made sure that those affected have some support.

The District and County Councils now tell us that we need to work in twos for our own safety - and that is really sensible, except there are only a few flood volunteers. We need more available in times of flood to put their wellies on and come and help us. We especially need volunteers for Gypsy Lane and Main St (church end). In the past a couple of people have also volunteered to help the wardens by bringing out a cup of tea or helping neighbours. We call it our emergency helper list.

If you are happy to be a flood volunteer and help us to keep Bleasby and its people safe then please contact Martin Shaw who can add you to our voluntary helper list. In times of crisis most people say "ring me if there is anything I can do". Well, by having a list of potential helpers, we can get organised much more quickly in a crisis. You may have access to boats, tractors, pumps, winches, chainsaws and similar equipment, and/or have medical, catering, engineering or other relevant skills, experience or qualifications. Our flood volunteers work in support of our trained flood wardens who are Peter Cast 830284, Martin Shaw 830633 and Chris Foster 830158, with Elaine France 830303 who acts as wardening coordinator.

There are a couple of other things you can do to make your home and family more resilient. Sign up to flood line [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/register](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/register) and they will ring you with alerts in time of potential flood. Also you can sign up to Bleasby village alerts via the website [www.bleasbyparishcouncil.uk](http://www.bleasbyparishcouncil.uk)

Flooding is potentially damaging and dangerous and we know that if Bleasby is at risk others will already be underwater and we will get limited help. We have to be resilient ourselves.

Please sign up to help if you can.

Thanks!

*Ali Sutherland 831026, Martin Shaw 830633*

## Environment Agency – Flood Awareness Campaign

[www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy](http://www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy)



The first two weeks in November sees the return of the Environment Agency's annual Flood Awareness Campaign.

The Environment agency urges everyone to check their flood risk, to check if you are in an area which received free flood warnings, and to think about and plan what it is that you need to do when flooding happens.

### 1. Check your flood risk by:

i. visiting the webpage: [www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding)

ii. emailing the Environment Agency:  
[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

iii. calling Floodline 0345 988 1188

You'll need to provide the house name or number and postcode for the property of interest, and you'll then find out whether it is at very low, low, medium or high risk.

**2. Check if you're eligible for free flood warnings:** If you're in an area at risk of flooding you may be able to sign up for the Environment Agency's free Floodline Warnings Service, to receive messages to your home, business, mobile phone or email. You can sign up online at: [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings), or email the Environment Agency or call Floodline.

**3. Think about what you need to do when flooding happens.** Many things you can help you to prepare:

- Make a flood plan
- Locate your water stopcock
- Know how to isolate your gas and electricity
- Identify a safe place for you to go should flooding happen
- Don't drive through floodwater
- Check for flood warnings before you travel

Keep an eye out for press releases from the Environment Agency over the next few weeks! (National Flood Forum staff may be making an appearance too!):

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/envagency>

Environment Agency blog:

<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/>

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## **News on our Belarus Visitor**

After being introduced to the charity some years ago when my best friend hosted children from Belarus, we decided this summer to do the same. We made contact with former Bleasby resident Bob Crampton who co-ordinates the Newark & Sherwood branch of the charity to volunteer our services and a week into the summer holidays 8 year old Dasha Mesha arrived. She is from a school in the Pinsk region of Belarus. Bob and his wife Sue go to the area every year to see how former visitors which the charity are financially supporting are getting on and to assess the suitability of future visitors. The children live in a poor rural area that is still contaminated from the Chernobyl disaster and their visit to the UK is probably the only chance they will ever have to travel out of their country. The charity also uses the visits as an opportunity to get their eyes tested and their teeth checked by local surgeries who provide the service and anything they have to supply for free. Usually every child needs dental treatment and this year was no exception. One girl needed 16 fillings and Dasha's teeth were so bad they all needed extracting under general anaesthetic. The charity are giving consideration to arranging for some of the children to return to allow the treatment to be carried out. After the treatment was out of the way the charity organised events nearly every day to expose the children to as many experiences as possible during their three week visit. As a host family our children were allowed to go to every event but, as hosts, we were not expected to attend every one as there are support families who will take them along if the hosts are not available. During her time here she got to go to Twycross Zoo, Ferry Farm Park, Wheelgate, Southwell Fire Station, Center Parcs, Southwell Archery, Hawks of Steel, Nottingham Climbing Centre, County Hall, Hoveringham Sailing Club, Sherwood Cooking Workshop and Edwinstowe Craft Centre along with three hosted parties. It took Dasha about 5 days to settle but considering she was an 8 year old girl separated from her family and visiting a foreign country for the first time she did remarkably well. Having children of our own was a great help as there didn't seem to be a language barrier between them and, when there was, Google Translate always came to the rescue. If that didn't work the translator that travels with the children was available 24 hours a day for any assistance required. Although she tried not to let on that it had, we feel Dasha benefited tremendously from the visit. Teachers at the school they attend have commented to the translator that, since their return, their outlook on life and their approach to education has improved dramatically. Not to mention that this short period out of their contaminated land, and where they receive a varied nutritious diet, is expected to add a year to their life expectancy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who responded to our appeal in Bleasby News before Dasha's arrival. The wardrobe Dasha came with left much to be desired so she was delighted when we were able to pack her off with 2 suitcases full of clothes for her, her parents and her three siblings. I would heartily recommend anyone with children to give serious consideration to hosting a child from this charity. Not only did the Belarus children benefit from the visit, but the children of the host families had their eyes opened to how other people have to live and to realise how good they have it here. There was also an added benefit that we didn't have to worry about finding things to entertain our children with for the first 3 weeks of the summer holidays!

*Chris Barnes*



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## A Tribute to Christine Jacklin: Reflections of a Neighbour

Christine was my neighbour for forty years and I couldn't have wished for a better one. We were good friends and I was always impressed by her skill as a needle-woman and card maker. Everything she did with her hands, she did to perfection. She was devoted to her husband Roger and a wonderful friend to me.

As a young woman she had been a store manager, travelling out of the village daily to Newark. As a result, apart from taking on small parts with the drama group, Christine was not widely known in the village beyond family and neighbours on Orchard Close, so I am pleased to be able to commend her to people in Bleasby who didn't have the good fortune to know her.

When my late husband Jeff became house bound in the late stages of Parkinson's disease, Christine became a godsend. She regularly sat with him so that I was able to retain a social life and maintain my involvement with WI, drama group and Church. Jeff appreciated her company and became very fond of her. Nothing was too much trouble for her.

Having suffered from a debilitating illness for much of her adult life, it was even more remarkable that Christine continued to be so kind to others as her own health deteriorated. Before I left Bleasby, as my own health began to fail, she always responded at the drop of a hat to any calls I made to her in emergencies, even in the middle of the night. When I needed to call out family, Christine would be there, holding the fort until they arrived. I cannot praise her enough. Fortunately, I was able to keep in touch by telephone until even that became too much for Christine.

I was so grateful to be at her funeral and to share with Roger, family and friends in recalling our memories of this wonderful person.

*Margaret Stretch*



A WINTERS SCENE IN  
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JANUARY 2010



## **Flood Defence Solutions in Nottinghamshire**

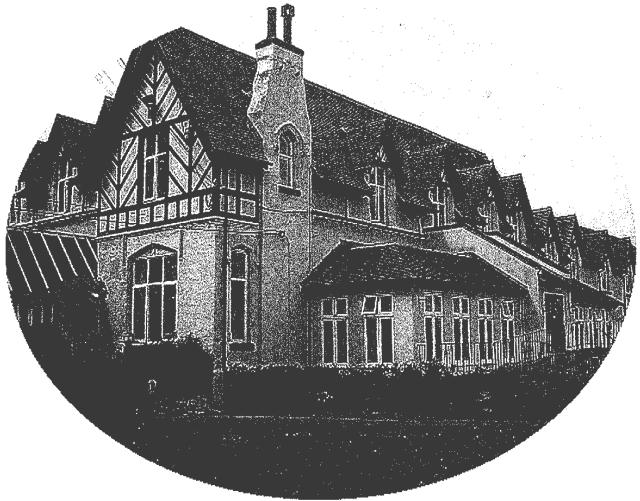
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We have a person centred approach to the care of the residents: this approach is vital to ensure the best possible outcome and wellbeing.

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.

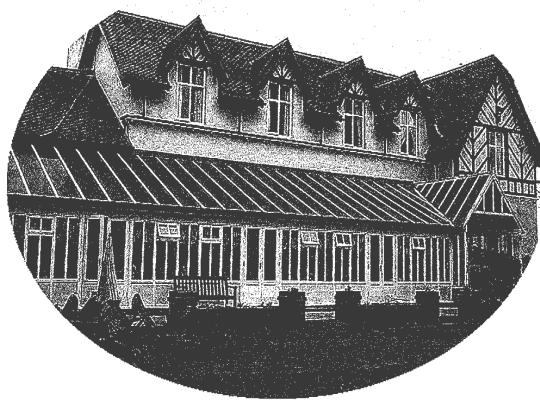
Our bedrooms are large with views over the countryside and offer a choice of colour and furnishings, personalising them to suit our residents' preferences and choice.

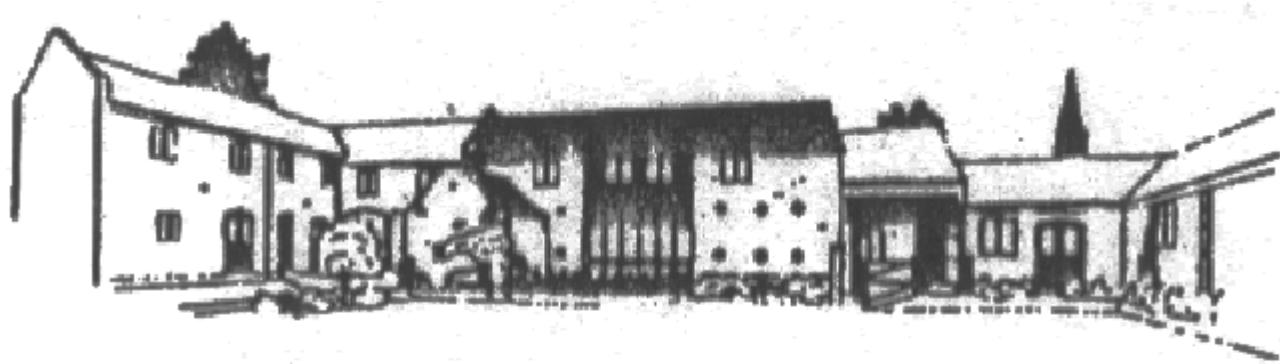
Please feel able to visit our home at any time – a warm welcome awaits you. We encourage families to also have an input into the plans the home may make. We hold family and friends of the home evenings.

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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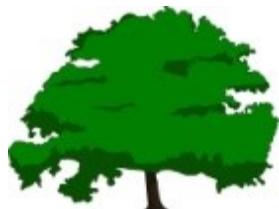
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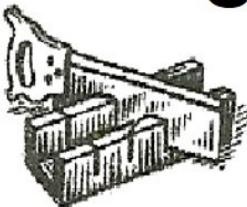
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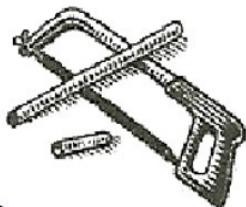
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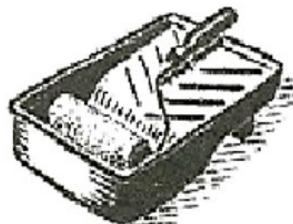
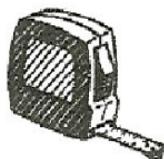
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