

# Clarborough & Welham Newsletter

Autumn 2013

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

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## From the Editor

**A**s I have said before, so much material comes to our in-tray that only a small fraction of it gets into print. The majority of the rest, and that includes full versions of some articles which are shortened for publication, are posted onto our community website. With some 4500 visitors currently accessing our website every month, the 'exposure' that our community gets from this facility far outstrips this newsletter! Just to put this into context, although the last Newsletter boasted 20 pages – our website has more than 120 pages, most much bigger than the A4 sheets you are currently reading.



Now I know that some will say, 'Yes – all very good, but I don't have a computer!' This is a well-known national – even international – issue and one that is taxing many minds at the highest levels. In today's online world those without internet connection are fast becoming disenfranchised. So what's to be done?

The answer seems to fall into two distinct parts:

- How to provide online access to those lacking it.
- How to provide the skills (i.e. confidence) necessary.

The answer to these questions are already partially in place. Many readers will already have a Library Card. Computers can be booked at Retford (or any Nottinghamshire) Library free of charge and library staff are available to provide basic introductions to the service. Our own IT Group also provides basic tuition at very reasonable rates in Clarborough Village Hall. If you have any further ideas for 'skilling up' our community – please contact your Parish Council or IT Group to share them.

Returning to our website; this is the place to find everything from local elected representatives' contact details (District and County Councillors to MP and MEP), useful facts about Law and Order, links to the new NHS Healthwatch network, local Primary and Secondary Schools as well as the whole 'third sector' voluntary network. A number of local initiatives and consultations are also currently active such as **Have your say on the health and wellbeing of Nottinghamshire** which closes on 26<sup>th</sup> September plus preparations to develop a **Neighbourhood Plan** for Clarborough.

It's also the place to keep your finger on the pulse of local and family history. Have you got anything to illuminate Sam Waller's quest about Retford's early motor cycle manufacturer? See page 15 for more!

**For all of this, and so much more, regularly visit:**  
**[www.clarborough-welham.org.uk](http://www.clarborough-welham.org.uk)**

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for

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**Thursday: Retford 18:00 - 19:15**

**Contact Julie Skinner (BWY Dip)  
07899 977 967 for more info/to book**



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## The Law and School Attendance

Mr Gove's Department for Education has made amendments to the School Attendance Regulations (2006) **which will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2013.** Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. These amendments to the legislation remove the reference to 'special circumstances' of up to ten days leave (which may be for the purpose of a family holiday). The existing regulations now only allow a Head Teacher to authorise any leave of absence during term time if there are 'exceptional' circumstances as determined by the Head Teacher and **these do not include family holidays, re-unions, special birthdays and other family events.** Requests for absence through exceptional circumstances must be submitted to Head Teachers, in writing, in advance of the proposed absence.

Parents and Carers must be aware that they are committing an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. Unauthorised attendance can lead to a Local Authority pursuing cases of poor attendance through issuing penalty notices.

Penalty notice: the penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days, rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. If the fine is not paid, prosecution will follow which may lead to a fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court may also issue a Parenting Order.

For much more details of these, and other, school attendance regulations, go to:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance>

## Summer Activities at Bassetlaw Museum

Full programme, go to [www.clarborough-welham.org.uk](http://www.clarborough-welham.org.uk) and explore our *Out-and-About* pages.

**9+10 August** Pinhole Camera workshops **FREE** 8+yrs  
13:30-15:00

**Ceramicist Joanne Barlow is back for more creativeness with clay!**

**19 August** Monster mayhem **£18** under-16  
10:30-12:30

**19 August** Pulling faces **£18** under-16  
14:00-16:00

**20 August** Designing & making in clay **£38** Adult  
10:30-12:45

**Phone:** (01777) 713 749

**E-mail:** [bassetlaw.museum@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:bassetlaw.museum@bassetlaw.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.bassetlawmuseum.org.uk](http://www.bassetlawmuseum.org.uk)

## Police Reports

Crime in our area of East Bassetlaw is very low – and has been so for many years. Having said that, what crime there is is often either 'opportunistic' – a window left open while out shopping, a front door unlocked (or even open!) while enjoying the sun in a back garden or a valuable left visible in a parked car. The alternative targets are known valuables left in unsecured places such as garden tools or machinery in unlocked sheds.



Such thefts often follow patterns, so why not read Dave Airey's monthly reports on our community website (follow *Law & Order* pages) – along with Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Neil Bellamy's monthly Crimebeat advice.

**Even better, why not get it all to your e-mail inbox by signing up to our local Neighbourhood Alert, it's free and very effective – see our website!**

## Emergency vehicle access – a cautionary tale

A recent occasion requiring access to a property in Clarborough by emergency vehicles was significantly hampered by the number of vehicles parked on the roadway around one of the estates. Following this event, our PCSO, Dave Airey, made a leaflet drop advising residents of the potentially serious nature of this sort of situation.

Enquiries to local emergency services yielded the following advice:

*To request that resident's park in such a manner that access for emergency vehicles is available at all times. In cases of fire, they rarely envisage access to be a problem as the lengths of the hose reels invariably eliminate that concern. Very occasionally the service requires access for other reasons and, as such, dependent on the seriousness of the incident access would be gained by one means or another.*

The last sentence here seemed rather vague, so enquiries were also made with local insurance agents who assured us that the phrase *would be gained by one means or another* should take into account that a fire engine, for instance, is a very powerful machine and could get through regardless!

Further enquiries with the same source indicated that insurance redress would have to be made directly to the Fire Service (or other service concerned) rather than via a normal road traffic accident insurance dialogue with an outcome that might be unsuccessful if the damaged vehicle(s) had been parked illegally!

The upshot of all of this suggests that vehicle owners need to carefully consider their parking arrangements.

Editor

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## Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

Notice is hereby given that an application has been made by the Clarborough and Welham Parish Council to Bassetlaw District Council to be recognised as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Representations on this application may be made to in writing to Planning Policy, Bassetlaw District Council, Queen's Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, S80 2AH, by email to [future.plans@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:future.plans@bassetlaw.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01909 535 151. Representations should be made **by 5pm on 13 September 2013**. To view the proposed Neighbourhood Area please visit <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/> and type **Clarborough and Welham Neighbourhood Plan** into the search facility or visit the Council offices in Worksop or Retford.

Notice is also given that Clarborough and Welham Parish Council proposes to be the lead authority for the production of the Neighbourhood Plan for the Area proposed above. Contact details are as follows:

Name: Wendy Davies (Clerk to the Parish Council)  
Address: 3 All Hallows Close, Retford, Nottinghamshire  
Email: [clarandwelpc@yahoo.com](mailto:clarandwelpc@yahoo.com)  
Telephone: 07503 618 512

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

*Sir James Dewar (1842-1923)  
Scottish physicist*

## 2013-14 Newsletter deadlines

**21<sup>st</sup> October (Winter 2013 issue)  
20<sup>th</sup> January (Spring 2014 issue)**





Pupils across the school took part in a music and dance concert at Retford's Majestic Theatre on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

July. The evening was hot and humid, and that was just for those of us sitting in the stalls, but everyone involved performed magnificently!

To start each half of the programme, Harworth Corps of Drums (led by none other than our own Mr Cox) roused everyone with martial renditions.

Years 5 & 6 pupils have been learning to play brass instruments this year which all came together when they shared the stage with Worksop Miners' Welfare Band (which includes school's business manager, Mrs Hunt). The Band played a number of rousing pieces. It should be noted that the brass instruments and tuition was (and will continue through 2013-14) free for pupils through the year as part of the school's drive for every child in Key Stage 2 to have the chance to learn an instrument.

The evening was not just instrumental, however, as the schools choir and dance group also played their parts. Finally, we were all amazed at the skills of the individuals who played solo violin, clarinet, flute and guitars. Well done, everyone!

**Clarborough School would like to thank The Craft Shop (Retford) for their kind donation of lots of creative materials for use in school.**



With so many students cycling to school, Retford Oaks Academy

arranged for a fun session to reinforce messages of bike safety.

The outdoor stunt cycle display (below) took place at the end of the school year in the brilliant sunshine. Joe Oakley, Britain's Got Talent Semi-Finalist 2011, and his team also used their spectacular show to talk about challenge, hard work and practice-makes-perfect.



Retford Oaks Academy's innovative breakfast scheme was featured on BBC Radio 4 earlier this year. This summer, the Academy has been running a series of 6 week Family Cook and Eat courses supported by funding from the Big Lottery Families Fit for Life Fund. Retford Oaks students & their families came into school to cook together. Further courses attracted families from some local primary schools. These were delivered during the school day and the families are collected in the school mini bus and brought to school. All the families worked on cooking a healthy family meal for £5.00 and learning about the 'eat well plate' and where food comes from. "I didn't cook and now I make chilli followed by apple crumble every week." said one parent after the course.



**Tuxford Academy**  
Excellence through Teamwork

Tuxford Academy has recently appointed a new Principal, Mr Cotton, to succeed Mr

Lloyd under whose leadership Tuxford Academy has achieved a great deal in recent years exemplified by two 'Outstanding' OFSTED judgements in 2009 and again in 2012.

With this in mind, the Academy Board of Governors at Tuxford is determined to make sure that standards are maintained and that the Leadership Team continues to deliver further improvements and developments in the future. The Board are convinced that Dave Cotton is the right person to lead the team in the future and have agreed unanimously to appoint him as Principal Designate and that he should lead the Academy upon Geoff Lloyd's retirement.



Pictured above (from left) are Mr Cotton, Mr Rolph, the chair of governors and Mr Lloyd soon after the announcement.

**Computer tip: download CCleaner (free) from [www.piriform.com/ccleaner](http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner) to regularly clean-up your PC, keep its registry in order and optimise its performance including start-up time.**

**Which? Computing recommended (June 2013).**

## Green energy – worth it?

Readers may recall your editor some time ago promising feedback on our experience after installing a number of 'green energy' technologies at home.

The following illustrates our **electricity consumption** over the last 9 full years:

Period	Average daily (kWh/day)
Jan 2004-Jan 2005	7.406
Jan 2005 – Feb 2006	7.319
Feb 2006-Feb 2007	7.329*
Feb 2007-Feb 2008	7.053
Feb 2008-Dec 2008	5.572
Jan 2009-Jan 2010	4.945
Jan 2010-Jan 2011	4.800
Jan 2011-Jan 2012	4.541**
Jan 2012-Jan 2013	3.359

Over the same period, our **gas consumption** has been:

Period	Average daily (kWh/day)
23 Dec 2003-16 Dec 2004	44.33
16 Dec 2004 – 29 Nov 2005	40.54
29 Nov 2005-30 Dec 2006	43.03
30 Dec 2006-3 Dec 2007	28.03*
3 Dec 2007-31 Dec 2008	37.22
31 Dec 2008-31 Dec 2009	33.46
31 Dec 2009-6 Jan 2011	39.95
6 Jan 2011-7 Jan 2012	30.27**
7 Jan 2012- 7 Jan 2013	32.68



\*Solar hot water system (approx. 2m<sup>2</sup>) commissioned in December 2006.

\*\*Solar PV system (max. 2.5kW) commissioned in late September, 2011.

Besides these substantial capital projects, like many

households, we have replaced most of our lighting with low energy systems, replaced tv and computer monitors with low energy flat screen types but added no significant new appliances. No significant insulation or other technologies have been installed during this period and our 'away from home' time has remained fairly constant. Our house faces almost due south. It should be noted that installation costs have fallen significantly in recent years. - and continue to do so. So was it worth it? This is a long-term question but currently our view is that solar PV is definitely a good medium term investment but solar hot water, less so.

**Greg Herdman**

## Liz Yates, County Councillor



I hope that many of you will sign the petition that is going around the village, supporting the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the A620. This was a request made to me by concerned residents and, although a pedestrian count was carried out, the response from the County Council was NO, it didn't meet the criteria. It is something I feel strongly about and when the petition is complete, I will hand it in at a Council Meeting, after which officers will have to look again and respond to us. As many parents will be aware, a free travel scheme was introduced in recent years, to help pupils attend the school of their choice, within the Local Authority area. The new administration at County Hall is proposing to withdraw the scheme citing it will save £1.7m over the next four years.

I am concerned that this may cause hardship for families in the Misterton Division, where they have made a conscious decision to select the right school for their son/daughter. Therefore I would urge you to take part in the four week consultation which starts as the school holidays commence.

If you have any queries about this, or any other matter, please **contact me at (01777) 860 219 or Email – [cllr.liz.yates@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.liz.yates@nottsc.gov.uk)**

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Julie Quanbrough, Ofsted Registered Childminder

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**Oct-April : 10am – 5:30pm (closed Wednesdays)**

**Sundays closed 6:30pm**

## Driving in Europe Part 2:

**EUROPE**

**What about the driving?**

**Roads:** As in Britain there are motorways (autoroutes, autostradas, autobahns according to country) and other roads. In France the autoroutes are relatively light in traffic as they have tolls – or fees. (Not all autoroutes have tolls, generally those around cities are toll free.) This can be expensive for a long journey. They usually take credit cards at the “Peage” or toll booth. In most countries the longer tunnels have tolls. German autobahnen are generally free – but very busy and speed limits vary. Some also have *minimum* speeds.

Non-autoroute (N or Route National) roads in France can be busy and their quality is very variable, especially in towns, which have responsibility for maintenance. Some of these roads can be beautiful, often being the traditionally tree lined straight roads often seen in photos.

**Road Numbering:** All European countries have their own road designations (eg M1, A1 in Britain; A, N, D in France). However, in Europe, there are also routes designated as European roads with the prefix ‘E’. So the French A16 from Calais down the coast is also the E402! This can be confusing.

A second confusion can arise with town and city names. The Italian the city we know as Florence is correctly know as Firenze – confusing when travelling at 70 mph.

**Speed limits:** Remember - all speed limits are in kilometres per hour so are lower in miles per hour (i.e. 50 kph is 30 mph)! German speed limits are higher, especially on autobahns where traffic is heavy, fast and close! It is wise to get familiar with the kph values on your own speedometer before leaving home.

Speed limits vary but are generally similar to British. I keep cards for each country to stick on my dashboard to remind me of the speed limits. A common factor in many countries is a reduced speed limit when it is wet! There are also different regulations about the use of lights in the day and in tunnels. It is also worth noting that on-the-spot fines for motoring offences are quite common.

Also remember that distances are in kilometres which look much longer (i.e. 300 kilometres is 180 miles)

**Service areas:** Rest areas on motorways are more numerous, especially in France. They are generally of two types; those like our own which are fully serviced – but better quality(!); those which are just parking areas (called ‘aires’), often with questionable toilets. Useful for just a rest and picnics as they often have tables and seats.

**Driving:** There are a number of things which have to be consciously thought about when driving in Europe, all connected with driving a right-hand drive car on the right

side of the road rather than left as in Britain.

- The most obvious of these is that it is difficult to see what is coming towards you when overtaking on a single lane road. A front-seat passenger, preferably with driving experience, helps or it can be very dangerous. A further danger is that the driver is often concentrating so much on pulling out that they miss someone behind already overtaking us!
- Another obvious problem is to remember to drive on the right! This may seem obvious, but it is surprising how automatic this usually is – until we need to pull out onto a main road or turn off at a junction; engage brain!
- Roundabouts are not as common as in Britain but they do take some thinking about as you drive anti-clockwise around them. My very first experience on a French road out of the port of Calais was a roundabout – a nightmare!
- Turning left off a road onto a minor road. In France these junctions frequently have bollards and hatching which just seems to confuse things. Take care to go the correct side of the bollard and onto the right lane of the new road.
- *Priority a droite* is a peculiarly French trap for all foreign motorists!!! Here cars coming onto a major road have priority over that traffic already on the road. Crazy!! There are signs for this but it is still a real mind-blower when it happens. It was being phased out but I have read that it may be returning in some places. In any case some French drivers still assume it exists so care is needed!

Paul Willcock

**A tip for Firefox web browser users**  
*Flagfox add-on puts a national flag at the right of the address bar showing where your chosen website is hosted – can be interesting and useful, particularly as a security check!*

**Go to Add ons ► Get Add-ons from the main menu. At bottom right of the Add-ons Manager screen click on Browse all add ons. In the Search for add-ons box type Flagfox, then follow the links and install this add-on.**



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## Clarborough's Great War Memorial

The illuminated ('coloured') Rolls of Honour flanking a stone memorial to those who fell in World War I is to be found in St. John the Baptist Church in Clarborough. The whole set is in serious need of refurbishment.



Photo: Barrie Codling

With the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 coming up in August, 2014. Brian Robinson is hoping to arrange to have the monument refurbished.

He is also keen to know of any WW1 servicemen, whose names should be added to the memorial.

**Brian may be contacted on (01777) 703 344.**

## Clarborough First Responders

Once again the Cobb family dug deep and put on a fabulous garden party on 20<sup>th</sup> July in support of Clarborough First Responders. The garden was packed, food was plentiful (very!) and excellent. By the time craft sales, raffles and other events had wound down, initial counts showed that some £1200 had been raised. Add to this £100 from District Councillor Kath Sutton and a massive £800 from Ann Cobb's other activities through the year and our rough estimate already surpasses last year's total by quite a margin. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a great cause.

Ann Cobb & family

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## Clarborough Gardening Club Annual Show

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August**  
**at Clarborough Village Hall**

also

**regular meetings at Clarborough Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month.**

**Meetings start at 14:00**

**Friends and non-members welcome**

### RBM Agricultural

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Lantra Awards and City & Guilds

## Royal British Legion: Helping Heroes



Royal British Legion's (RBL) Poppy Appeal each November is probably its best-known event but the aim is to provide continuing support to ex-Armed Forces personnel whether it be in residential accommodation or to enable their lives to be enriched within the community. RBL has provided such support for over 90 years. Your continued support enables us to keep pace with the demands facing our forces as they adapt to civilian life after serving their Country.

The Royal British Legion's local branch raised £30,000 during the 2012 poppy appeal, a great effort by all the volunteers who helped, but also all those who gave so generously. The branch is also proud to boast that its Standard Bearer, Mervyn Witts, is also the County Standard bearer, called upon to attend events both locally and to represent the County. Welfare Officer Cath Richardson deals with such cases referred to her for help and advice.

You do not have to have been a serving member of the Armed Forces to join us. Interested? If you would like more information about ways you could help, or types of help that can be provided, please contact our **secretary Ann Hickman on (01777) 818 993.**

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month (no meeting in August) at 19:30 at the Babworth Road Sports and Social Club, Retford where a **Murder Mystery** will take place **on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. Tickets are £5.00 each and will be available soon.

**Anthony Goodall**

***A free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.***

***Adlai Stevenson (American politician) (1900-1965)***

## Do you have a health condition that affects your ability to walk?

If so, the Government has launched a consultation on the mobility assessment of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

PIP has replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for all new claimants of working age. By 2018, all existing claimants of DLA, who are of working age, will have been assessed and transferred to PIP.

During the roll-out of PIP, the potential for court action has forced the Government to launch further consultation in relation to physical problems with walking. The full consultation document is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-pip-assessment-moving-around-activity>

Disability Nottinghamshire are formulating a response



to this consultation and we would like your help if you have a health condition that affects your ability to walk. We would be grateful if you could complete a short questionnaire. It will only take a couple of minutes and all responses are anonymous.

You can complete the survey by clicking on the following link - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YXPV2GK>

**The results will enable us to use statistical information to respond to this consultation.**

**Simon Bernacki**

User Led Organisation (ULO) Development Officer  
Disability Nottinghamshire



1 Byron Street  
Mansfield NG18 5NX

**Advice:** 01623 625 891

**Admin:** 01623 658 060

**Email:** [simon@disabilitynottinghamshire.org.uk](mailto:simon@disabilitynottinghamshire.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.disabilitynottinghamshire.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynottinghamshire.org.uk)

**Not got internet access?** No worries – book a computer at Retford Library (free, you just need a Library Card) and ask for help in accessing the above *surveymonkey* reference.

This facility is always available – so everyone can get online with a little help.

Editor

### edX: Revolution in Higher Education?

It has been argued that nothing has really changed in Higher Education (college and university) for hundreds of years – in fact, since the printing press made text books readily available. Now the internet is changing all of that.

EdX is a FREE, online, range of courses spearheaded by such renowned leaders in the field as Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Only launched in 2012, edX already has a million students worldwide<sup>1</sup>. **edX's website is at [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org)**

Not only are courses free to students, but according to Anant Agarwal, professor of computer science at MIT and president of edX, they have technologies that grade students' work automatically to cope with the numbers.

Your editor has written to our MP, John Mann, asking him to establish the funding (and other) implications of this innovation as it might affect future UK students. Watch this space!

1. New Scientist 13 July 2013, p.29

Editor

### Retford Work Club @ Retford Library

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## Clarborough & Welham Parish Council Meetings

**16<sup>th</sup> September**

**28<sup>th</sup> October**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Meetings open 19:00 in Clarborough Village Hall**

Agendas are always posted at least a week in advance on notice boards and our community website where you will also find approved Minutes

## Parish Council pointers.....

### Skateboard Park...

Clarborough & Welham have one of the best Skateboard Park In Bassetlaw, but we have had some noise & litter problems.

Your Parish Council are holding a **public meeting** in Clarborough village hall, to look at ways of alleviating the issues. Please put the date **September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 19:00**, in your diary. We would hope to see as many people as possible there...

**Christmas Lights...** switch-on and Festive Fayre. You may just be getting over the Summer Holidays, but we are already planning ahead.

The annual Parish Council Christmas event will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Tree lighting at 17:45. Anyone wanting to book a stall, please phone Cllr Ann Codling on (01777) 705 396.

Plans are also afoot (see page 3) for **development of a Neighbourhood Plan**.

**The Post office**, open on weekday mornings in the village hall (except Wednesdays), is proving a popular addition to the growing facilities locally (see opposite).

## Some other dates for your diary

23-24 August	Clarborough Music Fest (Kings Arms)
25-26 August	Bouncy Castle, etc (Kings Arms)
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Nottinghamshire Schools re-open
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Clarborough & Dist. W.I.: Totally Locally
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Clarborough & Distr. W.I.: Introduction to Classical Music
21-25 October	Notts Schools half-term holiday
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Victorian Christmas Market at St.John the Baptist church
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Community Older Persons' Christmas party at the Village Hall

### 2014

20-22<sup>nd</sup> February Clarborough Pantomime: Snow White

**For full details and loads more – see *Out-and-About* and other pages on our community website:**

**[www.clarborough-welham.org.uk](http://www.clarborough-welham.org.uk)**



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**Opening times**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>09:00 – 12:30</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>09:00 – 12:30</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09:00 – 12:30</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>09:00 – 12:30</b>

## Heritage Open Day at Retford Library Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013



### Old Photos and Maps

Call in to Retford Library this Heritage Open Day to see old Retford photographs and maps from the library's Local Studies collection, on display all day in the main library. Do you have your own old photos of places, people and events in the local area? Why not bring them in to be scanned for the **Picture the Past** website? We'll be running a Photo Scanning Session from 09:30 – 12:30, where staff will be available to scan your photos.

### Talk : "Local Buildings and their Materials"

Jason Mordan, Senior Conservation Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council and author of *Timber-Frame Buildings of Nottinghamshire*, will be giving his talk at 13:30 in the library's Meeting Room. The talk is free but places are limited so pre-booking is essential. To book your place – contact details below.

### Family & Local History Help

Need advice about family and local history research? Drop in to Retford Library's Family History Surgery, where a Local Studies Librarian will be on hand to discuss your research and offer advice about library resources that could help. The next Drop-In Surgeries will take place at 09:00-13:00 on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September (no booking required).

A Family History Group also meets fortnightly at the library (second and fourth Monday of the month 17:00 – 19:00) starting again on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Why not come along for friendly support and guidance to help you learn how to research your family history? The meetings are free, everyone is welcome, including complete beginners.

For more information or bookings, call the library on (01777) 708 724 or email [retford.library@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:retford.library@nottscc.gov.uk)

**[Left]** Interesting that this new resident of Clarborough mirrors part of the Amcott crest, of Amcott House, the home of Bassetlaw Museum in Retford's Grove Street.

**Photo: Barrie Codling**





## It's all the EU's fault – or is it?

Notice how the Euro-sceptic' (I call it isolationist!) agenda has come to dominate tabloid press coverage of so many issues? *"Ah! It's the Common Market"* sigh the pundits. *"It's all this stuff from Brussels. We should get out of Europe once and for all"*. Sound familiar?

There is a great big "BUT" however that I would like to share with you. I have family in France, generally accepted as being "part of Europe", that allowed a peek behind the scenes and put this 'out-of-Europe' debate into a bit of perspective.

Our previous home was a 1965 bungalow on a 1965 cul-de-sac. A neighbour wanted a double garage to replace his single one.. Eventually the builders arrived and prior to demolition began to erect a chain-link fence that would have done credit to "Stallagluft 4". Portable toilets were delivered, the obligatory skip had flashing lights all night through, and the glare from the high-viz jackets, as the builders walked about, was enough to give a bat a migraine. "It's all EU legislation" you will hear. "Health and Safety gone mad! Ah! Brussels of course!" Or is it?

Meanwhile, during our annual visit to our son in Normandy I noticed a ruined French barn under re-construction. Contractors had, of course, erected scaffolding, timber poles lashed together with rope to three stories height. A conventional wooden ladder lolled in the summer sun, the stonemason wore Speedo shorts and sandals, and his mate, similarly attired, nipped up and down the ladder with hods full of rough stone on his bare shoulder. Toilet facilities seemed to be a patch of tall nettles, in what had been the front garden. "So where is the Brussels influence?" I asked my son. "Well - that's it" he replied nodding in the general direction of a tired Peugeot truck, over burdened with rock, which in faded paint revealed *Pierre DuBois Construction et Reparation* or words to that effect.

Local authorities assumed that the public might notice the truck, the men and the scaffolding and walk on the other side of the street, and that the builder, being experienced, rather than "qualified" might just know his trade. All is well in Normandy – and Europe!

**David Dawson**

**Editor's footnote:** Coincidentally, another reliable source described a recent visit to Germany and a well known engineering firm that revealed a lack of the safety paraphernalia now so common in the UK. When asked about this apparent disregard of Brussels, he sounded surprised; workers were trained, they know what to do! So if this is so, why do British tabloid papers – which have far better research facilities than this Newsletter – not know all of this? Surely they do – so why the misinformation? It's not Brussels' fault. What's the press' agenda?

Maybe blame really resides with Britain's adoption of American-style litigation culture, but why blame the EU? A lawyer's view?

## View from Slovenia

A recent trip around the Adriatic meant a lot of time in parts of what I grew up knowing as Yugoslavia – now separate states such as Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro.

An early excursion took us to the Slovenian capital of **Ljubljana** where we enjoyed the humour and insights of



our guide, Miran [above]. One telling thought has stayed with me since listening to his description of his country's attempts to avoid being swallowed by neighbouring Serbia. When asked about religion, he explained that the majority are Christian but now few go to church. Why? we asked. "Because the church here is Serbian Orthodox" Miran replied, "and the church is used as a propaganda tool of the Serbian state!"

Few people now regularly attend church in the UK, so what has replaced that pulpit to mould public opinion? The tabloid press, of course!

**Editor**

***Freedom of the press in Britain means freedom to print such of the proprietor's prejudices as the advertisers don't object to.***

***Hannen Swaffer (1879-1962)***

## Dealing with unexpected callers

Following a number of calls to the Police regarding aggressive door-to-door selling targeting areas occupied by elderly residents, the Police have offered advice. The welfare of elderly or vulnerable members of our community, however, depends to a large extent on neighbourliness – looking out for each other!

Much of the advice is fairly generally known – what will make a difference is if you go out of your way to look out for others. If you notice door-to-door sales activity, make your presence visible – this will often deter anyone who has dubious purposes.

If you need to remind yourself of good practice, go to our community website's **Law & Order ► Home Security** page.

### If things go wrong:

**You have rights under the Supply of Goods and Service Act 1982.**

**For initial advice and information on all the aspects of buying goods and services contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or visit**

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

Most utility companies operate a password scheme for older or vulnerable customers. You can register with the scheme and their representative will have to confirm your password when they visit to prove they are a genuine employee of the company.

If you are still not happy, phone the police on **999** and tell us what has happened. **Warn your neighbours and friends.** Information can also be **given anonymously on the Crimestoppers number of 0800 555 111.**

**If you think a bogus caller has been to your home, call the police immediately on 999.**

**If you have any doubts KEEP THEM OUT!**

*It is necessary only for the good man to do nothing for evil to triumph.*

*Edmund Burke (1729-97)*

## Retford Library's Top Reads

Currently, Retford Library's most popular fiction titles are:

Kill Alex Cross (James Patterson)

Agatha Raisin and the Wellspring of Death (M.C.Beaton)

Bed of Roses (Nora Roberts)

Dating Game (Danielle Steel)

Licence to Dreams (Anna Jacobs)

Shelter (Harlan Coben)

Summer on Blossom Street (Debbie Macomber)

Mistletoe and Murder (Carola Dunn)

Far from Home (Lyn Andrews)

The Cockney Sparrow (Dilly Court)

**Have you read them yet?**

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## If it's the *Chesterfield Canal*, what's it doing in *Clarborough* (part 2)?

The Chesterfield Canal was built as a commercial adventure by private capital. Certainly major land-owners bought shares, but so too did local individuals, all driven, of course, by the desire to make money. Opened throughout in 1777, it had been planned without proper maps, surveying equipment, computers or mobile 'phones. It had been dug BY HAND, there being no mechanised equipment, so pick, shovel, and wheel barrow were the Navvies tools. Even money, coins and notes, were in short supply, there being no national banks, so paying wages became a challenge, and notes of promise were issued to suppliers who would accept these, trusting that they had some value when handed in to the one branch of the local bank.

Once opened the canal did bring trade to the area, farmers were able to harvest crops and load canal boats



with up to 20 tons at a time. The collieries could now send coal to many destinations and people who had been forced to search for firewood could now rely on deliveries of fuel.

Before the coming of the canal, transport was by pack-horse or horse-drawn cart, but with roads being almost as natural, as today's country footpaths, they were rock hard in the frost and a quagmire in winter and times of heavy rain. It was not unusual for horses to sink up to their stomachs in the mire, a mixture of mud and manure - sometimes depositing the load or the rider as they fell into this unpleasant soup. Thus taking one tonne of wheat grown in Clarborough to Worksop, for example would require twenty horses, at least two men, and over-night accommodation for all, in Worksop, before the return trip with possibly a tonne of coal. The new canal allowed one horse and one man to do this trip in less time, but with twenty tonnes in the boat and, other than frost, when the canal would freeze over, no hindrance from the weather!

Business on the canal flourished, and local traders prospered. Farm produce could reach the customer

more quickly and in better condition. As farms prospered more jobs on the land were created. Where the canal builders had exposed clay, brick-works sprang up, beds of rock were quarried, and coal mines expanded to satisfy the increasing demand for fuel.

Local mills expanded, Worksop still retains a canal-side flour mill, that until the second world war received foreign wheat, imported via Gainsborough along the canal through Clarborough and Retford.

A return load, most unpopular with the boat crews was of course manure. With human foot or the horse as the only forms of transport, the horse, ass and donkey population in urban areas was vast, and of course "traffic pollution" was very visible and odorous. Manure was, however, sought after by farmers and provided a lucrative return load for the boats. Each town or village would have entrepreneurs who would collect the horse deposits until there was sufficient to load a boat (some 20 tonnes) This would then be hand-forked into the boat, and at the customer's field hand-forked out into hand carts to be spread on the crops.

With this in mind remember that in these times, the poorer people may get one Sunday a year away, and a boat trip (bearing in mind the cargo referred to above) from say the centre of Retford as far as Clarborough, Hayton or possibly Drakeholes and back was their annual holiday! Indeed passenger transport developed on the canal and Packet Boats would run to Retford market taking eager seller of eggs or butter to market whence they would return with a stock of thread or buttons for example.

David Dawson

## Les Rourke

It is likely that few readers will have had the pleasure of meeting and working with Les Rourke but your editor can certainly vouch for Les's qualities because for many years Les had been our link at Tuxford's Mine of Information where our Newsletter is printed. Les went out of his way to provide exceptional service in that department, often making every effort to meet our demands when things got 'tight' with schedules.

I had also got to know Les as representative of The Tuxfordian when we met regularly as a group of editors as part of Tuxford Academy's community outreach initiative. It was, therefore, a profound shock to hear of Les's tragic death in a house explosion in Newark earlier this summer.

Your editor attended Les's funeral on 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Ollerton Crematorium and our IT Group, who publish this Newsletter, have made a donation to Les's preferred charities - Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance and Tuxford's Mine of Information.

Editor

***Have you visited Idle Valley Nature Reserve?  
Just a mile or so up North Road from Retford  
with great facilities and pleasant walks.***



## Basher's Motor Cycles of Retford

The Group is getting a bit of a reputation and at our last meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> Sam Waller dropped in from Yorkshire!

Sam will be returning in September but his preliminary visit was to start his search for information about Oliver Basher and his Retford-based motor cycle engineering enterprise at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sam has one of the only remaining Basher cycles and is in the process of restoring it and also trying to fill in the background to Oliver Basher and his relationships with Retford.

Our group has already tentatively identified aspects of Oliver's life with both birth (1868) and death (1960) recorded in East Retford - but currently we can't find any local reference to a marriage although Sam gave Oliver's wife's forename as Levinia.

So, the challenge is there - can anyone provide any information about Oliver Basher and his motorcycle adventures or any other leads?

Retford Library's Family & Local History Group is free and open to anyone with an interest in genealogy or local history (for details see page 11).

**Any information about Oliver Basher should be directed to Retford Library (01777 708 724) for the attention of The Family History Group.**

Greg Herdman



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## Important reads on your website

Below are just a few of the important, up-to-date, news items on your community website which is updated very regularly. Currently it has more than 120 pages with some 400 further linked pages to those plus a multitude of links to other agencies and providers. **You really do need to check it out very regularly. A few highlights:**

**Crime and Policing news update** from Stephen Rimmer, Director General, Crime and Policing Group at the Home Office. (Law & Order ► National Policies).

**Local job opportunities.**

**Local GP contacts plus Disability Support, Befriending Service, Notts. Womens' Aid, Wellbeing & Fitness, Community Outreach and Dementia.**

**Full programmes** of events at Retford Library, Bassetlaw Museum, Idle Valley Nature Reserve, King Arms – and much more. (**Out-and-About**).

**Healthwatch Nottinghamshire Newsletter** (Health & Welfare ► Healthwatch)

**The Integrated Commissioning Carers' Strategy for 2013/14** (Health & Welfare ► Carers' Support).

**Parish Council** Agendas, Minutes, contact details, etc.

**Elected representative** (District & County Councillors, MP and MEP) contact links.

**Links to local voluntary sector networks** including, BCVS, Bassetlaw Action Centre, Nottinghamshire Enable, Bassetlaw Food Bank, Hope plus all of your Clarborough & Welham groups.

**Special funeral arrangements** – humanist, agnostic, wide range of faiths (News Summary).

**Disclosure & Barring Service** – replacing CRB checks.

**Neighbourhood Alert** links.

**Emergency contacts details for utilities.**

**On the Roads** – a wide range of contacts and services available to those on four or two wheels or on foot. Security advice plus a dedicated Bikers' page.

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**Local History** – did you know...

Editor

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