Clarborough & Welham Newsletter Spring 2014

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Clarborough & Welham Newsletter is distributed free to every household in our community as well as a number of outlets in Retford. Back issues are also available on our community website.

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From the Editor

uman nature is such that if things are trundling along 'as normal', we don't really notice and leave 'things' – which often means 'people' – to get on with these things. Only when something unexpected happens – like the flooding of 2007 or loss of a particular service – do our hackles rise and we try to stir things up.



ow as much as this may be human nature, particularly when we are busy people working elsewhere through the day and with family commitments to keep our 'heads down', the reality is that these people with responsibilities for the 'things' that periodically rouse us – the ubiquitous 'them' or 'they' that we refer to when discussing Community charges, European edicts or Business Rates – have reasons for doing what they do to us. What is often not so easy to engage with is the increasing emphasis put on 'public consultation' in many of these public arenas. Essentially, this is a code phrase for 'tell us what you think' which has become more commonly formulates into *Have your say*.

quick glance through our community website (see below) reveals that at the time of writing, there were *Have your Say* nitiatives by Nottinghamshire County Council regarding their budget proposals, Healthwatch Nottinghamshire regarding the performance of local NHS and Social Care and Paddy Tipping's appeal on behalf of Nottinghamshire Police. All of these inputs should – and hopefully will – influence the shape of services that form the basis of our 'normal' every day experience. We shouldn't really be surprised when 'they' complain that we were given the chance to contribute, but only got shirty when the process had come to conclusion and targets/procedures were enacted.

Clarborough & Welham's Neighbourhood Plan

Readers will have read in our previous issue a preliminary outline of the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan. Much more is revealed in these pages, but we need to realise that without our individual involvement, either by completing a questionnaire, contacting the Steering Group or attending a public meeting, we are in danger of 'them' dropping a planning decision upon us that makes us agitated. This is the challenge – because our own Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to put local planning control back into our own hands – but only if we contribute to it now!

For all of this, and so much more, regularly visit: www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

2014 Newsletter deadlines

14th April 2014 (Summer issue – revised date) 21st July 2014 (Autumn issue – provisional)

Neighbourhood Plan – your opportunity!

Residents, Groups, Businesses and others who use the villages of Clarborough and Welham are to have the unique chance to determine how they want the villages and that surrounding area which comprises the Clarborough and Welham Parish to develop over the next 16 years.

The Neighbourhood Plan is officially run by the Parish Council but the work on the Plan is being carried out by a Steering Group made up of residents from the villages who are responsible to the Parish Council. Paul Willcock, Chairman of the Steering Group, says "It is the first opportunity for people living in a neighbourhood to have planning done for them not to them. We, as villagers, have a powerful tool to help us decide what we want in our neighbourhood. It is the first time the public have had such power in the planning process."

Bassetlaw District Council have given us the green light to work on the Plan. The Steering Group have received a £7000 grant from the government, via an organisation called Locality, to work on the Plan. The Steering Group are all volunteers and are not paid. Funding is to pay for the massive amount of public consultation which will be undertaken, for printing and advertising costs and for the payment of some consultants which may be necessary for specialist areas of work.

Yoga

for

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Classes in your area:

Monday: Retford 13:45 - 15:00 Monday: Babworth 18:30 - 20:00 Tuesday: Retford 17:00 - 18:15 Thursday: Retford 18:00 - 19:15

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

Limited



places

The first phase of the process is almost finished, although it will play an important part throughout the process, that of raising the awareness of the Plan in the village. Members of the Steering Group have attended local village events such as the Victorian Market and the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. They have also visited local groups in the village, including the Bowls Club, Village Ventures, IT Group and the Sure Start group. The intention is to make people aware of the Plan and to start you talking about it.

A new Phase has now started which is intended to try to tease out the issues, hopes and aspirations within the villages. There will be a number of events held by the Steering Group up to the middle of March. Different sections of the community will have events designed for them, each with a different format. There will also be events aimed at the whole community. A questionnaire will be circulated to all residents as the starting point for ideas.

From these events a Draft Plan will be drawn up which will list the issues identified by those responding. A number of things have already been mentioned at the various events attended by the Steering Group. The Draft Plan will be put back to the community for more detailed comment on these specific ideas. Meanwhile the Steering Group will be working on the detailed support for these proposals.

The Steering Group is looking for new members who are willing to get involved with the work of the Group. We are also looking for those small businesses based at home in some way. Your input as businesses is important but we cannot get that without being able to identify you. Please get in touch!

Details of Meetings will be published in the near future – but also see below.

Remember it is your Plan – get involved – help shape your neighbourhood!

Contact: Paul Willcock at candwnp@gmail.com or 07530 141 533.

Some dates for your diary:

14th February: Drop-in at Clarborough Primary School

for parents and carers – 08:45-09:30.

20-22 February: leaflet drop at the Pantomime. **March** - distribution of leaflets to all homes and

businesses in the Neighbourhood

17 March: Public meeting 18:00-20:00 - watch for venue **March/early April:** Business breakfast 07:30-10:00 Further dates to be announced – watch the website!

Amy's Skydive update

Regular readers will be thrilled to know that Amy Davy's skydive that we reported in the last issue, raised a grand total of £408.80 in support of Bassetlaw Hospice, Amy would like to thanks everyone who supported her efforts.

Editor

Friends of Bassetlaw Museum

On Saturday 11^{1h} January the fledgling Steering Group for *Friends of Bassetlaw Museum* met to start the process of launching *Friends*. Much remains to be done before the Steering Group can actually launch but a number of key issues were considered and decided upon. The Steering Group now has the beginnings of a formal committee structure, with Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer in place. A constitution has been discussed and will soon be adopted once final 'tweaks' have been agreed.

An important set of decisions has established that initial membership of the *Friends of Bassetlaw Museum* will entail an annual subscription of £5 with a reduced membership fee of £3 junior members.

Watch this space for announcements of launch events!

Editoı

Liz Yates, Nottinghamshire County Councillor

"A very Happy New Year to everyone, and I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas. It is a quiet time at the moment with not too many issues affecting your parish, therefore I will give a longer article in the next edition of the newsletter." In the meantime, if you have any concerns that I could assist with you are very welcome to ring me on (01777) 860 219 or email cllr.liz.yates@nottscc.gov.uk.



John Salmon

It was with great regret that we learned of the passing of John Salmon in December. John had been Clerk to Clarborough & Welham Parish Council since 1996, a post he only relinquished in early 2013.

Editor

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Contact 01777 863 542 or email info@retfordhealth.co.uk









Fund-raising on quite a scale!

Through last term, Clarborough School staged a range of events that raised substantial

funds to support a range of 'good causes':

Film Club on 12th November: £90 raised by Friends of Clarborough School to support items and activities for the whole school to enjoy.

Children in Need: £350 raised on 15th November. Blue Bags2School: £90 to help subsidise school visits and treats for the children.

Silver Sale: £222 on 3rd December with a further £38 from cakes and baubles.

And finally, Friends of Clarborough School's Christmas Raffle raised £315.

And talking about November; on Remembrance Day the whole school gathered in the playground for a silent period of reflection. Our very own Mr Cox (Site Manager) played the Last Post on his bugle to mark the occasion. The school raised £65 from the sale of poppies.

Will your child be 5 by 31st August, 2015?

If so, you should have received your pack for a Primary School place by now. If you haven't received yours, contact the School Admissions team on 01623 433 499 immediately since the closure dates for these forms was 14th January 2014.

Half-term is fast approaching (17th-21st February with an INSET day on 24th – so back to school on Tuesday 25th February.

For full holiday patterns through to July 2016, see Nottinghamshire's website:

http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/term dates/

See pages 5 and 16 for details of events and activities planned by Bassetlaw Museum and Retford Library for half-term.



Looking for day trips or short breaks with convenient, local, pick ups? Bassetlaw Action Centre's Community Minibus Trips may be just what you're looking for! For a full list of trips through to April, either go to our community website (**Out-and-About**) or ring the Action Centre on (01777) 709 650.

MP & MEP contacts

John Mann MP 01909 506 200
Bill Newton Dunn MEP 07939 250 473
See our community website for other methods of contacting these representatives.

RETFORD

Retford Oaks would like to congratulate Beth Walker of Clarborough on achieving her Duke of Edinburgh Silver award last term. Beth has gone on to study for A -Levels with the Academy's very good wishes.

Lee Hardeman, Dof E Co-Ordinator said "Beth Walker is a hard-working and conscientious young lady who was part of a group of students from Retford Oaks Academy who completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. Throughout her time on the award she showed enthusiasm, determination and motivation even during challenging times to complete the expedition section of the award. Bethany has participated in volunteering in the community; whereby she gave up at least 1 hour per week for 6 months. She has developed First Aid skills in order to pass her Heartstart Award and has taken part in horse riding to complete the physical section of the award and deserves to be congratulated".

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been running at Retford Oaks Academy for 4 years and in that time it has grown from strength to strength. Starting with just 13 students there are now 34 students doing their bronze award, 10 doing silver and 10 doing Gold.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

There are 4 sections to the award.

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

In order for the students to achieve the award they must complete all 4 sections.

The benefits of the award for young people, are widely recognised by employers and people involved in education. Some of the benefits to young people include developing self - confidence and self – reliance; gaining a sense of achievement and a sense of responsibility; discovering new skills, interests and talents and developing leadership skills and abilities.

They can also discover exciting opportunities, make new friends, experience team work, problem solving and decision making, increase their motivation, enhance their self-esteem and develop their communication skills. They will also, of course, have fun!

IT Group seeks more tutors

Our IT Group has proven so popular (we currently have three classes with 42 members) that we urgently need more tutors. Enthusiasm for your computing interests are what we need – join a team with years of teaching experience to see how far you can go! See page 13 for Clarborough & Welham IT Group contacts.

1ST Responders Fundraising

In recent years Ann, Louis & Susan Cobb together with Family and friends have held an annual Midsummer Coffee afternoon, to raise funds for the Retford Area 1st Responders Unit. The Money that has been raised from the coffee afternoon and other activities such as table top sales and donations from individuals and local groups has been passed to the Retford branch of St John Ambulance to provide medical supplies and equipment for the 1st Responder volunteers. In previous years the Retford 1st Responders unit was administered under the umbrella of St John Ambulance. However it is expected that in the near future, the 1st Responders, whilst remaining unpaid volunteers, will be administered from within the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). To ensure that the Money raised is used to fund our local volunteers. "The Coffee Afternoon Fund" will, from this year, have a more hands on approach by providing equipment and supplies direct to individual 1st Responders as the need arises. To this end Paul Harpham & Eric Jones (1st Responder) will be assisting Ann to distribute the funds according to need. We would like to thank everyone who has helped or supported us in the past and look forward to your continued support this coming year.

Paul Harpham

Retford Ceilidh at Clarborough Village Hall

Retford Ceilidhs are finding that lots of people close to and further away from Retford really enjoy informal occasions to enjoy dancing together. The next opportunity to do this is Friday April 12th 2014 when Lambskinnet Band and Chris Rose caller will return to liven up an evening of dance at Clarborough Village Hall from 20:00-23:00. You don't need a partner and no need to know how to dance to come. Refreshments are provided at break but there is no bar so bring your own drinks. Tickets £7.00/adult, under 16's free if accompanied by an adult. You can pay at door or to check availability call Kathy at (01777) 706 880 or email retford.ceilidhs@virginmedia.com Come and enjoy!

Valentine's event

Another date for your Diary...

19:00 on Saturday 8th February

A Valentine concert by CANTORUS MOBILE at **Clarborough Parish Church**

Admission £5 (including light refreshments) Contact; Paul /Sandra on (01777) 709 802

The heart is the real Fountain of Youth.

Mark Twain

Oh yes it is!



Doesn't seem like a year has passed since the resounding success of Clarborough's first pantomime – but it has! Cast and crew are feverishly working to bring you this year's production of Snow White. Presented by Clarborough Village Ventures and

running in Clarborough Village Hall for 4 performances from 20th – 22nd February, we intend to repeat the success that we had last year which raised money for good causes within the village.

There are still tickets available for Thursday and Friday evenings (both Saturday performances are already sold out) and priced at only £3.50 for adults, £2.50 for children or a family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) for only £10.00 it's a great value night out.

With a dashing Prince, beautiful Princess and plenty of baddies to boo there is sure to be something for everybody in this years show.

For Tickets call (01777) 705 877 or 07780 630 882

Half-term and Easter for young people at Bassetlaw Museum

Bassetlaw Museum has a full programme of events to

keep young people occupied through February Half-term (17th-21st February) and most of them are FREE! The Museum has also just published its programme of FREE Easter-holidays events (7th- 7th April).



For these full programmes, go to our community website (Out-and-About ▶ Bassetlaw Museum) or drop in at Amcott House, Grove Street, Retford DN22 6LD or phone: (01777) 713 749.

Please note that some of these events do require prior booking, so parents - don't delay!

Do you require any land-based training?

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The Great Europe debate: part 2

Continuing the debate between your editor and Emma McClarkin, Conservative MEP, one of five MEPs representing the East Midlands. We begin with your editor's observations:

David Cameron was far from alone in asking for cuts to the EU's budget (Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) so to feed the local media with this perception is less than transparent! The topic of budget cuts is far too complex to discuss here, let us simply observe that the IMF has waxed and waned on this topic in both EU and USA terms over the past couple of years. Also, David Cameron's negotiation of the UK out of the EU Bail-out fund is a good example of short-term prudence over long-term strategy. One of Cameron's guiding principles has been safeguarding the UK (mainly London) financial institutions who arguably were some of the key players (along with US interests) in causing the 2007 financial crisis in the first place. To opt out of the EU's strategy has considerable merit in the near-term BUT begs the question of how the EU will respond if the UK system once again causes a crisis - are we confident that the Coalition Government has got a grip on the finance sector in such a way that 2007-8 is impossible in the future. If not, who will bail all of us out it has been the 'ordinary' population who have had to pay for the recklessness of the few - who still seem to be enjoying flamboyant lifestyles while 'we' struggle with cuts, service withdrawal and failing job opportunities.

Emma's response follows:

David Cameron has a good record when it comes to EU negotiations. He achieved the first EU budget cut in history; negotiated us out of the euro bailout fund that Labour had signed us up to; and has led the agenda on opening up markets and delivering new free trade deals with fast-rising world economies. As you point out, he has achieved this by building alliances in Europe around his reform agenda. I believe we should give him an opportunity to reshape our relationship with the EU before asking the people for their opinion. Regarding financial services legislation, the UK Government has not sought to 'opt out' of this area. However, we must be conscious of the impact that over zealous regulation could have on our financial services sector, which is responsible for almost 74,000 jobs in the East Midlands region. The government has always sought to deliver legislation at the EU level that not only protects our financial sector, but also protects people from our financial sector. For example, when it came to new European rules on the amount of capital a bank should hold, the UK government was pushing for much stricter rules than the European Commission, because we never want a situation to reoccur where taxpayers are bailing out banks. So our government has not attempted to opt out, but it has been engaged to ensure that EU rules do not cost the UK jobs.

Pilgrim Fathers at Retford Library

Join author **Sue Allan** at **Retford Library** on **Thursday 6**th **March**, **19:00-20:30**, for an entertaining insight into the lives of the Pilgrim Fathers. Hear about Sue's recent ground-breaking research at Scrooby Manor (below),



where she is Official Historian and runs the popular Mayflower Pilgrim Tours. Tickets for the talk cost £1.00 (including refreshments) and **booking is essential** – please call the library on 01777 708 724 or email retford.library@nottscc.gov.uk

The formula for youth? Keep your enthusiasm and forget your birthdays.

Anon

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Clarborough and Welham

Neighbourhood Plan

Your village, your plan, your future

Calling all small businesses!

Do you run a small business in Clarborough or Welham from home or from an office in the area?

We would like your ideas and concerns about development in the villages.

There will be a special meeting to which all local businesses will be invited.

Please let us know if you run a business in the area so that your views can be heard in developing our Neighbourhood Plan

Contact Paul Willcock on e-mail: candwnp@gmail.com Telephone / Text: 07530141533

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If it's the Chesterfield Canal, What's it doing in Clarborough? Part Four

A year ago, in this Journal, I looked at how attitude of local people to the coming of The Chesterfield Canal in 1770; compared to the reception given to Government plans for the proposed HS2 railway in 2012. In subsequent editions we looked at how the canal increased business in the area and benefited people in Retford, Clarborough and Welham and other communities, by dramatically reducing transport costs for food and fuel. We saw that as the railways and later the roads developed, how the canal fell into disuse.

Later we read of the efforts by the Retford and Worksop Boat Club in the 1960s (still very active and based in Clayworth) to save the canal from abandonment between West Stockwith where it links with the River Trent and Worksop. Worksop was perceived then, to be a sensible place to accept that the canal would be, for ever truncated. The twenty mile length from Worksop to Chesterfield had after all, been derelict for more than a century.

However in the mid 1970s a small group of enthusiasts (including your writer) refused to accept what seemed obvious to others and formed the Chesterfield Canal Society. To these enthusiasts the remaining canal was not yet clinically "dead". We did accept that "terminally ill" was, possibly, an appropriate description. After all road bridges had been lowered, locks destroyed, parts of the canal filled in, in Killamarsh houses had been built directly over the canal bed and some lengths of waterway sold off. The canal was a stinking mess. Even the mighty Norwood Tunnel seemed like a lost cause, as it had been filled with concrete to allow the M1 motorway to be built over it.

The Queen's Jubilee in 1977 had seen a huge rally of boats in Worksop, all having, on the way, passed through Clayworth of course. People from far and wide came to see the spectacle, and questions were asked about the canal beyond Worksop. Subsequently following many years of patient petitioning and public pressure through the CCS, local authorities came to the rescue. Rotherham undertook, in partnership with British Waterways the restoration, to original standards, of the canal from Worksop to the eastern portal of Norwood Tunnel. Unbelievably, internal inspection of the tunnel indicated that the concrete infill had never actually happened. The tunnel had seemingly supported the M1 for 40 years with no difficulty.

In North-east Derbyshire, again with local authority support, work to restore the canal began in Chesterfield itself and this has now reached as far east as Staveley.

The Chesterfield Canal Society launched in 1975 morphed into the Chesterfield Canal Trust and is now, in partnership with local and national government

departments, working to gradually rebuild the canal. CCT volunteers drive diggers, lay bricks, raise funds, give talks, maintain boats. As a result Staveley has a new canal basin in which each year a water festival is held. Such is the enthusiasm for the waterway in northeast Derbyshire that realistic plans for a brand-new canal to link Chesterfield and Rotherham are being seriously considered by local authorities.

The Chesterfield Canal Trust exists to promote the complete restoration, maintenance and full use of the Chesterfield Canal. It has pioneered "The Cuckoo Way", the restored tow-path, open now all the way from Chesterfield, through Clarborough to West Stockwith. The Trust owns and operates (crewed by volunteers) three public trip boats. One, the Seth Ellis (named after Seth Ellis Stephenson of Retford, a keen promoter of the canal in 1770) is locally based at the Hop Pole. It also owns an historic original, Midlands-built, working boat, Python and is currently building (using hand tools only) a full-size replica of a Cuckoo, the horse-drawn Chesterfield working boats.

New members are always welcome, so next time you "walk the dog" along the canal please remember those optimists 250 years ago who built it, and those more recent optimists who saved it for our enjoyment today. Those folk were people like you, who wanted more than the *status quo* and who did something about it. If you have an interest in your local waterway you can visit the Trust's website at www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk. to find out more of its history, its future and even to become a member too.

David Dawson

On the Beat – important updates

Followers of our online links to Law & Order services will be aware of Neighbourhood Alerts through which our local police – including PCSO Dave Airey – keep us posted with up-to-the-minute news such as the recent upsurge in catalytic converter thefts. We strongly urge everyone who has internet connection to sign up to Alerts – see our website for more details.

Also well worth following from our website are Paddy

Tipping's Newsletters. You are probably aware that Paddy is our County Police & Crime Commissioner, having overall responsibility for this public service sector. He has recently posted important news on a range of 'abuse' topics including:

- Alcohol
- Vulnerable women
- Domestic violence
- Hate crime

and he is also seeking your thoughts on budgetary issues for 2014-2015 – see our website Law & Order ▶ Police & Crime Commissioner)



Parish Council Pointers

Festive happenings in December, saw the Traditional Parish Council Christmas Lights Switch on, in the Village Hall grounds.

District Councillor Kath Sutton, performed the lighting ceremony, whilst local Schoolchildren & parents, were in good voice as they sang Carols.

The sound of a bell, heralded the arrival of Santa, with a Sackful of sweets for the Children.

The seasonal event continued in the hall, with a colourful selection of Stalls, along with free mulled wine & soft

A busy event was enjoyed by all....

Tree-mendous, happenings in the Junior play area. With the planting of a dozen good sized Trees, of varying

Plus a Christmas Tree. Good looks & shade should follow....

Congratulations !!! to Clarborough WI, for another enjoyable & well attended Senior Citizens party. Clarborough & Welham Parish Council were happy to Support the event, along with Hayton Parish Council, plus our County & District Councillors....

January's Parish Council Meeting approved, among other issues, a no-change policy for the Parish Precept for 2014-15.

Tree Planting Small Play Area

You may have notice the trees that have been planted behind Clarborough Village Hall in the small play area. The money raised to purchase the trees came from a

£500 grant given by The Greenwood Partnership Team, Nottingham County Council and £1000 from Clarborough and Welham Parish Council.

This year, 2014, marks the centenary of the start of the World War 1. These



trees have been planted and dedicated specifically to recognise the service and sacrifice of all those that were involved in the conflict from our Parish.

Phil Gibson

Chairman Clarborough and Welham Parish Council

Further dates for your diary

Feb 10th: Clarborough W.I. Pantomime talk (19:30) Feb 19-21st: Nottinghamshire schools - half-term Feb 20-22nd: Clarborough's Snow White pantomime Feb 26th: Clarborough Village Ventures AGM (19:00) March 1st: Clarborough Gardening Club AGM (14:00) March 3rd: Healthwatch Village Hall morning drop-in

March 5th: Village Hall (CDCA) Meeting (19:30) **April 7-18th: Nottinghamshire schools – Easter break**

Clarborough & Welham Parish Council Meetings

3rd March 2014 7th April, 2014 19th May, 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

LAWNMOWERS **Tony Halford**



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What is Healthwatch?



The primary task of

local Healthwatch is to gather evidence from the views and experiences of patients, service users, carers and the public about their local health and social care services. Healthwatch then provides feedback (both positive or critical) to health and social care commissioners, or in serious case scenarios, to the Care Quality Commission or Healthwatch England, in order to effect service change or improvement. It would actually be more accurate to call this new organisation "Health and Social Carewatch", as it covers all social care as well as NHS services. But Healthwatch is the name that Ministers decided to give it.

Why is Healthwatch needed?

Three things are happening in health and social care that make it increasingly important for us as consumers to have different ways of feeding back our views and experiences of these critically important personal and family services. Firstly, the structure of the NHS is changing fast and appears to be getting more complicated. Secondly, the current severe budget cuts in Local Authority expenditure (which includes social care services) and the zero-growth NHS budgets (whilst having to meet the needs of an ageing population, more people with long term conditions and rising cost of treatment), is putting increasing strain on the health and social care system. A third factor is the aspiration, longstanding but seldom achieved, of better integrating health and social care services where it makes sense and would save resources.

What <u>is</u> Healthwatch Nottinghamshire doing?

Healthwatch Nottinghamshire has now established its organisational base in Hucknall and is at the stage of making itself better known and familiar to the people of Nottinghamshire. To achieve this we are working on a number of fronts: our leaflets are being distributed across the County, our 'Have Your Say' forms are available on our webpage and on request from the office, our monthly newsletter is being distributed to our growing mailing list, and we are now recruiting volunteers to act as Healthwatch 'Champions' or 'Outreach Volunteers'.

Our local area already has its own Champion in the person of Chris Herdman (wife of your editor!) who comes from a career in the local nursing and latterly health visiting services. Chris is the 'eyes and ears' of our community – so make sure you keep her posted with your concerns and thoughts on any of Healthwatch's agendas. See our contacts page (page 13) for Chris's contact details.

Meantime, if you want to get involved, perhaps have your say, receive a newsletter, become a volunteer or

just to get in touch with your local Healthwatch, then:

Phone: 0115 963 5179

Email: <u>info@healthwatchnottinghamshire.co.uk</u> **Web:** <u>www.healthwatchnottinghamshire.co.uk</u>

Twitter: @HWNotts

Deborah Morton

Winter pressures

Bassetlaw Action Centre, based in Retford is a Community Resource Agency linking individuals and organisations with help and support. We are currently offering free and helpful advice to people over the age of 50 to ensure maximum energy efficiency and the lowest costs possible.

The initiative is part of the government funded project, Big Energy Saving Network, which aims to help reduce energy costs offering assisted action on payments, tariff options, fuel bills, switching suppliers, benefits and discount schemes, as well as improving energy efficiency.

Anna Shaw, Outreach and Energy Advisor at Bassetlaw Action Centre, said: "Although winter is already here and 45% of annual fuel costs will be spent in the next three months, there is still time to take action against rising prices.

"Why pay more than is necessary, get the best deal possible by switching tariff and payment method." Qualifying households may be able to claim a Warm House Discount, a £135 rebate off electricity bills or the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), which provides free heating and insulation measures such as boiler replacement, loft and cavity wall insulation. Further assistance is also available through the Priority Service Register, offering a range of free services provided by fuel suppliers, again for qualifying customers.

In addition the Bassetlaw Action Centre can offer practical aids such as oil filled radiators, thermometers, hats, gloves, slippers and hand warmers.

For more information, energy clinics take place every Thursday at The Retford Resource Centre between 10:00-14:00, or please call (01777) 709 650.

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Manchester Eggs

For a fascinating – and scrumptious (not heard that word recently!) treat – try this.

Ingredients

4 pickled eggs (see below)

1lb sausage meat

1lb black pudding

1 egg (for wash)

Bread crumbs

This is an excellent variation on traditional Scotch eggs – and doesn't need deep-fat frying either!

Blend together (by hand) the sausage meat and black pudding until fairly uniformly mixed. Don't over do this – the difference between the two should still be visible when ready for the next stage.

Divide the meat mixture into four and then mould around one of the eggs until completely, evenly, covered with no obvious 'seams' which could split during cooking.

Break an egg into a suitable container and quickly whisk. Dip each coated egg into this and then into prepared bread crumbs. Commercial products available on supermarket shelves are fine for this step.

Place each coated egg in a suitable container such as individual cake or muffin tins – this helps to maintain the shape while cooking and eases serving if the tins are non-stick.

Place tray in oven at gas mark 5 (190°C) for 30 mins.

Further variations are possible by substituting an 'ordinary' boiled egg and/or adding different seasons/flavourings to the meat or coating sections.

Serve with almost anything!

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/recipes/100 12614/Manchester-egg-recipe.html

Pickled Eggs

These are simplicity itself to make – but you do need a head-start if you want to make the recipe above since the eggs take about a month to mature.

To make the eggs you will need pickling/Kilner jar(s) – obtainable from High Street stores. Check the size for your number of eggs.

You will also need Pickling Vinegar – again cross check your amounts.

- 1. Sterilize your jar(s) by placing in an oven at Gas Mark 2 (150°C) for 10 mins (remove seals first!)
- 2. Hard boil your eggs.
- 3. Place eggs in jar and cover with vinegar.
- 4. Seal and leave for about a month.

Greg Herdman

What did the 0 say to the 8? I like your belt!

Family & Local History Drop-In Surgery

Need advice about family or local history? A Local Studies Librarian will be at **Retford Library** from **09:30 – 13:00** on **Thursday 13 February** and **Thursday 13 March 2014.** Why not drop in for a chat and find out more about the library's local and family history resources that could help with your research? These sessions are free and no booking is required. You could also come to the FREE Family & Local History Group at the library on two Mondays each month.

Helen Fox

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Malala's Prize

Europe's major Human Rights prize, the **Sakharov Prize**, was awarded in the parliament last month. The winner was Malala who, aged only sixteen, had spoken out for the right of women to be educated in Pakistan and had been shot and almost killed by the Taliban. Her acceptance speech to the parliament was short but clear, simple, and poignant. "57 million in Pakistan have no education...they don't want play-stations or mobile-phones or chocolate...they just want a book." I was one of the fortunate few who had a photograph with her (below).



EU Accounts signed off by the EU AuditorsYet, the Daily Mail and Daily Express, and UKIP's spokesman, reported the opposite! A lot of the responsibility for remaining issues rest with the national governments for not following the pre-agreed rules. Particular suspicion lies on Greece, Italy and Spain. [Another example of our national Newspapers twisting the truth to suit their owners prejudices? **Editor**.]

Enlargement of the EU - the final shape?

The final size of the EU is becoming clearer. Putin is pressurising his neighbours – Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan – to withdraw their applications to join the EU, with threats of loss of Russian gas and oil. Turkey's government appears to be drifting towards the Islamic world. Only countries still likely to join are the Balkans (Albania, Serbia, Bosnia) plus Norway, Iceland and Switzerland which would mean a final EU of 35 countries. Quite enough, in my opinion.

European elections next May

The major theme of next year's European elections is becoming clearer. This year (voting will be on Thursday 22 May), the debate will be about the referendum in 2017. The Lib Dems seem to be the only party whole-heartedly saying that the UK must remain members of

the EU to protect jobs in the UK. Businesses strongly support our position.

Bill Newton Dunn MEP

For the text of Stephen Odell, Chief Executive of Ford Europe, on the risks of the UK leaving the EU − see Bill's January European Parliament Report on our community website **Elected Reps.** ► **MEP.** These reports really are essential reading if we are to fully understand what 'Europe' is really about rather than often distorted interpretation applied to the issues by sections of the UK national media.

Editor

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Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner		
General enquiries 0	0115 9670999 Ext. 801 2005	
Nottinghamshire Womens'	' Aid 01909 533 610	
PCSO Dave Airey	07525 226 838	
(non-urgent, for information of	only)	
Police (non-emergency 'off	fficial' contacts) 101	
(be prepared to give county and other location details)		
Police (emergency)	Always 999	
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Retford Carers Support Gro	roup 07793 268 235	
Retford Leisure Centre	(01777) 706 500	
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ret	etford.library@nottscc.gov.uk	
Retford Oaks Academy	(01777) 861 618	
Retford Post-16 Centre	(01777) 861 400	
	office@retfordp16.org	
Retford Train Station	0845 722 5333	
Shelter (<i>Here</i> magazine)	here@shelter.org.uk	
Tuxford Academy	(01777) 870001	
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For Clarborough Village Hall weekly activities, go to your community website (see page 1) and follow the links Local Group ► CDCA Village Hall and click on the weekly activities link.

How do I print the euro symbol (€)?

Hold down the **CTRL** (control) key AND the **Alt** key while you tap the '4' key. This works for any three-symbols per key Microsoft keyboard.

Can any Mac users advise if this also works for them?



2 Shires Credit Union

How was your Christmas? We hope that fires you had an enjoyable festive season, not spoiled at all by increasing debt.

Are you one of the many people still paying for Christmas presents and the extra cost of food over the Christmas period? If this is the case then perhaps you might consider doing some forward planning to avoid this situation next Christmas.

Then why not be a savvy saver this year?

By planning early you can avoid taking out expensive loans to cover the cost of Christmas. If you are realistic about what you are going to need for Christmas 2014 and stick to a budget - you can save money in the long run. To help you do this we have come up with useful options for you to consider.

The quicker you take action and start putting money aside - the more you will be able to save in time for next Christmas.

How to decide the best savings options

First of all, you need to think about what's important to you. For example, you might want to be able to stop yourself from accessing your money before the run-up to Christmas, or you might prefer vouchers to cash even though vouchers will restrict your choice as to where to spend your savings. Vouchers can also lose their value should the issuing company go bust. Important questions to ask yourself include:

- Would it be better for you to be unable to dip into your savings before Christmas? Some flexibility may be useful in order to cope with an emergency even though this will reduce the funds available later in the year.
- Do you mind being restricted on where you can spend your savings? (Some schemes mean you are tied to certain suppliers).
- Would you prefer to be given vouchers in exchange for your cash at the end of the savings period? (Vouchers generally mean that you are tied to certain suppliers).

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- Do you want to have the money collected from your home?
- Do you want your money to be protected if the scheme goes bust?

Saving with your local Credit Union

You might want to consider saving with your local Credit Union. Credit Unions are not-for-profit, Financial Cooperatives run by their members and offer safe savings and loans.

You can save as much or as little as you want as often as you want and can then draw out your savings and spend the cash wherever you want. Any savings are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme which is backed by the government and fully protects savings up to £85,000. Please note, Credit Unions also provide free life insurance (conditions apply).

For more information:

www.2shires.org.uk or phone 01909 500 575

Clarborough School's 1939 Log Books

In our previous issue readers will have seen how completely oblivious these records were to the outbreak of Word War 1 in 1914. By contrast, those for 1939 (as yet unpublished) show that by June 1939 official notices were being circulated regarding 'National Emergencies'. Our next issue will expand on this through to the outbreak of WW2 in September.



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Retford War Weekend Appeal for Memories

Retford Business Forum (RBF) is preparing to celebrate the best of the 1940's and war effort on 9th and 10th August 2014. Retford War Weekend will be an opportunity to celebrate the best of the 40's and for younger generations to experience and appreciate their local heritage. RBF is appealing *now* to local people, schools, farmers, churches, factories, breweries, post offices, railway stations, bus companies, historical interest groups, car and motorcycle clubs etc. to come forward with stories, photographs, news clippings, memorabilia, recipes, fashion items, household items etc. to help create a local 'Wartime Memory Gallery' and living history scenes throughout the weekend. Volunteers are also needed to assist the event team with publicity activities, knitting (!) and chasing things up to make sure plans run smoothly.

Chris Rooke, co-ordinator for Totally Locally Retford said... 'We are really looking forward to the town and villages getting together for this event. There are lots of opportunities for individuals and organisations to be involved in all sorts of ways, from putting up tents to knitting lots of bunting! It's going to be great fun and it's also going to send a very positive message to younger generations that businesses, charities and community groups can make great things happen.'

Plans are already in progress to provide a park and ride service to accommodate out of town visitors and also to



publicise local places for visitors to stay over the weekend. Kings Park will be the central focus for activities, entertainment and historic vehicle displays; spreading into the Market Square, Town Hall and participating stores and shops. Local pubs and cafes will be encouraged to join in by offering special wartime drinks dishes on their menus and local butchers and bakers will offer some wartime samples for their customers to enjoy on both days.

To to register your interest please contact: Event coordinator Charlea Cowdery on 07970 444 450 or charlea@stepback-costumes.co.uk, RBF Chair David Pickles on chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk or Totally Locally on tlretford@yahoo.co.uk.

You can also keep up to date with stories and news on facebook - 'Retford War Weekend 2014'





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Kath Sutton Bassetlaw District Councillor

First of all a big thank you to all those in Clarborough and Welham who made Christmas so enjoyable. I thought that the tree lights in both villages were particularly impressive this year and was able to enjoy the splendid Parish Council Seniors party organised by the W.I., lusty carol singing with the Revd.Mark in the

Kings Arms, the lively Victorian market, and the special Midnight Mass taken by the Revd. Mark. And there's still the pantomime to look forward to! Thank you all.

Two of the meetings I've attended deserve a special mention. The newly formed Parish Forum was most informative and this time focused on the present financial situation as seen



by both the County Council and District Council. The leader of the County Council was asked why the rural areas always appear to suffer more in times of privation but of course there inevitably was no real answer! Another interesting meeting was that of the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) which Is the new Primary Care Trust. The presentation was around the five-Year Strategic Plan for the Community Care and Support in Bassetlaw. Here their vision for the future with high-quality personal and efficient service care professionals was uplifting and there seems to be a genuine desire to engage with the community - more ways in which you can become involved later. Finally, thankfully, I have been able to help locally with a few problems which needed sorting out. Don't forget to call (01777) 709034 if you think I can help.

Half-term events at Retford Library

Saturday 15th Feb: Farm Family Fun Day (10:00-15:00) Tuesday 18th Feb: Laugh Out Loud (10:00-11:30/7-11yrs) Thursday 20th Feb: Lantern-making Workshop (10:00-13:00/7-adult)

Booking is essential - see page 13 for contacts.



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