

Clarborough & Welham Newsletter

Spring 2013

*Produced and distributed by Clarborough & Welham IT Group
with generous support from Clarborough & Welham Parish Council*

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From the Editor

Welcome to our Spring issue which hopefully gives you a much warmer feeling than our heading image reflecting the weather outside as this issue comes together. This issue contains a lot, including some 'meaty' issues, as a quick glance down the contents to the left shows.

Two of these 'meaty' issues are The Big Society and the UK's relationship with Europe. David Cameron has had much to say on both, but here we have Geraldine Pearce's take on Big Society (page 15) and our MEP Bill Newton Dunn's thoughts on Europe (page 16). The contents of this Newsletter shows that whatever Whitehall may or may not achieve, we have a Big Society in our own 'back yard'.

Not only in our local community either. Whatever our individual opinions on the topic of wind farms, for instance, nothing stands still, least of all technology. Your editor was surprised by the revelations explored on page 14 that really require a fundamental re-assessment of some of the arguments around the topic. Then again, having read some of the rather lurid accounts circling around 'that' book – 50 Shades of Grey – who would have expected the review that appears on page 12?

Speaking of words – and letters, we now have firm proposals for a Post Office to return to Clarborough in the near future (page 3) and proposals to formulate a Village Plan (Letters, page 14). Hopefully these will be matters of fact before our Summer issue is hitting doormats, but to keep up-to-date on these and other local topics, you really need to regularly visit our community website which is updated very regularly. A recent example makes this point; when Smeath Lane was closed following flood damage back in November, that information and regular updates on the situation appeared on our website – usually within hours of information coming from local residents or Nottinghamshire County Council's Highways Department. A similar information flow was available regarding Anglian Water's work around St.Johns Drive area before Christmas which is rounded off by Peter Allett's letter on page 4.

Do remember that even if you don't have internet connection at home, all Nottinghamshire Libraries provide free online computer time – all you need is a Library Card and then book a computer at your local library. This is best done by 'phone.

So, to really keep up to date – or to get much more detail – visit our community website regularly - it has more than 100 pages:

www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

and you won't miss much! Our website is usually updated daily.



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It's all about that shoe – oh no it isn't!

Heads were turned on Wednesday 5th of December when three of the stars of Clarborough's Cinderella made guest appearances at the village Christmas Tree lighting and Christmas Fayre. Cinderella (Leanne McCorkell) and her step sister Kylie (Steve Banks) were chaperoned by Buttons (Daniel Pattenden) and spent the



evening mingling with the crowds who had come to meet Father Christmas and get into the Christmas spirit. Following the successes of the annual Village Festival and this years jubilee celebrations, 'Cinderella' is the Village Ventures first Pantomime; however what they lack in experience the group make up for in enthusiasm. The cast are all drawn from the local community, as are the backstage crew whose costumes, lighting, sound and scenery aim to ensure that the show will be a night to remember.

Tickets are now available for the show which runs from Thursday the 21st to Saturday the 23rd of February 2013; just the thing to brighten up a winters night. For tickets or more details contact Ann 07780 630 882 or the Kings Arms Clarborough (01777) 708 848.

Recent reviews of Cinderella by Ben Crocker:

'This show bounds along and by the end the crowd, like Cinderella, have had a ball.' *The Guardian*

'What a great show, a witty and fast paced script gives Cinderella something for all ages.' *Express and Echo*

'Bristling with lots of imaginative ideas, this is a bright, upbeat pantomime with a huge feel-good factor. Ben Crocker takes a new look at the old fairytale and comes up with a winner. It's good, traditional family fun with lots of laughs and a fast pace.' *Western Morning News*

'From the moment the Fairy Godmother arrived to welcome the audience, it was clear it was going to be a feast of fun for all ages.' *The Gazette*

The Cast, producers, behind the scene and front of

house staff would like to thank you all for supporting this new idea for our village. We hope you enjoy your experience and we look forward to welcoming you all again, next year, for our next production!!!! Oh yes we do!!!!

Also, see our community website (www.clarborough-welham.org.uk) and follow *Local Groups* ► *Clarborough Village Ventures* for more details.

Post Office returning to Clarborough

A hosted Outreach Post Office in Clarborough Village Hall took a giant step forward on 24th January when representatives of CDCA, managers of our village hall, our Parish Council and your editor met. A consultation process will soon be launched through which we would urge all residents to take the opportunity to give their positive support for this long-awaited development.

The plans envisages a full Post Office service (with the usual exception of road fund licences) on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** between **09:00 and 12:30**. The service will use the Halford Room.

It is anticipated that the service will begin around 8th March, 2013.

CDCA Village Hall Improvements

A new carpet has now been fitted in the Halford room and a new, larger, cooker and kitchen rearrangement with new extractor should improve facilities.

Bob Stockdale (CDCA Secretary)

Festive Lights, a Crowd pleaser...

The Annual Parish Council Tree lighting & Village Hall Christmas Fayre (5th December) proved a seasonal success. Our local Vicar, Revd Mark Cantrill entered into the festive spirit with a lively lights switch on.



Parish Council Chairman Phil Gibson threw the switch to light the tree while Clarborough Primary School pupils & teachers took the lead in a welcome carol singing session.

A bell ringing Father Christmas, put in an appearance, to

the delight of the Children & parents. He later handed out sweets to the youngsters.

The village hall was packed to capacity with stalls & visitors. Free mulled wine provided by the Parish Council & dispensed by Councillors Brian & Freda Robinson, proved a popular warming gesture (along with an orange drink for the children!)

A charity Tombola stall organized by Parish Council Vice chairman Ann Codling, with helpers Parish Councillor Barrie Codling ably assisted by members of Clarborough Youth Group, raised £101 for 'Help for Heroes'.

Barrie Codling (also photo)

Mobile Phone Security

Here we include a few of the tips from local police that might help you secure or retrieve your phone:

1. Record your **IMEI number** (International Mobile Equipment Identity) somewhere safe. To find out what yours is dial ***#06#** on your phone or look in the settings on your smartphone.
2. If you own a smartphone, activate the 'Find My Phone' app or install a free tracking app, such as PREY. These apps provide a GPS location of the device when it is switched on. You can log in from a computer if your phone goes missing and locate your device. The apps also allow you to instruct your phone to make a loud noise (to help you find it if it is lost) or to wipe the contents (if you believe it has fallen into the wrong hands). Activating the app could also help police track your phone if it is stolen.
3. Register your phone at property database **www.immobilise.com** for free. Registering your details makes it more likely that you will be reunited with your phone if it is stolen and later recovered by the police.

For much more on this whole mobile phone security topic, go to our community website's *ICT Site* ► *Security tips* page.

Editor

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Your editor had been impressed with the work carried out before Christmas by Balfour Beatty on behalf of Anglian Water to renew the water main in Clarborough. Peter Allett replied as follows:

Anglian Water has just completed a water mains replacement scheme in St Johns Drive and South View, Clarborough. 680 metres of 3" & 4" PVC and Galvanised Iron main has been replaced with 90mm and 63mm polyethylene pipe. A technique called slip lining was used, in which the new pipe was inserted inside the existing water main. This reduced the time we were on site and minimised the amount of excavation required keeping any disturbance to local residents to a minimum.

As part of this work we also renewed the service pipes to 105 properties and installed 70 new boundary boxes. The work went according to plan and I'd like to thank the residents of Clarborough for their patience and understanding while we were working in their village.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Allett

Project Manager

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Liz Yates, County Councillor



I know many people will remember the problems on Clarborough Hill back in 2010 and the kindness and generosity shown to stranded motorists by the village – hopefully the snow that is around as I write this in mid-January won't be as bad! The County Council is now progressing the Broadband Plan, it is hoped that most of the county will be on fibre optics by 2015, replacing the old copper wiring, making the broadband service infinitely faster. Your support with this has been invaluable, thank you.

Highways issues are progressing too, the proposed weight limit on Smeath Lane, a pedestrian crossing in the middle of Clarborough which has been requested and I hope is implemented, improvements to signage and an interactive sign on Little Gringley Lane and an interactive sign on the Smeath which is being provided by EDF Energy.

I have serious concerns about the long term viability of the canal bridge on the Smeath since the weather induced damage recently. Admittedly I am not an expert but I am making sure that highways officers inspect it regularly and report back – **see my page on our community website for more on this.**

I can be contacted **at any time on 01777 860 219** (answerphone when unavailable – **please leave your name and number and I will get back to you**) when I would be happy to talk to you, will arrange to meet you if necessary and have a chat about your issues

Clarborough & District W.I.

meet regularly on the 2nd Monday of each month at 19:30 in Clarborough Village Hall – all are welcome.

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Week beginning 4th March the school will be taking part in **The Readathon Challenge**. This is a sponsored reading event to not only encourage

children to read but also to help raise money for the following Children's Charities: CLIC Sargent (Children with Cancer), Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity (Children with serious neurological or blood conditions) and Readwell (Reading and storytelling for children seriously ill in hospital). The Scholastic Book Service will be in school all week to support this effort. Also on Thursday 7th March (World Book Day) all staff (and the odd Governor – can you tell who?) will be in dressed as a character from a Roald Dahl story and the children will be able to dress up as their favourite book character. Other activities will be arranged throughout the week. For more information about Readathon go to www.readathon.org.



[Above] Class 6 take a bow after their World War 2 Play.

On Friday 14th December Class 6 performed a play to Parents, Carers & special guests about children's experiences during World War 2.

The performance was the final part of their work last term about World War 2, which has included them building an Anderson Shelter, meeting WW2 evacuees, learning about why the war started, how it affected British families, rationing and all about the Blitz. A big "thank you" to Miss Fleming who helped produce the performance, assisted by Mrs Cowell-Clark and Mrs Brown. The play told the story of how children had to look after themselves during World War 2.

For more about the school, including the start of building work on the new extension and less good news about the proposed path from the Village Hall car park, go to the school's website at: <http://www.clarborough.notts.sch.uk>

School Holiday Dates

Half-term is week of 18-22 February and Easter 29th March to 12th April, 2013.

It's not just those of us with children of school age that need to keep tabs on holiday dates – avoiding holiday bookings in school holidays can save the rest of us quite a bit!

Nottinghamshire County Council have published school holiday patterns through to summer 2016 while Lincolnshire have 2013-14 published. For full details either visit the respective county website or visit your community website's Local Schools page for the links.

Editor

Bassetlaw Over 50s Forum

The Forum continues to address issues relevant to 'older people' and has a couple of Wednesday afternoon meetings planned which might be of interest:

20th February at The Crossing Worksop will host AgeUK explaining their services to Bassetlaw residents.

20th March at Bassetlaw Museum, Retford when Museum staff will reveal some of the surprises uncovered during recent development of their building.

All meetings are free (50p for refreshments)

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Community Website snippets

This Newsletter only runs to 16 pages and is quarterly, so we have to be very selective with our content. By contrast, our community website www.clarborough-welham.org.uk has more than 100 pages and is updated almost daily.

To whet your appetite, here we highlight just a few recent website additions - explore and discover (page links)!

- Ash Die-back disease – what is it and what can be done (**Out & About**).
- Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group wants your opinions on their planned service provision 2013-14 (**Health & Welfare ► Have your say**)
- Carers emergency card scheme (Health & Welfare > Carers' Support)
- Blue bin issues (**Representative Links ► Bassetlaw District Council**).
- Local employment (**Job Opportunities**).
- Local courses including North Notts College and Retford Post-16 Centre (**Out & About ► Local Courses**).
- **Representative Links** page has links to your District and County Councillors, MP (John Mann) and MEP (Bill Newton Dunn) so you can contact them all.

With so much more, you need to visit our website.

Editor

Parish Council Pointers

***The voice of Clarborough & Welham Parish Council
'Your local Council working for our community'.***

■ Christmas round up

Congratulations to our Christmas event team, led by Vice Chairman Ann Codling, for arranging a successful Christmas Tree Lighting & Christmas Fayre. Chairman Phil Gibson collected & installed the Christmas tree, along with helpers Chris & Robert. The tree was kindly donated by Edith Jackson. We are grateful to all Councillors & villagers involved. Welham Christmas Lights problems were solved by villagers Mick & Richard Kaye, who in co-operation with Cllr Brian Robinson, arranged a power source and installed the lights.

■ Well done W.I...

Our local W.I ensured that Pensioners from Clarborough, Welham & Hayton, enjoyed a well attended Christmas Party, held in the Village hall. Food, presents Santa & a performance by the Lena Snowden singers, made for an enjoyable event.

■ Skate Park

New additions to Clarborough Skate Park includes a smart metal Notice board & a Picnic bench, supplied by Notts County council. Noise problems encountered by two residents are to be monitored over the course of a year.

■ Council precept

Whilst everything around us is going up in price, your Parish Council is holding its share of the District council precept steady. There may even be a small reduction. Watch this space.

■ Come along to the meetings

We like to see local residents at our Parish Council meetings. Everyone is given a chance to speak, and sessions are informal. If you've a subject to bring up, we always listen...

- **Parish Council Minutes and Agendas are published on our community website – follow Parish Council ► Meeting dates & Agendas or Parish Council ► Parish Council Minutes.** You will also find Councillor contact details and an array of other useful, local, information there.

Parish Council Meetings (Spring 2013)

4th March, 2013

Further meetings will be scheduled at the March meeting.

Meetings open 19:00 in Clarborough Village Hall

Agendas are always posted at least a week in advance on our community website as are approved Minutes

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Nottinghamshire Commissioner's first Police and Crime Plan

Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping's proposed five-year Police and Crime Plan for Nottinghamshire was set to be put before members of the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration on Tuesday 15th January. The plan is one of the fundamental elements of the Commissioner's role. Its content – and the resources required to deliver it – is closely linked to the budget for 2013-14 and the amount of council tax paid towards policing by local people. Proposals for the precept and budget will go to the Police and Crime Panel for approval on 6 February. Mr Tipping said: "The budget is obviously a key element of my Police and Crime Plan as I have to be able to pay for what want to do. I have discussed my proposals with Chief Constable Chris Eyre and other partners and I'm confident that I can meet the pledges I made when I was elected."

Those pledges – reflected in the plan – are:

- Campaign against Government funding cuts to Nottinghamshire's Police budget.
- Improve Community Policing across Nottinghamshire by taking on 150 extra Police Officers and 100 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
- Reduce antisocial behaviour by 50%.
- Give extra priority and resources to domestic violence and crimes against girls and women.
- Ensure that the victims of crime are treated as people, not cases, and will properly fund victim support.
- Be fair, honest and protect tax-payers' money.

Mr Tipping added: "My aim is to reduce crime and the number of victims in our county - and an important role of our communities is to tell me what they think. I want to give victims and citizens a bigger voice in policing to achieve a safer Nottinghamshire - this is one of the key workstreams for my Deputy Chris Cutland, who has worked with me closely during the development of the plan." Read more about the plan on the Commissioner's website at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

PCSO Dave Airey's local indicators

If you believe the tabloid press, our society suffers from a rash of lawlessness and anti-social behaviour. Either our area is atypical – or the national press has got an 'only bad news is good news' issue. Dave's full, monthly, reports can be read in full on our community website (follow the links **Law & Order ► Police Reports**) where you will also find East Bassetlaw's Neighbourhood Policing monthly **Crimebeat** articles.

Here Dave points up a few key observations:

- Crime in the local area remains extremely low.
- Vigilance of local residents is a key factor in this – report anything suspicious!
- Anti-social behaviour incidents have reduced by some 42% in 2012 compared with 2011 (68 reports vs 118).
- Residents' phone calls do yield results – read Dave's article for an example on 29th December.

Finally, get 'in-the-loop' by enrolling with your local **Neighbourhood Alert** for e-mail notices of local crime and incidents. See our community website for details.

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The Mighty Delta XH558 (part 2)

Firstly, an announcement just received from Vulcan To The Sky Trust: *The surprisingly successful fund-raising campaign over the last three months of 2012 reached nearly 95% of its £400,000 target; we are proceeding to take XH558 back to flight for what I expect will be another hugely successful season. The fund-raising will of course continue. We will be embarking on a new round at the beginning of February, based initially on a new raffle with a fabulous set of prizes.*

Many of you will have noted how the press and other media are portraying 2013 as the last display season for XH558. This is a distortion of what we announced in 2012 - we actually said that we are planning for 2013 to be the last season, because we still don't have any certainty that we can continue flying after this year, and it is only prudent to plan for the possibility we have to stop. However, with the unanimous agreement of the Board of Trustees, I want to let you all know that it is the absolute determination of the Trust to keep XH558 flying for as long as possible, subject to safety and available finances. The research into the technical requirements to fly on for 2014 is continuing.

And so, back to XH558's story begun in our last issue.



Two aircraft were to be kept in service for public displays: Vulcan XL426 continued with the Vulcan Display Team, and XH560 was initially chosen as the back up aircraft until it was found that XH558 had more

flying hours remaining, and was rescued from the dump! XL426 gave her last display in June 1986 and was then replaced by XH558, which had made her air display debut just a couple of weeks earlier at RAF Mildenhall on 24th May 1986.

XH558 remained with the now renamed Vulcan Display Flight as the sole airworthy example of her type, before performing her final display in RAF hands at Cranfield's Dreamflight show on 20th September 1992. Despite a lengthy and high profile public campaign, the MoD could not justify the expense of the required major service and airframe fatigue modification due. In February 1993 the MoD invited tenders for the sale of XH558 with a view to her imminent disposal, and with her subsequent sale to C. Walton Ltd the last Vulcan finally left the RAF. XH558 was thus the first B Mk.2 to enter service, and the last to leave, after a career of 33 years.

Some 19 years later XH558 is once again based at Finningley (now Robin Hood Airport), still flying and performing at air shows all around the UK. This is not without cost though, and the whole project is kept alive only through public donations to the VTTS Trust and the efforts of the Vulcan To The Sky Club.

The Club was originally launched in 1997 as the Vulcan 558 Club to help with the conservation of XH558 at Bruntingthorpe in Leicestershire. It forms the primary channel for public support of the Vulcan To The Sky Trust and is a key funding source for XH558's flying activities and related education programme, helping the Trust deliver on its goals of both inspiring and educating in the fields of Cold War history and British engineering excellence. Membership of the Club now stands at over 8,000 and continues to grow as both aviation enthusiasts and the general public alike join to express the importance of keeping XH558 flying.

If you would like to find out more about how you can join the Club and help keep XH558 in the skies where she belongs, visit us via any of the access points below:

- At the Club stand at air shows and events
- Online at www.vulcantothesky.org
- Write to: Vulcan To The Sky Club PO BOX 7717, Derby. DE1 0RN
- Contact Lee Broadbent direct at lee.broadbent@vulcantotheskyclub.co.uk

Action Fraud now live in Nottinghamshire

Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre, will act as a central point of contact for all information about fraud and financially-motivated internet crime. To contact Action Fraud, call them on 0300 123 2040 or visit their website at www.actionfraud.police.uk or see your community website *Law & Order* ► *Action Fraud*.



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The Snow Code

- ★ don't make the footways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing footways because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember -- people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves.
- ★ clear the snow or ice early in the day -- it's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.
- ★ use salt or sand -- not water! If you use water to melt the snow, it will refreeze and turn to black ice. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt -- a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.
- ★ use your own salt for your own driveway and only use the salt from council grit bins for public footways and roads so that together we have enough to go around.
- ★ when you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains.
- ★ offer to clear your neighbours' paths. If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, contact your local council.

For further information please contact Ian Wheeler, senior media officer, on 0115 977 3757 or email ian.wheeler@nottscc.gov.uk

Bassetlaw Food Bank

What is it? A food bank is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger.



Bassetlaw's Food Bank has recently 'gone live' and has already made some impact in the pre-Christmas period.

We now have a focal point for Bassetlaw Food Bank in Retford - at **The Well**.

A few more bits of information about Bassetlaw Food Bank are to be found on pages 14 and 16.

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Clarborough & Welham IT Group

The IT Group's next block of 5 weekly classes begins w/c 25th February. We are fully booked for our Tuesday afternoon *Absolute Beginners* classes but have a few spaces in our Wednesday morning *Beyond Beginners* sessions (both cost just £10 for 5-weeks).

Recent topics addressed have included digital image editing, image restoration, spreadsheets for beginners and a brief look at e-publishing but we are keen to look at new topics as requested by class-members.

To book your place phone Greg on (01777) 700 918.

RBM Agricultural

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Sport England - Small Grant Scheme

The Sport England Small Grants Scheme has £300 to £10,000 available for voluntary and community groups to help young people (14+) to get more involved in sport.

**To find out more, go to our community website
Sport ► Grants & Awards.**

Clarborough Village Ventures AGM

19:00 on 27th February in the Village Hall.

New CRB checking body launched

The Disclosure and Barring Service, a new organisation formed from the merger of the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority, was launched on 1st December, 2012. The Home Office has stated that the new Disclosure and Barring Service will make it clearer and simpler for those requiring criminal records disclosures (CRB) and barring checks for employment purposes.

The Disclosure Barring Service will oversee a number of government reforms including the introduction of portable CRB checks, which will eliminate the need for multiple checking, and an online update service, which will make it easier for employers to assess individuals. Volunteering England and a group of charities have called on the government to confirm whether the online system will be free for volunteers. The group has written to the Home Secretary, Theresa May MP arguing that by charging volunteers to use the new online service runs counter to efforts to make the system less of a barrier to people wanting to give their time.

Other upcoming changes to the current system of CRB checking and barring include introducing a single criminal records certificate, which will be sent only to the applicant, an independent right of review to allow individuals to challenge information disclosed about them before it is given to their employer, and reducing the number of positions requiring barring checks from 9.3 million to around 5 million. Portable CRB checks are due to be launched in Spring 2013.

For more on this visit www.homeoffice.gov.uk/dbs

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Jordan Ashe
(opposite) was a

Clarborough award winner at a festive Retford Oaks Presentation Evening at the Majestic Theatre, Retford, in mid-December. Prizes were given by two VIP guests - the retired Nottingham Judge, Tony Mitchell and Tom Newby, a former Retford Oaks student who went on to Oxford University and now works for Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Jordan received his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and is now pursuing a Sports Science course at North Nottinghamshire College with the aim of becoming a personal trainer.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has 4 sections:

- Volunteering in the community
- Physical recreation
- Skills
- Expedition

Jordan was one of 5 students who completed their Silver Award during which they have showed motivation, determination and commitment, due to the final expedition having to be cancelled in July and returning in September even though they left school this Summer.

The evening celebrated the achievements of all Retford Oaks students and Jasmin Willows, also of Clarborough, was amongst the outstanding nominations for the Academy's Governor's Award.

Retford Oaks is the first secondary school in the region to offer free breakfasts to their Free School Meal students. Bacon, sausages, toast, waffles and porridge are on offer at breakfast time. All staff and students can enjoy breakfast in the dining hall before school starts, but the Academy is proud of their cutting edge work in reaching out to all students..At Retford Oaks, any FSM student who has a free lunch is now offered a free breakfast too. Watch this space for more innovation by Retford Oaks in encouraging their students to eat healthily.

Zoe Scott (for Retford Oaks Academy)



**Kath Sutton,
Bassetlaw
District
Councillor**



Wasn't Christmas wonderful in Clarborough and Welham? The Parish Senior Citizens Party, organised by the W.I. was extra special and really well attended. Likewise the Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall was so festive with brighter Christmas lights, children singing, mulled wine, busy stalls – lovely! Other events I was able to



attend included the carols at the Kings Arms where the Rev. Mark Cantrill was an absolute treasure and roused us to amazing performances. Add to all that, the wonderful new lights in Welham for which special thanks go to the Kays and The Gate and Kings Arms' New Years Eve celebrations; we villagers were well served.

Understandable concerns over the Smeath Lane bridge are with County Cllr. Liz Yates who has it in hand with the County Council. There has also been the odd complaint about poor behaviour near the skate board park which is being dealt with. I feel it is not our local young people but visitors. We are very grateful to our youngsters, who are most helpful and anxious that it is used wisely. May I ask that all of us remain vigilant and if there is any trouble to collect as much evidence as possible so that the relevant authorities can be informed. Recently I attended the Bassetlaw Rural Conference where members discussed the very major challenges facing rural communities. I am also a member of a working group which is aiming to improve the links between District and Parish Councils, so benefiting us all. Let's hope that both these groups manage to accomplish something worthwhile and meaningful.

May I remind you that if I can help with any concern you may have I am available on : (01777) 709 034

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Fifty Shades...

E.L.Jame's novels *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Fifty Shades Darker* and *Fifty Shades Freed* have not only topped the best sellers' lists; in December 2012 *Fifty Shades of Grey* won both "Popular Fiction" and "Book of the Year" categories in the UK National Book Awards. So what's all the fuss about?

It seems to me that much of the furore reflects our own society's discomfort with either (or both) feminism in its widest sense and the erotic. There is, however, another level to these novels, possibly best summarised by my view that they ought to be required reading for anyone training to enter the caring professions. Let me explain. Having worked for 30+ years as a Nurse both in hospital and the community, and 6 years as a Health Visitor I have regrettably come across quite a few cases involving many forms of abuse both to adults and children.

Without giving too much of the story away, the basis of the book reflects on the long term effects that emotional, physical and sexual abuse can have on a person. Whilst perhaps the book may have exaggerated the way in which the character copes with the aftermath of abuse, what he experienced may not, unfortunately, be too far from the mark.

That said, the book is not all 'doom and gloom' and carries the reader on following the main characters journey in coping with and conquering these terrible deeds with both humour as well as at times sadness with the support of close family and friends.

I read the books in 'Kindle' format but was so taken with the story that I've asked my husband to buy me the books for my birthday.

Chris Herdman

Clarborough & District Community Association (CDCA)

CDCA are managers of our village hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for **19:30 on Tuesday 5th February** in our Village Hall. All are welcome.

Want your car nicked?

If not, don't leave it 'idling' on your drive or outside your house just 'warming up' these cold mornings – a surprising number of thieves are simply getting into these unattended vehicles – and driving off! You might also have some difficulty convincing your insurers that you took 'reasonable care', so don't do it!

Retford Library Family History Group

The Group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 17:00-19:00.

Further events at Retford Library include:

Thurs 31st January, Thurs 14th February & Thurs 21st March, 09:30 – 13:00 (drop-in) Family/Local History Drop-in Surgeries

A Local Studies Librarian will be on hand to discuss your family and local history research and offer advice about library resources.

Cost: free. No booking required.

**Weds 27th February, 19:00 at Retford Library
"Segelocum...grains of history"**

The modesty of the small hamlet of Littleborough belies its grander Roman past when it was the eminent town of Segelocum. Community Archaeologists who draw upon research and archaeological work in this area to give us a fascinating glimpse of Roman life – they will also be bringing finds from the area including Roman sherds of pottery.

Cost: 50p for refreshments. Early booking essential.

**Weds 27th March 2013, 14:00-15:00
"The History, Stories, and Scenery of the Chesterfield Canal"**

Come along and hear more about this important aspect of the area's history, and experience a virtual tour of the canal from Ranby, running through Retford, to West Stockwith.

Cost: 50p for refreshments. Early booking essential. To book events, call the library on (01777) 708 724 or email retford.library@nottscc.gov.uk



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Wind Farms – the final frontier?

It seems that the debate about renewable energy – and wind farms in particular – is sure to generate more heat than light (maybe an inappropriate metaphor!) but things are changing fast on the technology front, so maybe it is time to take stock.

As far as wind farms are concerned, debates about the aesthetics are personal ones and outside this article. Technology, on the other hand, is rapidly demolishing one argument used to 'rubbish' investment in renewable energy – that of storage and reliability.

No one would disagree that wind and solar (among others) are extremely variable sources of energy – lots at times and then none at all. Wind power could, single handedly take care of the entire world's energy demands according to research published in 2012 at Stanford University in California. The major problem has been how to store it all.

In the UK, pumped storage as it is known, in which cheap off-peak energy is used to pump water to a high elevation reservoir to be released through turbines at peak times, has been used at Dinorwig in Wales for decades. What if the same principles could be used anywhere – not just where a suitable mountain existed? That is exactly what is now being developed – based on liquid air.

On a patch of land not much bigger than a basketball court in Slough UK, a liquid air pilot storage plant has been quietly generating electricity using the excess energy from a neighbouring biomass plant. 'This could save the UK billions' says Tim Fox, head of energy and environment at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in London.

Add to all of that, the plant uses well established technology that has been around for decades. The downside? Efficiency. At present the pilot plant is woefully inefficient, but engineers are confident that when scaled-up commercially, and with a couple of further 'tweaks' currently being tested, they can produce a system that is commercially competitive and can be installed almost anywhere. Watch this space!

Based on a New Scientist article (5 Jan 2013)

Universal date calculator

Ever wondered which day corresponds to a particular date? Possibly want to know what day you were born on ('Monday's child is...' etc) or which day saw that particular historic event occur? The following website: www.calendarhome.com might answer your questions.

From the homepage choose **Date Calculator** from the top of the page and insert your chosen date under **Day Calculator** on the left; simple as that!

Examples: Britain declared war on Germany on **Tuesday**, 4th August, 1914 and on **Sunday** 3rd September, 1939.

Which day of the week were you born on?



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Letters to the Editor

Travelling thro' Welham in December you must have noticed that we did, after all the previous problems, have a rather splendid display of Christmas Tree Lights. This was only made possible by two very willing volunteer residents , Mr Mick Kay and Mr Richard Kay. Mick approached Richard about the electricity supply problem who then immediately gave permission for the free use of his junction box in the field and also the power used. With this problem solved Mick diligently searched the internet and on our behalf bought strings of 400 'Pea' Lights (at very low cost and well within the budget). On receiving these and at the appropriate time he enlisted the help of a friend , who 'happened' to have a tractor, they decorated the tree, connected up to Richard's supply and we were 'in business'. On behalf of the Parish Council and Welham residents therefore we are indebted to these gentlemen for their help, cooperation and generosity in 'Lighting Up' our village at Christmas.

Councillor Brian Robinson

Developing a Village Plan

In the last Newsletter I suggested a village meeting to discuss the issue of a Village Plan for planning purposes. With the onset of Christmas etc and the difficulty of informing all villagers of the date and venue of such a meeting I put the issue on hold until this Newsletter.

The meeting will start at **19:00 on 7th March** in The Kings Arms. There will be a representative of Bassetlaw District Council Planning Department to outline the possibilities.

I look forward to seeing as many as are interested in the proposal. It would be useful if anyone interested in the meeting would let me know by e-mail.

Paul Willcock
paul@paulwillcock.com

Bassetlaw Food Bank What's needed?

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The Big Society is dead....long live the Big Society

Does your group, charity, business need a volunteer; are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Geraldine



Pearce (above, with her team), Director at Bassetlaw Community & Volunteer Service (BCVS) offers a few 'thoughts-for-2013'.

As I start the this first full week of 2013, the voluntary sector press is filled with the news headline that the Big Society is "effectively dead".

I have no doubt this news refers to the Government concept of Big Society, which many would feel has not been effectively resourced, delivered or communicated to effect real change in communities.

But is the Big Society in Clarborough, Welham, Retford or Bassetlaw, really dead?

I doubt it is. The benefits of connecting with the people around you, at home, at work and in your local community have not gone away, or been abolished. Volunteering in all its forms, enriches our lives and the life of our community - a Big Society that is not about a Whitehall initiative.

At BCVS we hold lots of information about groups looking for members, and associations, charities and social enterprises, looking for volunteers. Please contact Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service on 01909 476118 and ask for Steve or Lesley if you want to volunteer, or hear more about opportunities. Our website is www.bcv.org.uk or the national volunteering website is www.do-it.org.uk. We will be happy to meet with you at our Retford base in the Town Hall, or in your village, whatever is most convenient.

So my prediction for 2013, in line with all national commentators, is that groups and charities across Bassetlaw, will continue to struggle with the challenge of funding during the year. As in 2012, charitable income and reserves will continue to diminish. However, the voluntary sector in Bassetlaw will continue its work to innovate, challenge, support, and act as change agents, in shaping the future agendas of communities, as well as

their social values. Have a Happy New Year and please contact BCVS if we can help you with any aspect of your development in 2013.

Geraldine Pearce, Director, BCVS

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The European dimension

"Europe" seems to be like "the Irish question" which dogged British national politics for well over a hundred years, which ended many political careers, and which arguably only ended in 1998 (but still lingers about flags in Belfast even now).

All three major UK political parties are in favour of us staying in the EU. The UK has an incredibly favourable situation in the EU - being already exempted from the Euro, from the Schengen arrangements for open borders, from the the charter of fundamental rights; is self-marginalised from European defence and from European diplomacy arrangements, and from the future European banking union, and threatening to withdraw from police and justice cooperation. If David Cameron's much delayed speech on 'Europe' is weak, it could threaten the financial markets' view of the UK's dire financial position and lead to a run against sterling. Philosophically, the current discussion is about "states' rights", much as has been continuing in north America for two hundred years - how much power shall the centre have, and how much power shall the individual states have. Now the argument is raging in the UK - with influential voices like Obama and Branson advising strongly that it would be very stupid indeed for the UK to leave the EU.

Croatia will be - probably - the 28th member of the EU. Croatia is expected to join the EU on 1st July 2013. But the treaty to ratify its accession still has not been ratified by its former Yugoslavia neighbour Slovenia. And that has not been done because there are lingering disputes about the precise border between them. Now an investigation has revealed that almost all the party leaders in Slovenia are corrupt and the Prime Minister has resigned.

The Irish government has taken over (from Cyprus) chairing the ministerial meetings of the other chamber, the Council of Ministers, from January until June. The Irish prime minister made a very good impression in his speech in the parliament.

This month, the new **EU Cyber-Crime centre** has opened in The Hague. It is another example of how joint spending through the EU budget saves taxpayers' money instead of the 27 member states trying to do the same work separately. Meanwhile, a lot of work continues to create the **Banking union**, and reforming the **Agricultural policy** - about which more news as the year unfolds.

Bill Newton Dunn MEP

The Sir Stuart & Lady Florence Goodwin Charity

Grants are available to rural residents aged 60+ for specific needs. Full details on our community website, go to **Your Money ► Getting help**.

Bassetlaw Museum

On Saturday 9th February, the Council Chamber Room at Retford Town Hall will be open to the public. Bassetlaw Museum is in partnership with the Public Catalogue Foundation and is providing everyone with the opportunity to look at the publicly owned artwork at the Town Hall. This consists of imposing portraits of Royalty, Mayors and dignitaries which are life size pictures and demonstrate how art was used for propaganda, long before the days of spin doctors and image consultants. Over the last few years the PCF has been compiling a comprehensive illustrated catalogue of publicly owned collections which is not publicly accessible. This could be as buildings are closed or that there are insufficient funds or space to show them. The PCF has been photographing these paintings and collating information about each one. In doing this it has been working closely with collections up and down the country. For instance they have catalogued all of paintings which are at the museum.

On the day, as well as viewing the art, visitors will have the opportunity to draw the portraits of Retford's Mayor and the Chairman of the Council. Local artist Ruth Templeton will be on hand to help and give handy tips. The event will begin at 10am and finish at 2pm.

Bassetlaw Food Bank Making Donations



Any donations of food items or basic essentials can be taken to **The Well, Retford Baptist Church on Hospital Road**.

Financial donations would also be most welcome and should be sent, with a covering note to say it is for Bassetlaw Food Bank, to:

Hope Services, Queen Street, Worksop S80 2AN

Please continue to support this vital work.

2013 Newsletter deadlines

April 15th (Summer 2013 issue)
22nd July (Autumn 2013 issue)

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