

Clarborough & Welham Newsletter

Summer 2012

www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

*Produced and distributed by Clarborough & Welham IT Group
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In this issue:

Clarborough Jubilee events
Clarborough Festival 2012
HM Treasury statement on
financial services sector
Hayton Jubilee plans
Out-and-about events
Idle Valley 'Wildlife Gardening
Festival'
Dementia Awareness Week
Clarborough Pantomime
Jubilee crossword
Clarborough Speed sign out of
order latest
Foreign Nationals Voting rights
First Responders Coffee
Afternoon
Local W.I. News
Clarborough & District
Community Association Meeting
Jubilees past and present,
memorabilia & momento
County Youth Bus
Bluebell Wood Hospice fund
raising: Anna Sewell

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From the Editor

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee has, not surprisingly, made your editor's task even more challenging than usual. With so much going on, the pressure on space means that a considerable amount of useful information has had to stay in my in-tray or has had to be abbreviated to fit the space available.

We are lucky, however, in that our sister 'publication', our community website, suffers no such lack of space. Several articles appearing in edited form within these pages are posted in full on our website as you will see from the references within these pages. This also allows internet references (hyperlinks) within full articles, such as MEP Bill Newton Dunn's on page 15, to direct readers effortlessly to supporting material.

A whole raft of information is posted on our website that finds no space in this Newsletter; because it changes almost daily, arrives between our quarterly Newsletters or is something that needs to remain on view over a long period – such as our local history materials. I have included (page 4) a summary of our website's current content to give a broad idea of its content.

It has been said that a website is all-well-and-good but that a significant number of people do not have internet access. This position, however, is no longer what it was; national surveys show that internet access is now much more common than, for instance, readers of local newspapers and your own IT Group experience is that the vast majority of class members are 'silver surfers'. The reality is that aside from local free publications such as this Newsletter that reach all of the local population, the internet is now, along with national television, the most important source of information. Your Newsletter and website are THE most important sources of local information! If your group or organisation wants space on our website, or you want to write an article for publication in these pages, do get in touch.

One final Newsletter matter, that of distribution. Our dedicated team of volunteer distributors are always in need of some extra support. If you like to get a bit of exercise delivering some of these Newsletters around your local 'patch', please get in touch with Greg. Our next issue should be out in early September.

If you want to know the very latest news, advice or opportunities that affect your community, then keep a regular eye on:

www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

and you won't miss much!

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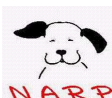
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Third Annual Clarborough Village Festival and Ceilidh

Festival : Sunday, 27th May from 10:00

Ceilidh : Saturday, 26th May, from 19:00

Planning is well under way for this year's Festival and Ceilidh, held in and around Clarborough Village Hall. We have lots of things to see and do, both inside and out, including:

- Vintage Tractor road run and display
- Vintage vehicle displays
- Bouncy Castle
- Wetlands Wildlife Reserve
- Games and competitions for children
- Clarborough Theatre Arts
- Dog Show
- Barbecue
- Beer Tent
- Stalls inside and outside
- Ice cream and refreshment
- Grand prize draw (1st prize £100)

Entry is free so come along and support your village

**We are also holding our Annual Ceilidh on
Saturday, 26th May at 19:00.**

Back by popular demand is that toe tapping, get up and go ceilidh band PINCH 'O' SNUFF.

Tickets are only £7.50 this year which includes our famous pie and peas supper, but numbers are strictly limited. Drinks are on a 'bring your own' basis.

All proceeds raised are donated to local causes. Last year this included £1000 to First Responders in our village.

**Full events details are posted on our
community website.**

For any more information, to buy Ceilidh tickets, or book a stall, please phone:

(01777) 705 877, (01777) 705 616 or (01777) 710 780

We'll see you there!!!!

Sara Hardy
Clarborough Village Ventures

**Parish Council Meetings (Summer 2012)
May 14 (first of new Council)**

Agendas are always posted at least a week in advance on our community website.

Meetings start at 19:00 in the Village Hall.

Clarborough Jubilee Celebrations

Clarborough Village Ventures (C.V.V.), in conjunction with your Parish Council and other local groups have already circulated outline plans for a Village Picnic (bring your own grub) event centred on the Village Hall on **Monday, 4th June, 2012**.



Starting with raising of the union flag by 1st Clarborough & District Scout Group at 14:00 things will really take off with a range of activities to keep everyone on-the-go. The aim is to get everyone involved – costs will be kept to a minimum with support from C.V.V. and Parish Council. And just to add a silly note – it is hoped as many folks (all ages) enter our Kings & Queens fancy dress and/or our attempt to crack the Guinness Book of Records with an 'everyone-get-involved' giant conga!

An evening free disco with barbecue goodies 'at cost' will, weather permitting, lead to lighting of the Howbeck beacon at 22:00.

Full details are on our community website in **Local Group > Clarboro' Village Ventures**.

WRVS Home Library Service

Are you housebound and unable to visit the library to borrow books but still enjoy reading? Do you know someone who enjoys books and reading but is unable to leave their home easily to visit the library?

In partnership with Nottinghamshire Library Service, WRVS deliver a Home Library Service, whereby books and audio tapes are delivered to individuals in their own home by WRVS volunteers. The service is free, and is available for anyone of any age who is unable to leave their home to visit a library, and who does not have anyone to choose and borrow books for them.

We have an experienced group of volunteers working across the county who are keen to increase the number of housebound readers they visit. If you would like to receive the Home Library Service, or know someone else who might, please contact **Leela Spowart**, Coordinator of Nottinghamshire Home Library Service:

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or email bassetlaw@wrvs.org.uk

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Your Community Website

Have you checked your community website lately? If not, you may be missing a whole raft of important information. The site has been designed as a one-stop-shop for a vast range of providers. The following is just a snapshot of its content:

- Breaking news
- Local employment opportunities
- Out-and-about: events, courses, nights-out, etc
- Energy news, savings, national schemes, etc.
- Local groups links including meetings dates.
- Volunteering – links and 'how-to'.
- The Queen's Jubilee – local plans plus links to official website and Royal Family website.
- Local History including local courses, facts, figures and much more.
- Local Schools: contacts & website links including Notts C.C. plus Clarborough School history and extracts from its Log Books.
- Newsletter: includes copies of previous issues.
- Parish Council including contact details, agendas and minutes of meetings.
- Representative links gives you direct access to your District & County Councillors, MP and Member of the European Parliament (MEP) plus some interesting insights into citizenship issues.
- Law & Order links you to County and National police, provides latest news from the Home Office and advice on a range of security issues. Important Neighbourhood Alerts are also posted here plus Crimestoppers contact.
- Motoring (including bikers) section includes security advice, scams warnings, etc.
- Health & Welfare provides important links to GPs, as well as a vast array of services available locally as well as health advice. This section provides a front-line link to the rapidly changing NHS scene; a must read!
- Sport section includes important Olympic-year opportunities and links for potential volunteers.
- IT Links is the place to go for latest advice and links regarding computer/online security.

So, for everything from *what's happening around here for the jubilee* to *what are local school holidays for 2013* you need to visit your website. Set yourself a routine; visit your site at least once a week:

www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

Clarborough Primary School



Bluebell Wood Fund Raising

When Clarborough Primary School had to say farewell to Headteacher Mrs Anna Sewell, they wanted to give her something to remember them by. At Anna's request, rather than give her something, she asked for something for others – her favourite charity, Bluebell Wood Hospice. The local community's response was overwhelming – the school raised £1091.39. Anna's response when told of this was:

I would like to thank everyone for the amazing gift that you have collected for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice to mark my retirement. I am touched by your generosity as Bluebell Wood is a charity that is very close to my heart. This seems to be a good time to say how much I have loved my time working at Clarborough Primary School. It is always a privilege to work with children and their families, but for me, the children at Clarborough are extra special. I always looked forward to coming to work and seeing the progress they made each day.

I am now settling into my retirement and I am enjoying watching my beautiful, three week old, granddaughter learning new things each day. So not too much time for me to put my feet up and watch daytime TV!

I wish all the children, families, staff and friends of the school well. I am confident that under Mr. Bunn's leadership the school will go from strength to strength in the future.

With thanks and best wishes,

Mrs. Anna Sewell

Clarborough & District W.I.



The last 12 months have really been a busy year for the W.I. Our new year started with the Resolution Meeting in May 2011. In June we celebrated our Golden Jubilee, when the Chairman of Nottinghamshire Federation W.I., Mrs Maureen Ashby, joined several founder members at our party catering by Richard from The Brewer's Arms, Clayworth. Entertainment was *Moonlight and Rosie*.

In July 2011 we hosted members from Hook W.I. (East Yorkshire) with whom we are now twinned; we are making plans for a return visit in July 2012. During Hook's visit we hired a Kurling set (for use on solid floors – not ice!) from County House. Members and visitors enjoyed the game so much that Clarborough W.I. have bought their own set with help from County Councillor Liz Yates. The group also enjoyed an outing to Derbyshire in August 2011 and Christmas shopping in November.

Also in November we catered for the British Legion's Veterans' Tea Party followed in December by the local community Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. This was soon followed by co-operation with our Parish Council at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Fayre.

The W.I.'s monthly meetings have been very varied, from First Aid to Flower Arranging, making handbags from old jeans and husband's old ties to name just a few!

New members are always most welcome; we meet on the second Monday of the month in Clarborough Village Hall at 19:00 for 19:30 start.

For more information please contact:

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Royal Jubilees

For someone to remain 'Head of State' with all that that entails for over half a century is remarkable in itself, to do that for 60 years is truly exceptional – hence the forthcoming celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

Princess Elizabeth received the news of her father's death on Wednesday 2nd February, 1952 while on an official visit to Kenya. Since the British constitutional monarchy presumes a continuity of monarch, Elizabeth effectively became monarch at the instant of George VI's death. It would take more than a year, however, for her coronation to be arranged, taking place on 2nd June, 1953. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will mark another landmark in British history since few monarchs have achieved their jubilee; there are few records of how, if at all, Henry III, Edward III and James VI and I celebrated their 50-year milestones. The first British monarch to mark 50 years on the throne in a significant way was George III, followed by Queen Victoria. The Queen had Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977 (25yrs), Golden Jubilee in 2002 (50yrs). To date, Queen Victoria's reign of 63yrs 7months is the longest in British history. This Newsletter has insufficient space to even start to explore aspects of the monarchy and jubilees – anyone interested in the topics should explore the links provided in the **Jubilee** section of our community website www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

A Clarborough & Welham momento?

Plans are well under way for local celebrations during Jubilee weekend – see elsewhere in this issue – but it has been suggested that a lasting momento of the event, and of earlier jubilees, might be to produced a CD or DVD of images relating to not only the forthcoming jubilee, but also local celebrations from the past. Your editor has recently received a couple of examples of such materials as shown here with further images of the cup and saucer and views of contents of the Silver Jubilee programme are available via the Jubilee section of our community website. If other readers have memorabilia or photos relating to celebrations of past jubilees in our community and are willing to share them as part of such a community project, please get in touch with the editor. Full credit of sources will be incorporated in the final compilation, a copy of which would be offered to both Retford Library and Bassetlaw Museum.



[Above] Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee cup and saucer.

Photo by permission of Freda and Brian Robinson, Welham.



[Above] Programme frontpiece for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Photo by permission of Sid Bradshaw, Clarborough

Patriotism is a lively sense of collective responsibility, Nationalism is a silly cock crowing on its own dunghill.

Richard Aldington (1892-1962)

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From your County Councillor

Some time ago your editor asked me if I could write an article about the Localism Bill. At the time I felt that I was not sufficiently up to speed to do this and the editor did an article himself. Although there is still a lot about the Bill that I have yet to fully understand, here are some of the changes that are in progress.

Firstly, the County Council are changing from the current Cabinet system back to a Committee system of governance which mean that all elected members will take part in the decision making of the Council. The existing Scrutiny system will go and any future reviews will be done by working groups. I was the chairman of the Education Standing Scrutiny Committee, a role I thoroughly enjoyed and during the last three years we carried out reviews many reviews, some of which were Apprenticeships, School Meals, Cross Border (when parents send their children to schools out of county), Inclusion, Recruitment and Retention of School Governors and the affects of Poverty on Attainment. I now look forward to a new challenge in the Culture and Community Committee.

Localism should bring more powers to local people and Parish Councils, where they wish to be more involved. I will be attending a Localism Seminar at Harworth and Bircotes Town Hall in the near future that will, hopefully, give more detail.

May I thank all those people who have signed the petition to improve Broadband speeds in our district, at the moment it continues and your signature will be very much appreciated.

If anyone wishes to contact me, they can 'phone any time on (01777) 860 219 or email cllr.liz.yates@notts.gov.uk

Liz Yates

Voting rights of non-British nationals

Careful reading of a recent notice for registration of electors led your editor to wonder why citizens of (among others) the Republic of Ireland are entitled to vote in UK elections. Confused, I asked our MP, John Mann, to put this to the appropriate Minister. The reply from Mark Harper, Minister of Political and Constitutional Reform, is too lengthy and complex to reproduce here but may be read in full on our community website in the **Representative Links** section.

Editor

County Youth Bus

The first day of the school Easter holidays saw the arrival of the County Youth bus outside the village



[Photo: Barrie Codling]

hall. This is an amazing amenity for teenagers with many and varied outside activities, as can be seen by the photographs, plus a couple of quieter ones in the bus. Because of financial constraints this service is now limited to serve a minimum group of 15 teenagers at any one venue. At a recent Parish Council Liaison Meeting I argued, along with many others, that this discriminated

against the smaller villages and against those who need it most. The Youth leaders are working hard to combat the situation and because it had been widely advertised our session was most successful.

Kath Sutton

Letter to the Editor

I would like to reply to certain comments regarding the portacabin issue made in the **Clarborough & Welham Parish Council** summary recently circulated to all households.

In 2004 the IT Group received a letter, dated 18th February, from the chairman of Clarborough & District Community Association (CDCA) giving the Group three months notice to vacate the village hall. That letter went on to state that CDCA was withdrawing support from the IT Group because it was taking too long to set up the Clarborough website. The then Parish Council decided to provide the portacabin which then also became the Parish Office and a drop-in for the youth club; the IT Group was, however, the main user providing IT support for the local community.

S.Bradshaw, Clarborough

Editor's note: CDCA declined to comment on an issue that they consider long resolved.



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**DIAMOND JUBILEE
Hayton Jubilee Celebrations**

Saturday June 2nd



Afternoon

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Cake and Fudge stalls, Bric a Brac, charity stalls, hand made greetings cards, Face painting and Crown making.

A formal tree planting ceremony and an ongoing barbecue will keep things moving. There is no admission charge for the Olympics.

Evening

There will be a large marquee with live music from **Brassy Sharmans Fancy**, a Ceilidh band, plus Carvery food will be available; bring your own drinks.

Admission: £5 per adult and £2.50 for juniors for the evening event.

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Note: Parish Council's approved Minutes are posted on your community website. An archive of these is developing back to 1996.

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Clarborough & District Community Association

invite everyone to their next meeting
scheduled for **15th May, 2012**

Meetings start at 19:30 in the Village Hall

**Coffee Afternoon in
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Responders**

at **Manor Barn, Clarborough** from
14:00 on Saturday, 21st July, 2012

Entrance: £2.50 (incl. refreshments)

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Afternoon includes:

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There are an estimated half a million carers of people diagnosed with a life limiting illness at any one time, these are ordinary people caring for someone who has become ill and whose illness is progressive and may not be curable. However, though many thousands of people become carers each year, many do not recognize their role and their new title, they are not aware that they are now a carer. Surprisingly too, professional care providers do not always acknowledge that family members or friends are carers, and that they too have needs and require support to enable them to carry out their new role.

A carer spends a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to family or friends. In total, there are an estimated six million carers in the UK, including more than 170,000 who are under the age of 18. Nearly a third of carers are caring for more than 50 hours or more each week. Locally, **Carers Support Session for carers at Worksoop Library, Memorial Avenue, Worksoop. Every Friday 13:00-15:00**

For further information, please contact:
Gill Bradley, Senior Nurse, Hospice Services:
(01777) 863 270

Two Carers Events are being held in Bassetlaw to publicise services and support that are available for people who look after someone else. It is estimated that 10% of people help with the care of a family member, friend or relative.

These events aim to tell people about the range of practical, emotional, and financial support that they can access, as well as giving local information and advice.

The Events are on Thursday 31 May at The Well Church, Hospital Road, Retford, and on **Wednesday 20th June at The Crossing Church, Newcastle Street, Worksoop.** They both comprise a drop-in exhibition from 13:00 to 15:00, and some talks from 13:30-14:15.

Everyone is welcome to attend, but if they can't make it, an information pack is available at **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/carers** or from (01777) 862 387.

Steve Elliott
Commissioning Manager Stroke
NHS Bassetlaw

Editor's note: To read much more about the role of carers and the challenges they meet go to our community website and follow the links **Health & Welfare > Carers' Support.**



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Forthcoming Retford Library Events

Family History Group – 4th Monday in the month, 17:00-19:00.

23rd April, 28th May – further sessions are planned 50p for refreshments.

Storywalk in the Park – a series of walks for families in the beautiful setting of Clumber Park. Join us for songs, stories and a walk. Car parking passes are available from the Library. Walks start at 14:00 from the Discovery Centre.

Saturdays: 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 11th August and 8th September.

Special Storywalk on 27th October as part of Clumber Park's Walking Festival.

Crime Readers Café a group for lovers of Crime Fiction. Mondays 13:30 – 15:00.

14th May, 16th July and 17th September.
50p for refreshments.

Poetry in the Park part of our Poetry Café programme. Join us in Clumber Park to share a love of poetry. Car parking passes are available from the Library
Thursday 14th June 14:00 at the Discovery Centre.

Poetry Café – share your favourite poems or just come along to listen relax and enjoy.
Thursday 16th August, 13:30 – 15:00.
50p for refreshments.

Rattle, Rhyme & Roll every Wednesday at 10:00.

Story Hullabaloo every Friday at 10:00

Watch out for dates and full details for these events - available soon.

Picture the Past

Creative Writers Workshop

Sci-Fi & Fantasy reading group/café

Bassetlaw Walking Festival

Heritage Open Day

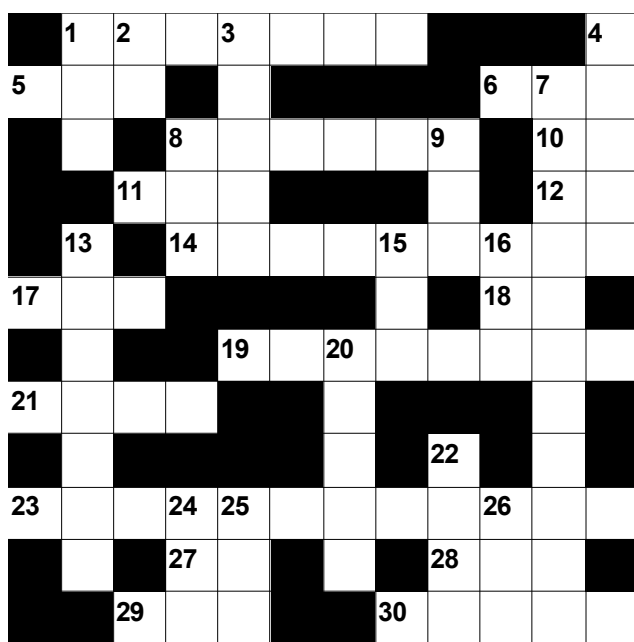
National Poetry Day

To find out more about any of these activities either phone (01777) 708 724
or e-mail retford.library@nottscc.gov.uk

***Minds are like parachutes, they only
function when they are open.***

Sir James Dewar (1842-1923) Scottish Physicist

Jubilee inspired crossword



Across

1. Current jubilee
5. Female swan
6. Wonder
8. Coronation chair
10. Queen's initials
11. Historic period
12. Saint abbreviated
14. Queen ...
17. False hair
18. Morning time
19. Longest reign
21. Graven image
23. Family of nations
27. Either ,,,
28. Golf peg
29. Male swan
30. To allot

Down

1. Society girl.
2. Come... (enter)
3. Metal award
4. Ship's bed?
7. Coronation venue
8. Before (archaic)
9. Confer knighthood
13. Royal House
15. Government decree
16. Hearing organ
20. Regal symbol
22. Words of allegiance
24. Cow's voice
25. Royal sphere
26. Meadow

...and our previous (Spring) crossword:



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Alzheimer's Society Tea Dance

Dementia Awareness Week™ 20-26 May, 2012

The event will include lots of fun activities, including a Dance Teacher, and the Bassetlaw Museum are bringing some 1950s artefacts to reminisce about the past. The Tea Dance (1950s-style) takes place at **Hallcroft Community Centre, Randall Way, Retford, DN22 7GR** on **23rd May, 10:30am to 12:30.**

Due to limited spaces please ring for tickets, which are free but limited in number.

Alzheimer's Society is also hoping that local businesses and individuals will hold their own fundraising events between 20 – 26 May 2012 to raise valuable funds for people with dementia and their carers. There are as many as over 750,000 people in the UK with dementia and as many as 1,447 in Bassetlaw.

Dementia Awareness Week 2012 is sponsored by Saga Homecare. Together Alzheimer's Society and Saga Homecare hope to maximise awareness and understanding of dementia across the UK.

Contact Alzheimer's Society on (01777) 704 994.

National Trust Workhouse Storytellers

Readers will recall the fascinating session spent with Southwell-based Workhouse Storytellers in an earlier issue of this Newsletter (Winter 2011). Workhouse stories give a fascinating insight into life of inmates and staff of Southwell Workhouse.



Meet characters from the Workhouse's past and find out what made them happy and sad, and how it might have felt to enter the Workhouse starving, cold and penniless.

The Storytellers aim to challenge preconceptions, leaving their audience with questions rather than answers such as 'Was The Workhouse the architecture of despair or the refuge of hope?'

Contact: 01636 817 262 or email theworkhouse@nationaltrust.org.uk

Cost: £50 for an hour's session which includes four stories.

Eleanor Crossland
National Trust

Idle Valley Nature Reserve



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust own and manage the Idle Valley Nature Reserve off North Road, Retford. Our Visitor Reception has only been open since May 2011 so local people are still discovering that we are here and that they have immediate access to a wealth of wildlife information and advice. If you haven't been already, then pop in one weekend when the café is open between 11:30 and 14:00 and see for yourself this magnificent jewel of a nature reserve on your doorstep. Everyone is welcome and we are here to help with your wildlife queries so please feel free to pop in and say 'hello'.

This year we are holding our first ever 'Wildlife Gardening Festival' on **26th May** 10:30 to 15:00 which is also hosting 'The Great Garden Shed Tool Exchange'. We are pleased to announce our featured artist is a creative textile genius, Julie Willoughby, who will be arranging activities for children on the day – visit her site to see some of her work: www.zoomorphia.com

For more details about the festival, visit www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/idle-valley or call us on (01777) 713 945.

Di Fisher
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Clarborough Speed Sign out-of-order

Nottinghamshire County Council have released details of new contacts for reporting highways problems. Either phone **08449 80 80 80** or visit their website

<http://www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/> where you should follow the **Contact us** link within the **Get involved** section (far right); alternatively go to the **Latest News** section of our community website www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

My recent contact this way questioned what was being done to restore the Speed Warning sign on the A620 in Clarborough. At the time of writing (17th April) I am informed that upwards of 20 signs across the county have failed **but** new signs are now in Bilsthorpe depot awaiting installation with ours top of the list!

Editor

Did you know that Brazil is bigger than the USA if we exclude Alaska?

Clarborough Pantomime

Yes – you read that aright! With help from staff and Post-16 students from Dukeries College, plans are starting to come together headed by Clarborough Village Ventures for a pantomime in February time, 2013.

A successful meeting took place in April that saw a wide range of groups and skills brought to bear on this project. More, however, will be needed, so watch for notices, particularly on our community website, as plans – and the need for your support – intensifies. If you might paint scenery, help with costumes, advertising, lighting – even acting – then do come along and get involved.

European Parliament Report

Editor's note: For the full text of Bill Newton Dunn's latest report from the European Parliament go to our community website (**Representative Links > MEP**); here we provide an overview:

Controversy over proposed EU law for Motorcycles sets out suggestions for more effective lobbying of the Parliament by bikers who are worried by proposed rules that will limit or outlaw power modifications.

ACTA treaty setting out proposed tougher measures against Countering of intellectual property and goods such as downloading copyright materials from the internet. This seems to be getting mired in legal moves – to read more go to the full online report.

Reforming the Common Fisheries Policy seems set to tax the minds of the most ingenious law makers – and enforcement agencies!

New parliamentary committee to investigate

Organised Crime. Core problem include drugs, immigrants, counterfeit goods which can move freely within the single market.

Zoo conditions across Europe are causing significant concerns.

Visit the parliament in Brussels by bus in the first week of June !

For much more on these topics together with online links to more detailed discussions and reports see my latest Report from Parliament.

Bill Newton Dunn MEP

Family History tips

For free indexes to births, marriages & deaths (BMD to family historians) www.freebmd.org.uk. For the biggest online source of Parish Registers, use www.familysearch.org.

For help with these and other sites, see Retford Library's family history group (page 12) – or come along to Clarborough & Welham IT Group (see advert on page 16).

Editor

Discovered the Cantal region of The Auvergne yet?

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"The bitterness of poor quality service lingers long after the sweetness of price is forgotten"

UK's Financial sector?

Readers will remember the huge focus on David Cameron's 'veto' at EU meetings earlier this year and the repeated media 'tag' that this revolved around Britain's financial sector interests. Well, your editor became progressively more frustrated with national media who seemed simply to repeat this line without ever exploring just how important the sector really is – so an e-mail headed to our local MP, John Mann, posing the question *What are the benefits to the UK economy of the financial services industry?* to Chancellor George Osborne. The body of the reply is reproduced below:

I am replying as Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government is committed to maintaining and strengthening the UK's role as the leading global financial centre. The benefits to consumers, to businesses and to Government from financial and professional services derive in part from the UK's leading position in many financial markets. Financial services account for 9% of UK GDP, and 11% of UK tax receipts. Over two million people are employed in UK financial services and related professional services, with two thirds of these based outside London. The financial services industry also generated a £35bn trade surplus in 2010 and is therefore a key component of UK exports.

A strong and efficient financial sector is also essential to the workings of a developed economy. Since 2005, UK companies have raised funds of £445bn from financial markets - including bank finance, bonds, stock markets and private equity - enabling them to invest in creating jobs, training and developing people. The 1,150 SMEs listed on the London Stock Exchange's AIM, the largest equity market for small companies in Europe, raised over £4bn through equity offerings in 2011.

The industry also provides vital services to consumers and businesses of all sizes. This includes insurance and savings products and loans to homeowners and small businesses. The insurance industry, for instance, provides protections against risks in the form of £230mn per day in pension benefits, death and disability benefits and general insurance claims. In addition, the asset management industry manages over £4.4tn in assets, with the vast majority on behalf of institutional clients, such as pension funds. I hope you and Mr Herdman will find this

information helpful. Please pass on my thanks to Mr Herdman for taking the trouble to make us aware of these concerns.

Mark Hoban
HM Treasury

Editor's note: Million (mn) = 1,000,000 or 10^6
Billion (bn) = 1,000,000,000 or 10^9
Trillion (tn) = 1,000,000,000,000 or 10^{12}
SME = Small and Medium Enterprise



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Tuesday and Wednesday
classes continue
through May to July

Clarborough & Welham IT Group
Contact Greg (01777) 700 918 or
gherdman@toucansurf.com

2012 Newsletter deadlines
July 23rd (Autumn issue)
October 22nd (Winter issue)