



Clarborough & Welham Newsletter

Spring 2011

Produced by Clarborough & Welham IT Group

www.cwitgroup.btck.co.uk

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Contacts:

Editor: Greg Herdman

(01777) 700 918

gherdman@toucansurf.com

Advertising: Val Waring

(01777) 708 181

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From the Editor

Community website (www.clarborough-welham.org.uk)

A recent holiday break gave us the pleasure of dining with a number of couples who provided much entertainment but also a few thought-provoking moments. One such topic was that of 'youth today' which started with the oft-repeated comments about their lacking in this or that desirable characteristic. Coming as we do from careers in schools and health service and now both (hopefully) making our contribution to our village Primary School, we strongly disagreed across the dinner table, hopefully making a small contribution to a more balanced view. Both of us feel that the vast majority of 'young people' are smashing examples of good manners and good fun.

Later I bemoaned 'the media's' irresponsibility for this all-too-common perception, a perception driven by concentration on a few exceptional (usually in the negative sense) examples rather than the vast majority. At that my wife quietly observed that as editor of a local 'paper', I am now part of that same 'media'; made me think!

However, returning to the media in general – at least one pundit has observed that we could all improve our mental well-being by avoiding news broadcasts entirely! While that may be a bit extreme, he did have a point. We all know how negative 'slants' can get put onto stories – remember the great Clarborough Hill Snow story of December last? How a bit of sloppy reporting painted a picture of human greed and rough dealing that only later turned out to be quite the opposite? 'We' in the media have quite a responsibility!

Talking of pundits, my own appreciation of the media has been greatly advanced by reading the thoughts of several well-known broadcasters. In particular I can recommend, both for their insights and also style, these entertaining and sometimes remarkable reads:

Andrew Marr's *My Trade*
Kate Adie's *The Autobiography*
Frank Gardner's *Blood & Sand*

But, back to 'community'; if you explore the websites entries in this issue you will surely appreciate just how much is already going on locally. All of these groups need extra help – in many cases just a few extra 'pairs of hands' can make a significant difference, and if our own experience is anything to go by, can provide a host of new friends and skills.

Then again, have a look at the *Letters* section (page 16).



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Space reserved for photograph of Welham

This website is a new departure for our community and at the moment is a joint venture between our Parish Council (funding) and Clarborough & Welham IT Group (site design) although we hope that other groups will soon come on board as well.

We are particularly keen to welcome young people into our group, so if you'd like to be involved with any of our projects, please do *Contact us*.



Community website up-and-running

As briefly mentioned last issue, Clarborough & Welham now have a dedicated online presence at www.clarborough-welham.org.uk which provides a one-stop-shop for most aspects of our community. For those of you wanting a bit of background to this, please have a look at page 62 of the January issue of *Retford Life*.

This article takes a quick guided tour of the main features of our website whose homepage is illustrated above. Please feel free to feed back any thoughts about way to expand this service, or improve what is already in place.

So, off we go!

The main site navigation menu has the following entries, which we will briefly explore in the order they appear.

Home is shown at the top of this page.

Latest News contains links to pdf copies of important information that has been received. During the recent snow season, for instance, this included details of waste bin collections that had been amended by Bassetlaw D.C.

Parish Council lists contact details for councillors, meetings dates and agendas, official minutes of meetings plus other relevant documents.

Groups links to websites and online resources relating to other voluntary groups active in the local community (see also opposite).

Local History is the core of a future area that is intended to provide results of local researches, etc.

Primary School provides a short history of Clarborough School and the beginning of a project to publish extracts from the school's Log Books. The first Log Book (1871-1887) is already available here.

Newsletter contains copies of at least the last 4 issues of this Newsletter.

Links provides online access to District and County Councillors as well as our local MP.

Health & Welfare provides online links to Retford Action Centre, Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch as well as all four GP's surgeries in Retford.

Finding us is primarily aimed at visitors from further afield; it contains a Googlemap of the area, links to local bus services and timetables plus a few other useful links.

Contact us provides e-mail contact with our site's webmaster.

Legal contains documents setting out our website's legal and privacy policies.

Version details logs the sites development history.

Other Community websites

With the support and help of our IT Group, a number of other local voluntary groups have set up websites. These provide both a showcase and online link to these organisations and also constitute a network since they are all interlinked and also networked to the wider web. Currently the following sites are under development – so have a look:

Clarborough 1st Scout Group
www.clarboroughscouts.btck.co.uk
Clarborough Village Ventures
www.clarborough-v-v.btck.co.uk
St. John the Baptist Church
www.cwchurch.btck.co.uk
Clarborough & District Community Association
(managers of the Village Hall)
www.clarboroughvillagehall.btck.co.uk
Clarborough & District W.I.
www.clarboroughwi.btck.co.uk
and, of course, Clarborough & Welham IT Group
www.cwitgroup.btck.co.uk

Computers for Novices

If you have never touched a computer, need a gentle introduction or have been given one for Christmas but haven't a clue how to use it, come along to the IT Group's Tuesday classes for a gentle introduction, starting **1st March** in the Village Hall.

From your Parish Council

A number of 'meaty' issues have been debated at some length at recent Parish Council Meetings. These have (briefly) included:

- Ongoing concerns over Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council's responses – or lack of responses – to the flooding events of July 2007.
- The fate of Clarborough Post Office.
- Highways issues – particularly those affecting Little Gringley Lane, 'our' low railway bridge and heavy lorries servicing West Burton.

- Possible 'Speed Watch' action – this does require volunteers to step forward.
- Dog fouling.

If you'd like to have your say on any of these matter – or anything else that concerns you – then do come along to Parish Council Meetings. Agendas are published beforehand on noticeboards and also on the community website (see opposite).

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings at the Village Hall on:

March: Monday 7th

April: Monday 4th

All meetings begin at 19:00 with an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions beforehand.

Every Parish holds a public open meeting between 1st March and 1st June each year. The Parish Council will shortly be making arrangements for this year's meeting, which it also hopes will provide a question-answer opportunity regarding **flooding issues**. It has been suggested that each organisation operating within Clarborough and Welham might like to submit - either in writing or to be read out by your representative at the meeting - a brief report of their activities during the year. The Parish Council has contact details for some of these organisations - the school, the church, the IT group, the village hall - but we don't have a comprehensive list of all such groups in the village. If your group would like to share its experiences in this way, please contact the Parish Council through any councillor, by phone (710 902), e-mail (clarandwelpc@btconnect.com) or call at the Parish Office (Village Hall) on Monday mornings. If you're not sure, feel free to ask for more information. Please note - our voice mail isn't working, so unfortunately the phone can only be answered on Monday mornings.

John Salmon

Clerk to Clarborough & Welham Parish Council

Excursions:

1st Feb.	Dobbies Garden Centre
14th Feb.	Bakewell Market
22nd Feb.	York shopping & Jorvik
23rd Feb.	Nat. Coal Mining Museum
25th Feb	Wakefield Festival of Food & Drink & Rhubarb
19th March	Ideal Home Exhib.- Earls Court
27th March	Sewing for Pleasure- NEC
15th & 17th April	Harrogate Spring Flower Show
24th Jul	RHS Flower Show - Tatton Park

Theatres:

12th March	Wizard of Oz- London Palladium
10th April	Dancing on Ice - Sheffield Arena
13th August	Shrek the Musical- London

Kettlewells

Multi-day trips

18th Feb	Torquay-We'll Meet Again
14th March	Brugge Weekend
18th-20th March	Windsor
23rd-27th March	Llandudno-Mock Cruise Theme Break

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Clarborough School News

Snow

A very big 'thank you' to all the parents and members of the community who gave up their free time on Sunday



5th December to help clear the snow from the road, car park and paths. Without this help the school would not have opened on the Monday and it is quite possible the school would have been closed for the whole of the following week.

Community Support

We have been thinking about all the support we have from members of the community. This includes Governors and Volunteers who help the children with their vegetable garden, reading, swimming, the library, cooking, crafts, sport and other activities when needed. With guidance from these Volunteers the children are now producing their own newsletter and during the summer, vegetables from the garden are often served at lunch, with children trying new foods as a result. Also, the library has been reorganised making it more accessible. A rough estimate is that the children have over 1000 hours a year of community support. This is almost equivalent to an additional full time teacher. We are very appreciative and grateful to our Volunteers, who play such a vital part in our children's overall school experience. We are always keen to welcome new volunteers into school, so should you be interested in helping the children in any way, then please contact Mrs Hartley on 01777 708 065.

SATs

The teachers and Governors have worked together to decide the most effective ways of preparing children for the Year 6 tests (SATs). Our aim is to ensure that children continue to have rich and exciting curriculum but we also recognise the need to help the Year 6 children prepare for their end of year tests. For this reason we are not going to be 'drilling' the children to prepare them for the test. We will be incorporating test preparation into our day to day lessons and keeping the practise papers to a minimum. In this way we hope to

strike a balance between a high quality curriculum and the demands of the tests. The teachers and Governors know that this approach may lead to our school not coming as high in the league tables as we would like but children will receive a much more engaging curriculum that helps them gain the learning skills needed to succeed in the next stage of their education.

Little Crackers

Here are some of the "little Crackers" in Class 1 at Clarborough Primary School who performed wonderfully well in their Christmas Play. Each child was involved, taking on several singing and dancing roles. Mrs Dean and Mrs Hartley were very proud of everyone,

Our topic this term is "Wonderful and Mythical Creatures". We started with a Fantastic Fantasy day where we all dressed up and had a lot of fun thinking about the difference between fantasy and reality. As part of this we will be learning about Chinese New Year in the coming weeks, culminating in a China Day when we will all enjoy Chinese food, music, crafts and games as well as creating our very own Chinese Dragon dance!



And, just to round off, here are the cast of our 2010 Nativity – quite a menagerie!



Photo: Barrie Codling

Parish Council marks remarkable 70 years

70 years of Marriage by Clarborough couple Verdon & Joan Marshall, as reported in our previous Newsletter,



has been recognised by Clarborough & Welham Parish Council. A Bouquet of Flowers & Framed Photograph of the couple was presented, from the Chairman's allowance, by Ann Codling.

Charity Tractor run.....

A convoy of Vintage Tractors left Church Lane Farm,



Clarborough for an 8 mile drive through Sturton and Wheatley over icy roads, in a bid to raise money for cancer research plus a donation to North Leverton Windmill. Photo: Tractors leaving Church Lane farm

Photos: Barrie Codling

Santa arrived by Tractor!

At the snow-affected Christmas Tree Lighting Fayre, Father Christmas put in an appearance on a Bright Red Vintage Tractor, driven by Dan Bartle instead of more traditional transport!

A few minutes earlier local schoolchildren sang carols near the Christmas Tree, before our local Vicar, Mark Cantrill, performed the Lights Switch on.

The event in the village hall was successful, and very well attended given the atrocious weather conditions.

Go away with peace of mind that both your pets and home are in safe hands



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'POSH' – ever wondered where the word came from?
In the days of 'empire' many officials, army officers
and their families took the long sea trip to India.
Lacking air-conditioning, cabins facing the sun got
unbearably hot, so if you could afford it, it was a good
idea to book 'port outbound, starboard home'!

1st Clarborough Scout Group

www.clarboroughscouts.btck.co.uk

2011 sees 1st Clarborough Scout Group celebrate its
35th Year. The movement has undergone many
changes during that time, including the introduction of
the Beaver section (age 6-8) - which celebrates its 25th
anniversary this year – and the inclusion of girls to all
age groups. We are fortunate to run all sections in
Clarborough and are well supported by the local
children in every group, both boys and girls. **We meet
every Thursday in Clarborough Village Hall** starting
with Beavers at 6pm through to Scouts and Explorers
later on.

In recent times the group have held an annual summer
camp, attended several District and County camps
(including Sleeping with Sharks at The Deep) and even
had a presence at a World Jamboree!

This year also sees Retford district 100th anniversary
and promises to be very exciting.

The Scout group is very active in local events, and
supported the first **Clarborough Village Festival**; we
look forward to this year and will be taking part in the
Easter Sponsored walk (see page 14). I'm sure you
have all seen us at the Christmas tree lighting and dog
show, you may also have seen us at the Scout Carnival
held annually in King's Park. We also help to care for
the village by having a regular litter pick around
Clarborough, supported by the Parish Council.

This term our activities hope to include a visit to a local
airport, cycling proficiency and then later a weekend
camp for the Scouts and Explorers. We enjoy a wide
range of activities ranging from Arts & Crafts, games,
DIY and ICT through to outdoor activities with use of a
local wood.

Age Groups & Contact

Beavers 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ – 8	Ann McCorkell (Chil) 07780 630 882
Cubs 8-10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Steve Banks (Akela) 01777 711 583
Scouts 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 14	Norman Shaw (Baloo) 07758 679 812
Explorers 14 – 18	as above

We would also welcome any adult help from occasional
squash-making to full adult leaders – we have great
support from our local District Leadership team – but
can always use more hands on!!

**For any further details, please feel free to contact
any of the above leaders, or have a look at our
website which is developing with help of the IT
group.**

Ann McCorkell

IT Group – next block of classes

Restart on Tuesday, 1st March, 2011
(for 5 weeks – only £10)

That Bridge - Welham

The low railway bridge on the A620 at Welham has gained notoriety over the years, most tragically in the early 1970s when a young family was crushed by a container shed by a truck that hit the bridge. That incident led to the present system of warning 'gongs', sensors and, much more recently, signs closer to Retford near the Hop Pole.

Police Inspector Francis Meylan OS (Traffic Management) offered the following observations about 'our' bridge:

*The only other point of interest is that we have had **54 incidents reported to the police between 1/1/09 and 3/11/10** of HGV's approaching the bridge only to realise they won't get under and then causing problems as they reverse back. These are not actual bridge strikes. Obviously they don't read the advanced warning signs but the warnings at the bridge do work!*

We get similar problems elsewhere with low bridges, e.g. A46 Railway Bridge near Bingham and A606 Railway Bridge near Tollerton. Both have extensive advanced warnings plus flashing lights for overheight vehicles and we still get the occasional bridge strike and more frequently HGV's stopping and having to reverse causing traffic chaos so Welham isn't alone!!

So what is the history of Bridge MAC3/203? Researches, primarily through the Railways Archive

(www.railwaysarchive.co.uk) show that the line in question was built for the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway (MS&LR), opening in 1849. MS&LR changed its name to Great Central Railway (GCR) in 1897 and in 1923 the GCR was grouped in the London & North Eastern Railway. Old Ordinance Survey maps together with the modern appearance of the line make it pretty certain that no significant changes have been made to the Clarborough/Welham section of this line since it was constructed; we can assume that bridge MAC3/203 (a modern, Rail Track designation) dates essentially from the 1840s.

Now low railway bridges are nothing exceptional; when the railway network was developing in the mid-19th century, road transport was extremely rudimentary – certainly when compared to today. Even in the first decades of the 20th century railway transport was the only reliable distance service as can be seen from an extract from Clarborough Primary School's Log Books:

20 Jun 1910: Five boys G.Bartle, T.Stevenson, J.Briggs, A.Briggs, F.Renshaw were sent to Welham Siding for School parcels during the dinner hour. They had not returned when the registers were marked so have been marked absent.

The exact nature of Welham Siding remains a mystery.

Returning to 'our' bridge, locals will recognise that the A620 road dips significantly as it goes under the bridge. Whether that is an original feature, or the road has been 'excavated' to increase clearance sometime (probably) in the early 20th century, remains a mystery.

One final point, continual monitoring of the problems caused by bridge MAC3/203 is essential if our County Council is to remain 'on-the-case' regarding a future bypass. Any incident involving a tall vehicle having to reverse back from the bridge should be notified at once to Nottinghamshire Police (try 0300 300 9999). As the sign on the bridge states, if a vehicle actually strikes the bridge, a call to Network Rail (01904 718 074) is required.

Editor



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2011 Census

England and Wales have had a census every decade since 1801 with the exception of 1941. The need to know how many men could be called upon to fight in the first 'modern' war – with Napoleonic France – made the then-government realise that they knew virtually nothing about the composition of the country's population. Those first censuses, 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 were simply 'head counts' but from 1841 onwards names were recorded and from then onwards ever more data has been collected at each subsequent census. This body of data has become not only vital to governments in their planning of such services as health and education but also invaluable to those of us researching family history.

However, back to the present. Did you know that 2011 is a census year and that the census will be taken on Sunday 27th March?

The Census Order is presented to Parliament for scrutiny and debate and must be approved separately by committees in both Houses of Parliament. Once approved by Parliament, the Order is made law by the Queen. For much more background and detail, have a look at the official 2011 Census website, <http://2011.census.gov.uk> within which you will find the legislation that governs censuses. This includes the Census Order approved by Parliament. The Order states:

- when the census will be taken – in this case Sunday 27 March 2011
- who must complete the questionnaire – that's every householder in England and Wales - and about whom – that's every member of the household on census day, plus any visitors staying overnight
- the census topics – basically the kind of questions we'll be asking.

The Order for the 2011 Census was laid before Parliament in October 2009 and was approved by Parliament and became law in December 2009. It is likely that some members of our community may need help in completing their census returns. It is also possible that thieves may try to take advantage of the large number of temporary officials (census collectors) working in our community to attempt distraction burglaries.

The census is designed to be an all-postal or online process – forms will be delivered directly to each household and returned in a similar way. However, census collectors will be out-and-about to chase up those forms that are not returned by post.

This is an important time for everyone to 'look out for' their neighbours, particularly those more vulnerable members of our community so that bogus officials do not take advantage of the situation.

Editor



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1931 Census data was totally destroyed by fire in 1942. There was no census in 1941 (War time). 1911 Census has already been largely published but the '100-year rule' means that 1921 census won't see the light of day until 2021 and 1951 until 2051, so we have a long wait before more census data is made public.

For family historians, the 1881 census is a popular starting point since it is the only free-to-access data pool. Access to all other censuses can be made online through one of many family history services. Your Local Studies section of the public library also holds some local census materials – just ask!

From your District Councillor

First of all I'd like to comment on the success of the Parish Council Christmas Fayre and the turning on of the lights, plus the Carols and Church Draw at the Kings Arms. It was lovely on both occasions to feel the warmth and friendliness of everyone and made you feel part of the village. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard for both events. Also to be thanked are those stalwarts who served tea and hauled drivers up Clarborough Hill for many hours in the deplorable snowy conditions. Everyone was so appreciative.

Below I've listed times and venues for the **Bassetlaw Over 50's Forum** in which some villagers are already involved, and we are hoping that some more of you may be persuaded to join us for a chat, discussion/speaker and refreshments.

In the near future we hope to investigate how our area could help the situation of those of you who are family carers. If you are one, or know of someone who is and would like to help us by offering suggestions as to what could be of benefit to you please ring me on 01777 709 034. All communications will be in strict confidence. I do hope to hear from you and see some more of you at the Forum.

Kath Sutton
Bassetlaw District Councillor

Bassetlaw Over 50s Forum Meetings

Meeting alternate between Retford (Wednesdays) and Worksop (Thursdays) as follows:

February 17th	August – no meeting
March 16th	September 15th
April 21st	October 18th
May 18th	November 17th
June 16th	December 15th
July 20th	

Retford meetings are held in the Town Hall,
Worksop (italics) meetings at the Crossing.
All meetings begin at 13:30.

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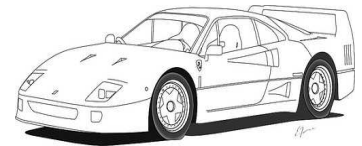
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Want to contribute?

If you have an article brewing inside you, or would like to contribute to our Newsletter in any other way, please get in touch with the editor.

We are particularly keen to hear from voluntary groups and also anyone who has a story to tell about local history.

Deadline for the summer issue will be 4th April, 2011.

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

Sundays closed 4:00pm

The Community on the Edge of Town

The first time I saw HMP Ranby I was surprised. It was on my first visit to Retford, and I had not known that there was a prison nearby. I was surprised too by the number of cars parked in the car-park, and realised that the prison must provide employment for a large number of local people. Since that time, in 1994, the car-park has been extended considerably.



I moved to Retford to live in 1995 and read an article in The Retford Times about a visit to the prison by HRH Princess Anne. She was the patron of what was then called 'The Basic Skills Agency' and came to present a Quality Mark to the Education Department at the prison. I had been a primary teacher for many years and in 1995 I had completed a diploma course which qualified me to teach dyslexic students. I was looking for part-time work in the area and thought that there were would be dyslexic, or basic needs students, within the prison, and so I wrote a letter of enquiry to the manager of the Education Department.

The first time I entered HMP Ranby was to attend an interview. I was met at The Gate and escorted to the Education Department. I was pleased to be escorted because the compound is huge with buildings containing: the hospital, gym, chapel, administrative block, departments of psychology and probation, resettlement, workshops etc etc. To me, it felt as if I was entering another town.

Although I had seen the high exterior fence topped with razor wire many times from the outside, for some reason, I was surprised to see so much more of it on the inside. The compound was divided up with it and so countless huge gates had to be opened and then locked behind us before we reached our destination. The sound of those heavy gates clanging shut and the rattling of heavy keys on chains was to become part of working life.

I started teaching at HMP Ranby in 1995. It was always going to be a temporary job, I never expected to retire from there, as I did in 2004. Now, I do occasional supply teaching and I enjoy that very much. I have seen many changes, the greatest being the expansion of the accommodation blocks which now house over

1,000 prisoners. I have worked in classrooms within the education buildings, out on the wings and in the workshops.

Just as I still remember the first primary school class I ever taught, I remember the first class I ever taught at HMP Ranby. It was an experienced, but very nervous teacher who stood before that class and as the session wore on the tension grew. But I've taken up enough space, maybe that's something for the next Newsletter.

**Valerie Waring
Welham**

Crimebeat

A monthly look at
ways to
**Combat Crime with
East Bassetlaw's
Neighbourhood
Policing Inspector,
Jenny Madin**



Take care of those presents – before a thief does.

I hope you all had a really lovely Christmas and received lots of presents, and can I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Just what did Santa Claus bring? A new lap top perhaps, a mobile phone, a shiny new bike or a flat screen TV. Perhaps Santa brought you a sat nav for the car, a games console or an ipod and dock.

Whatever Santa brought you this Christmas – a thief would love to take it away. And he probably will unless you take good care of it.

Thieves and burglars never take a break, so if you are not careful it will be a thief who is having a Happy New Year rather than you.

However there are lots of things you can do to make sure your Christmas presents do not find their way into the hands of a thief.

First and foremost, don't leave things lying around. Don't leave your mobile phone on a pub table or on the desk at school, and never leave your sat nav on the dashboard of your car.

You wouldn't dream of leaving £100 on the dashboard of your car and expect it to be there when you return, so why leave your sat nav there?

Make a note of your new mobile phone's IMEI number. This can be obtained by dialling *#06# on your mobile. Then, if your phone is stolen, call your service provider with this number and they will quickly put a block on the

phone. It won't get you your phone back, but at least it stops anyone else using it and stops the thief selling it, because people won't buy a phone that doesn't work. You should do this every time you get a new mobile and with every mobile in your house.

Then take steps to protect the things that stay in your home. Invest in a UV marker pen and mark all your property that might be attractive to a thief. The pens are very inexpensive, and you should mark your property with your postcode and your house number. This assists us to return property to its rightful owner when we recover stolen property.

Extra protection can be gained by marking your property using Smartwater. Nottinghamshire Police crime prevention officers on 0300 300 9999 ext 7464 will be happy to offer advice about Smartwater.

Finally, don't make it easy for a thief to get into your home. Drop the latch if you have a Yale type lock or lock the door and leave the key in the lock when you are in the house – so you can get out in an emergency – and make sure all the windows are secure, particularly downstairs windows or windows above a flat roof.

Most thieves are opportunists and they are always on the look out for easy pickings.

And they are experts at spotting open windows and an insecure home. So, make sure you are one step ahead of

them, keep your property safe and your home secure. That way, you'll be able to enjoy your lovely Christmas presents for many years to come.

Have a happy, crime free, New Year.

For further information on combating crime, you can contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team Beat Manager, Pc Chris Glover on 07595 074 176, or PCSO Dave Airey on 07525 226 838.

Note: Dave Airey's latest (December) Crime Report for our beat area (which includes the following villages and hamlets – Drakeholes, Wiseton, Clayworth, Hayton, Clarborough, Welham, Tilm, North Wheatley, South Wheatley, Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe, Bole, Littleborough, West Burton, Coates and Fenton) shows crime and anti-social behaviour figures remaining very low. Dave is keen to recognise that in no small part this is due to the vigilance of local people, so please do report anything suspicious – and do keep a 'Crimewatch-eyes open!'

Editor

From Your County Councillor

At the time of writing, it is New Year's Eve and we have only recently seen the back of the snow, ice and cold weather. I will arrange some surgery dates for the next issue and when the weather is more clement. Having said that, I went ahead with my surgery in Sutton on the 7th December and I did have a gentleman call in – well done to him!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year even though it will be February when you read this.

What a time we have had since the end of November, in 31 years and for the first time, we had to contact a friend of ours for help clearing the driveway. After two and a half days of trying to do it ourselves, we decided we were both too old for shovelling snow. Our knight in shining armour took just 10 minutes! I know that we all have had similar or even worse problems to endure but most people have been understanding and recognise the severity of the weather was unprecedented. Let us hope that my next article is not about more bad weather.

This is also an opportunity to talk about the 'unsung heroes', the neighbours who looked out for each other, the people who continued to visit the elderly and also deliver meals on wheels. It is an endless list but special mention must go to the farmers, they turned out with tractors etc; and helped keep our villages open and this was the case across the county, community spirit at its best. I did contact all the Parish Council clerks in the ward to ask if there were any problems and where they replied, in every case it was praise for their local farmers. Thank you to all of you. Yes, there have been a few grumbles about the clearance of roads but the issues around this are too numerous to write about today and, if anyone would like to discuss it I will be here to talk to you.

I am contactable any time (details below) and I must stress that if you need advice or help with any issue, I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your concerns. I can be contacted at any time on 01777 860 219 (answer phone when unavailable) when I would be happy to talk to you. Alternatively, email cllr.liz.yates@nottsc.gov.uk

**Cllr Liz Yates
Nottinghamshire County Councillor**

Clarborough & District Women's Institute (W.I.)

Forthcoming meetings held in Clarborough Village Hall include:

Monday 14th February **Herbal Medicine** with Rebecca Pocock
Monday 14th March **Healthy Eating** with Margaret Foss
Monday 11th April **AGM**

All meetings begin at 19:00 for 19:30. New members very welcome – come and find out what we are about!

**St.John the Baptist Church
Clarborough & Welham**

www.cwchurch.btck.co.uk

Services to Easter 2011

Date	Clarborough	Hayton
27 Feb. 2 nd before lent	15:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship
6 Mar. Sun next before lent	10:00 Holy Communion	
13 Mar. Lent1	15:00 Evensong	09:15 Holy Communion
20 Mar. Lent2	09:15 Holy Communion	
27 Mar. Lent3	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Morning Worship
3 April Mothering Sunday	10:00 Special Family Communion	
10 April Lent 5	To Hayton	09:15 Holy Communion
17 April Palm Sunday	15:00 Holy Communion	18:00 Songs of praise

BEETLE DRIVE

The one at the end of February will be the last Monday in the month, 28th February, 7pm at the King's Arms as usual. This is an activity for all the family. Please ring 703 378 for more details or in case of heavy snow.

TABLE TOP SALES

These are usually on the first Saturday in the month at the Village Hall. NOTE : Later time of 10.30 am to 1pm. Stalls are £5 and the doors open for stallholders at 10am. We have a very good stall for church funds.

As so many of our fund raising efforts had to be canceled before Christmas please come and support us if you can. Tel 709 802

BRASS BAND

The postponed concert by Worksop Miners' Welfare Band will now be held in late May at 7.30pm. Returned tickets will need to be re-purchased but if you have hung onto tickets they will still be valid. Perhaps you could help to spread the word about this or sell some tickets.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Meets the second Wednesday in the month. Plans were made at the January meeting for various trips and speakers. **For more information ring 703 378**

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Royal British Legion

We hope to have an article in our next issue that explores how the Legion spends the money so successfully collected during its annual Poppy Appeal. However, keep your diary free on **Sunday, June 12th, 2011** because Freda & Brian Robinson (Welham) are planning a 'garden party' event in support of the Legion. All will be most welcome.

**Clarborough and District
Community Association
The Village Hall Programme
Spring 2011**

www.clarboroughvillagehall.btck.co.uk

Day	Main Hall			Halford Room
Mon	Parish Office Open (Bennett Room) 10:00 to 12:00	10:00 to 12:00 Table Tennis 14:00 to 16:00 Short-mat Bowls	2 nd Monday in Month W.I. (Halford Room) 19.00 to 21.00	Monday 19:00 Parish Council See elsewhere in this issue for dates
Tue	10:00 to 12:00 Over 50's Keep Fit	13:30 to 15:00 IT Group (Halford Room)	19.00 to 21.00 Table Tennis All ages	19:00 to 20:30 IT Group
Wed		14:00 to 16:00 Table Tennis	19:00 to 20:00 Keep Fit All ages	10:00 to 11:30 IT Group
Thur			17:00 to 21:00 Cubs, Beavers, Scouts	
Fri	10:00 to 12:00 Table Tennis All ages		19:15 to 21:00 Bingo Alternate weeks Entry 50p	
Sat	No regular programme, but watch out for posters advertising events The hall is available for hire, minimum 2 hours, please ring for details			1 st Saturday in Month 14:00 to 16:00 Gardening Club
Sun	To book all or part of the Village Hall, ring Vivienne Lilley on (01777) 710 984			

Contact details:

Keep Fit (All ages): Sally (01777) 869 212

Keep Fit over 50s : Rosetta (01777) 701 648

Bowls Club: Geoff (01777) 703 140 or Chris (01777) 700 918

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**Please bring a mat or towel
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Mobile 07515 112 148**

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Newsletter materials

If you would like to submit material for publication, either leave written material at 43, St.Johns Drive or e-mail your material to the editor.

E-mailed material should be in 'legacy' Microsoft Word format (i.e. pre-2007) or OpenOffice. Images should be jpeg.
If you have more complex ideas, please contact the editor who will be happy to help.

Clarborough Village Ventures at it again!! (www.clarborough-v-v.btck.co.uk)

Clarborough Village Ventures (C.V.V.) are off to a flying start in 2011 with a Winter Warmer dance in Clarborough village hall on the 5th of February. Tickets are priced at £10.00 and this includes Supper of Lasagne and Garlic Bread (It's the future Greg). You can dance to the famous "Eat at Joes" Band until the early hours and there are all sorts of things planned during the evening. The bar will be provided by the Kings Arms with an excellent range of quality beers etc.

The Easter weekend brings about the Sponsored walk/horse ride in the village and all are invited to meet at the Church at 2.00pm to take part in the 10 mile walk for charity. Dogs and Horses are welcome and the route will finish at the beacon, Howbeck Lane, for a beacon lighting and Barbecue. You can do all or just part of the route and prizes will be awarded for the most sponsor money raised for adult and child. All children participating will get an Easter egg. The route has been planned by Captain Dan Bartle so you can expect a few surprises on the way. It's a great way to work off those 'eggstra' pounds and raise money for local causes.

As usual this illustrious band will be doing all they can to raise money for village projects and everyone is invited to come along and contribute. Dance tickets and sponsor forms are available from:

Andy & Sara Hardie (01777) 705 877
Gillian Palfreman (01777) 709 254
Rosetta Gledden (01777) 701 648
Andy Poulter at the Kings Arms. (01777) 701 246

Planning and organisation for the second Annual Clarborough Festival is well under way and the Steam and Tractor show is going to be bigger than ever. The dog show is being arranged and the number of stalls is already up on last year. If you do wish to book a stall please phone Sara Hardie (01777) 705 877 or Becky Hunt (01777) 711 699 to reserve a place (remember stalls for charities are FREE).

Don't miss this on the 4th and 5th of June around the village centre - there will be lots of things happening to keep you all entertained.

Andy Hardie
Chairman, C.V.V.

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Nottinghamshire bus passes – Sheffield Tram

Going to Sheffield Arena, we parked at Meadowhall. My wife had inspiration and asked at the Travel Advice desk whether our Nottinghamshire/Bassetlaw bus pass gave any concessions on Sheffield Tram. 'Sure' came the reply, 'free travel off-peak!'

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Family history – lost and found (2)

Readers of the first part of this article in our Winter 2010 Issue will know that Francis ('Frank') Moynihan was killed in November, 1943 while flying with 51 Squadron, RAF. Initial family history research together with reference to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Debt of Honour (www.cwgc.org) had yielded the basics of Frank's service – or rather, the end of it. The next step was to seek out his service records. This will, I am sure, be of interest to many starting to research family history through WW2.

Frank's Military Records

All service records prior to the early 1920s (varying dates for each service) are now lodged with the National Archives. However, all subsequent records remain with the Ministry of Defence **and are only accessible to next-of-kin**. Further, except in very rare circumstances, there is a charge of £30 per record (at the time of writing).

In Frank's case, his sister and elder brother were both alive but since his brother emigrated to Canada just after WW2, Frank's sister agreed to apply for his service record. http://www.veterans-uk.info/service_records/service_records.html guides anyone requesting records through the process. We paid our £30 and within a matter of days received some excellent photocopies – in colour as appropriate – of Frank's records. Much remains to be deciphered since many of these records are couched in military jargon; consultation with historical branches or Imperial War Museum will be almost essential to decode everything. Interestingly, these records show Frank enlisted on 10th July, 1941 as 'ACH/Observer' undergoing training. His rank is given as Aircraftman 2nd Class but within a year he was 'LAC' (Leading Aircraftman). Between June and November, 1942 he was based in Miami training to be a navigator. On return to the UK he was commissioned as a Flying Officer - Navigator before joining 51 Squadron in early July, 1943. On 22nd November he was killed.

A Google search for 51 Squadron yielded contacts for a veterans association and also basic unit history which indicated Frank was almost certainly flying in a Handley-Page Halifax B.Mk.II as part of Bomber Command engaged in Operation Berlin, the long term mission to devastate the German capital.

Handley-Page Halifax B.Mk.II

Less well known than its illustrious stable mate, the Avro Lancaster, the Halifax was nevertheless part of the backbone of RAF Bomber Command's four-engined force throughout World War 2. In war-trim, with a crew of seven, full bomb load, fuel for Berlin and (hopefully) back, the four Rolls-Royce Merlin engines of these 'heavies' had only just enough power to lift off. Veterans still recall aircraft leaving on missions barely clearing perimeter hedges before circling the airfield three or four times to gain sufficient altitude to depart. An engine

failure in this critical phase invariably had tragic consequences. This same lack of power – only really addressed with the radial-engined Halifax B.Mk.III – rendered the Halifax more vulnerable both to flak (lower altitude) and night-fighters (slower speed) than the Lancaster; losses were proportionately higher. Careful study of official records confirms that by late 1943 Halifax B.Mk.IIs were extremely vulnerable ways to go to war – quite literally death-traps.



The above montage records this Halifax crashed into the IJsselmeer (Holland) between Urk and Hidelopen although whether due to flak, German nightfighter activity or mechanical failure is unknown although escape by some of the crew would have been expected in the case of an engine failure. Two bodies were recovered almost immediately and buried by the Dutch, but whether the plane was outbound or returning from Berlin remains unknown.

How the information used to compile this montage, names and photographs of crew members and details of the actual aircraft, even bomb load, came to light will form the third and final part of this story in our Summer 2011 issue.

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

With regards to the recent bad weather, I would like to thank Dan Bartle for all the hard work he put in over the bad weather spell. He made sure everybody in our street was o.k. and had food etc. He then used his tractor to flatten down some of the snow which helped people move around the street as was necessary.

We then found out that he had been out 'til late the night before helping motorists get up Clarborough Hill. If this had not been done many motorists would have been stranded which would then have caused deadlock further along the village. I think they would have had a long wait for any help from Notts C.C. or Bassetlaw Council.

Dan then cleared the end of our street and some other road ends. Two days later I was told by a pensioner that he had even asked if they wanted him to get any shopping for them. I think for someone to do all this, he should be congratulated. Thanks young man, you are a credit to the community.

Barbara Swannack

Dear Editor

It's an ill-wind – or should that be snow?

We have had a lot of complaints about un-gritted roads and lack of District and County Council efforts following the "big snow". From a personal point of view I had a totally different experience in the village.

The spirit of the village was greatly lifted in the early days of the snow. Many neighbours helped each other out, often without actually being asked. If they weren't helping they were talking. On that first day we walked around the village and talked to many, many people to whom we had never spoken before. There was unity in adversity and even with the difficulties people were smiling.

Perhaps the greatest spirit of the village was on the Tuesday night when the snow started. We have all heard the rumours and then the correct details but it can only be said that the help given to motorists, both by the tractor suppliers and drivers and by the suppliers of tea, showed that villagers have a real humanity that is not often shown, either in this village and generally in the country.

Lets us all hope, for the sake of the village, that this spirit is not lost as quickly as it appeared!

Yours sincerely

P.Willcock, Broad Gores

Dear Editor

Would the very kind lady who telephoned us with news of our missing cat, but who did not leave her number, please ring again so we can have a chat?

Kath & John Sutton (01777) 709 034

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