

Clarbrough & Welham

Bassetlaw Community Newsletter

Quarterly: Summer 2026

Retford Book Festival
Clarbrough Village Fair
National Holocaust Museum
Bassetlaw Action Centre at 30
Accelerating STEP Fusion
NWT Lead by Example

BDC Simpler Recycling
Retford Ramblers
Sloswicke's Trust
Retford Library's events
Very Muddy Fork
Local Volunteering

and much, much more!

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Visit our community website: www.clarbrough-welham.org.uk for much, much more!

Clarborough Village Fair 2026

Clarborough Village Ventures group are hosting the Clarborough Village Fair on Sunday 10th May 2026.

Many locals will remember that Clarborough Village Ventures were the power behind a raft of Village Fairs and Festivals as well as other community events until Covid19 hit in 2019/2020.



After all this time pressure has mounted for our Village Ventures group to be reformed and then to launch its first event – Clarborough Village Fair 2026!

The village fair helps support local traders, provides an opportunity for local groups to put on shows and demonstrations and brings the community together.

It will be a great day out for all the family and, while the Village Ventures group have a small team, we wouldn't be able to make this a reality without your help.

We are looking for volunteers to help on the day with putting up gazebos, marshalling etc. Without this team of volunteers, the Clarborough Village Ventures group will not be in a position to hold the village fair so if you can help in any way then please do show your support.

We also have a limited number of indoor and outdoor pitches still available at this event.

If you would be interested in having a stall, or to find out how you can help then please email : **clarboroughfestival@gmail.com** or contact Louise on **07472 004 745**

We look forward to seeing you on the day. We have a day full of fun.

There'll be music from The Mob and local musician Craig Done, a raffle with a top prize of £100, scarecrow competition, bouncy castle, farm to fork demonstrations, craft demonstrations and stalls, face painting and burger, pizza, hog roast and ice cream vans.

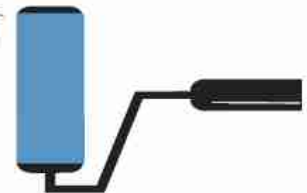
**Add the date to your calendar
Sunday 10th May**

Entry to the Fair from 10:00 – 16:00 will be free. Food vendors and stalls at the fair won't be free though.

Visitors will have to pay for anything they want. The dog show has a cost per dog per class as well.

Nic Smith

ANDI GRAY
PAINTER & DECORATOR



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Retford Library's Forthcoming...

In this article we pull together Retford Library's recently announced events. To keep your eyes on their rolling programme got to our community website (www.clarbrough-welham.org.uk) and follow *Out-and-About* menu item from our homepage and then *Retford Library*. Here we highlight 'happening soon' events and see bottom of this article for library contacts and further information.

Shhh! It's Retford Library's Quiet Reading Café
Monday 20th April at 18:00

We are giving you permission to read with no distractions

Relax with your book in our beautiful Heritage Room.

£3 to include refreshments. **Booking is essential**
 Book at the Library or call 01777 708 724 or e-mail Retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Retford Library's Poetry Café
Travel, Transport and Journeys
Monday 27th April 14:00 -15:30

Join Retford Library staff for a relaxing afternoon of poetry. Bring along a poem on the theme and a favourite of your choice to share or just come along and listen to others.

£1 to include refreshments. Booking advised.

Tel.: (01777) 708 724

E-mail: retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Website: www.inspireculture.org.uk

Far From the Madding Crowd

A talk by Rob White

Thursday 7th May at 18:00

By popular request, Rob returns to the library for another talk on the novel which made Hardy's name.

Expect a fascinating evening full of insights into how the novel was written, and how it was received.

Booking essential. Tickets £3 to include refreshments (cash only please).

The Art & Craft of Short Stories

Thursday 14th May at 18:00

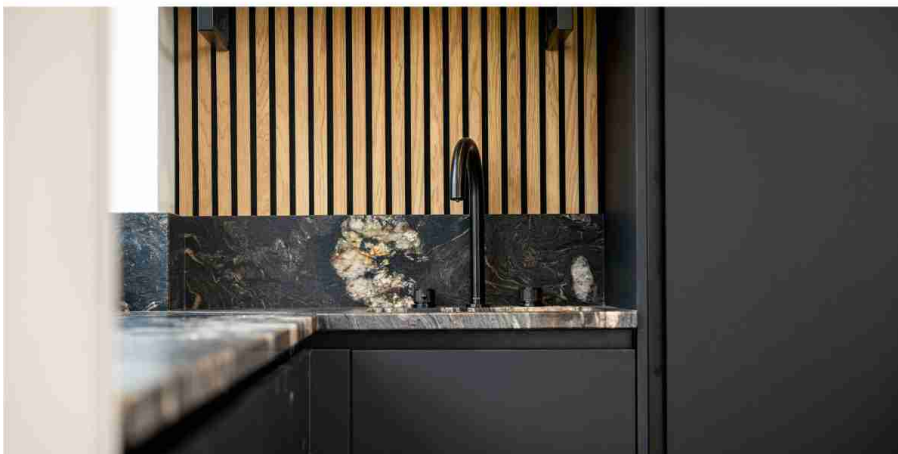
Join us for a lively evening of readings and discussions.

Author Barry Upton and illustrator Detlef Kohnen share their thinking behind the creation of **Strangers and Friends**, their latest bilateral project, and they look forward to the audience's response. The short stories all have an element of the surreal about them. They are often bizarre, leaving the readers to tie up the loose ends, and the illustrations offer an additional approach to their understanding.

The storytelling and the images in **Strangers and Friends** open new and imaginative ways into the meaning of each story. Together stories and images offer a bouquet of colour to enhance the reader's experiences.

Booking essential. Tickets £3 to include refreshments (cash only please).

Lots more following – drop in or check their website.



Kitchens - Bathrooms - Boilers - Heat Pumps and more...

Contact us for more information

01777 702684



Appointment of ILIOS accelerates delivery of STEP Fusion at West Burton

UK Industrial Fusion Solutions, soon to be known as UK Fusion Energy will appoint ILIOS as the Construction Partner for the STEP Fusion programme. The contract, valued at £200m, is a major milestone in transforming the West Burton site into the UK's world-leading prototype fusion energy plant.

The announcement follows the publication of the Government's new fusion strategy from DESNZ, setting the direction for the UK's long-term approach to developing and delivering fusion energy. ILIOS is a consortium led by a joint venture between Kier and Nuvia, and supported by AECOM, AL_A Architects and Turner & Townsend.

This appointment comes as UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Ltd, soon to be known as UK Fusion Energy Ltd, enters the next phase of delivery for the STEP programme. The name change reflects the organisation's growing focus on delivering the prototype fusion plant at West Burton and its ambition to lead the industrial team that will design and build future commercial fusion facilities.

Cllr Julie Leigh, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council welcomed the announcements and said: "We are incredibly proud that STEP's world-leading scientific advances in clean energy will be developed here in Bassetlaw.

"Today's announcements on the Fusion Strategy and delivery partners sets the scene for how this £200m project will create a pathway for up to 10,000 jobs, providing opportunities for local businesses and people to contribute to a multi-generational change in the way that energy is created in the United Kingdom. "Quite simply, the STEP project is a major milestone for our region and our local economy. When combined with the Trent Supercluster, it will make Bassetlaw a national leader in clean energy."



Paul Methven, CEO of UK Industrial Fusion Solutions (UKIFS) and Responsible Officer for STEP Fusion, said: "The appointment of ILIOS as our Construction Partner marks a significant milestone for the STEP programme. Their combined experience in major infrastructure, safety-critical engineering and complex site transformation gives us real confidence as we move from planning into delivery. This partnership will help ensure that West Burton becomes a leading centre of fusion innovation and a cornerstone of the UK's future clean energy landscape."

Lord Vallance, Minister for Science, Innovation, Research and Nuclear said: "We can be proud that Britain will lead the way on research, innovation and skills for a future of limitless fusion energy.

"By backing our fusion industry, we are not only securing our future energy independence, but from innovation and research to engineers, we are also providing the skilled clean energy jobs of the future for British people."

Building Confidence

Although the STEP programme is unique, the ILIOS consortium brings extensive experience from major national infrastructure, high hazard civil engineering, nuclear sector delivery, complex scientific and energy facilities, large programme and cost management, and world-class design for innovation environments giving STEP confidence that the team can meet the technical and delivery demands of the project.

An Innovative and Transformative Chapter

Simon Matthews, programme director for ILIOS said: "This is a significant milestone in the UK's transition to clean energy. Following an extensive and collaborative procurement stage, we are proud to be selected as construction partner for the STEP programme and to be part of this innovative and transformative chapter in energy supply.

"Through our involvement on the STEP programme, we will help advance the UK's future energy resilience and decarbonisation ambitions, supporting economic and regional growth, high-quality jobs and the development of a long-term, UK-based, fusion supply chain."

What ILIOS will deliver as Construction Partner

As the appointed Construction Partner, ILIOS will be responsible for every aspect of construction at the West Burton site, including:

- Acting as principal design and build contractor
- Delivering all construction work under STEP leadership
- Managing all early enabling works
- Coordinating design integration, civil engineering, buildings and site infrastructure
- Overseeing supply chains, logistics and sequencing
- Meeting all safety, sustainability and quality requirements
- Providing continuity and capability across a build programme leading to planned operation in 2040.

Local benefits

The appointment also brings significant benefits for the local area, with the STEP programme expected to unlock substantial employment opportunities throughout the build.

At its peak, construction at West Burton is anticipated to support up to 8,000 onsite jobs, creating new opportunities for local workers, apprentices and businesses, and anchoring long-term economic growth in the region.

Renaming for the future of fusion, Paul Methven reflects on the name change to UK Fusion Energy.

"We've achieved an extraordinary amount in just a year,

but the most important work still lies ahead. Our new name reflects who we are becoming – an organisation with a clear mission, real momentum and a growing responsibility to deliver.”

ILIOS Consortium partners

Although STEP is a first-of-kind programme, the ILIOS partners bring extensive experience in delivering complex, high-hazard and nationally significant projects:

- Kier – major UK transport and energy infrastructure, construction and developments
- Nuvia – decades of safety-critical engineering experience
- AECOM – global leader in complex scientific, defence and energy facilities
- AL_A Architects– internationally recognised architects specialising in cutting-edge science and innovation environments
- Turner & Townsend – programme, cost and risk management for flagship infrastructure portfolios.

Bassetlaw District Council

Clarborough Indoor Bowls Club

Our weekly Club meets every Monday afternoon from 14:00 to 16:00 in Clarborough Village Hall (DN22 9LN).

We are currently hoping to attract new members to our 'mature' group. All the required 'kit' is already available, so come along for a free 'taster session'.

Regular membership comes at just £10 per month which includes refreshments.

For more details or to arrange your taster session, contact:

Chris Herdman on **01777 700 918** or email: **moominchristine@aol.com**



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that"

Also...

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Watermelon Smoothie

Ingredients

- 1500g of watermelon
- 500g Greek Yoghurt or Cream Custard*
(*available boxed from most supermarkets)

Yoghurt gives a sharp taste whilst custard gives a smoother, sweeter, taste.

For a refreshing summer drink on hot days, yoghurt or custard should have been stored in a refrigerator for the previous 24 hours.

This recipe produces approximately 4 pints of smoothie.



Method

The following method may have to be divided into sections depending on the capacity of your blender.

We find that our machine needs the following quantities divided between two successive blends.

- Slice the watermelon into quarters.
- Run a long-bladed knife just inside the skin to release the watermelon flesh.
- Cut the released flesh into manageable chunks – typically about 5 x 2cm.
- Put these chunks into your blender.
- Add Yoghurt or Custard to taste.
- Blend the mixture until uniform and smooth.
- Pour into glasses.
- Enjoy!

Greg Herdman

A very important birthday!

The National Health Service (NHS) in England and Wales was founded by the **National Health Service Act 1946**, which was introduced by Health Minister Aneurin Bevan and came into effect on **5th July 1948**.

This came at the end of massive considerations of already established provision and particularly experiences of World War 2.

Editor

LAWNMOWERS

Tony Halford



Plant & Grass Machinery Specialist

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Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
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‘Simpler Recycling’ coming to Bassetlaw

People living in Bassetlaw can look forward to recycling even more materials from the beginning of April as ‘Simpler Recycling’ will be introduced across the district.

Simpler Recycling aims to standardise recycling across Nottinghamshire and make it easier for households to understand how to recycle more of your waste and reduce the amount of waste that is either incinerated or taken to landfill.

As part of this, Bassetlaw District Council will provide a separate Glass Recycling Collection every six weeks, from Friday 13th April, as well as widening the types of materials that can be placed in Blue Bins.

This means you’ll be able to put even more in your Blue Bin for recycling with new items including: Plastic trays and tubes (e.g. toothpaste); Clean foil and metal food trays; Cartons and Tetra Pak. As well as existing materials like: Plastic bottles, pots, and tubs; Paper and Cardboard; Tins, cans and aerosols.

To support this, a new mobile App will also be launched very soon, which provides key information on things like bin collection days based on where you live, precisely what items can be recycled in Bassetlaw and where they can be recycled, live updates on any disruptions to your collections, and much more.



Cllr Darrell Pulk [Below, left], Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods at Bassetlaw District Council, said: “The way that everyone in Bassetlaw can recycle their waste will be changing very soon.

“Simpler Recycling and the exciting new additions to our waste collections will make it easier for households to recycle more of their waste and reduce any confusion around what items can be placed in blue bins.

“To make this happen, the council is making a significant investment in how it collects waste including new bins for glass, new and additional collection vehicles and improved infrastructure that will bring about a hugely positive change for all Bassetlaw residents.”

Visit www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling for more information.

Clarbrough & Welham IT Group's Grant from BDC Councillor Fraser McFarland

It was a real pleasure to present a £300 grant from the Bassetlaw Councillors’ Community Grant Fund to our fantastic IT Group here in Clarbrough, pictured with organiser Greg Herdman :



This dedicated group does a brilliant job supporting residents to build digital skills, stay connected, and make the most of technology in everyday life.

From helping people get online to offering practical advice and guidance, their work makes a genuine difference in our community.

I’m proud to support initiatives like this that bring people together and help ensure no one is left behind in an increasingly digital world.

Well done to Greg and everyone involved and thank you for all that you do!

Fraser McFarland

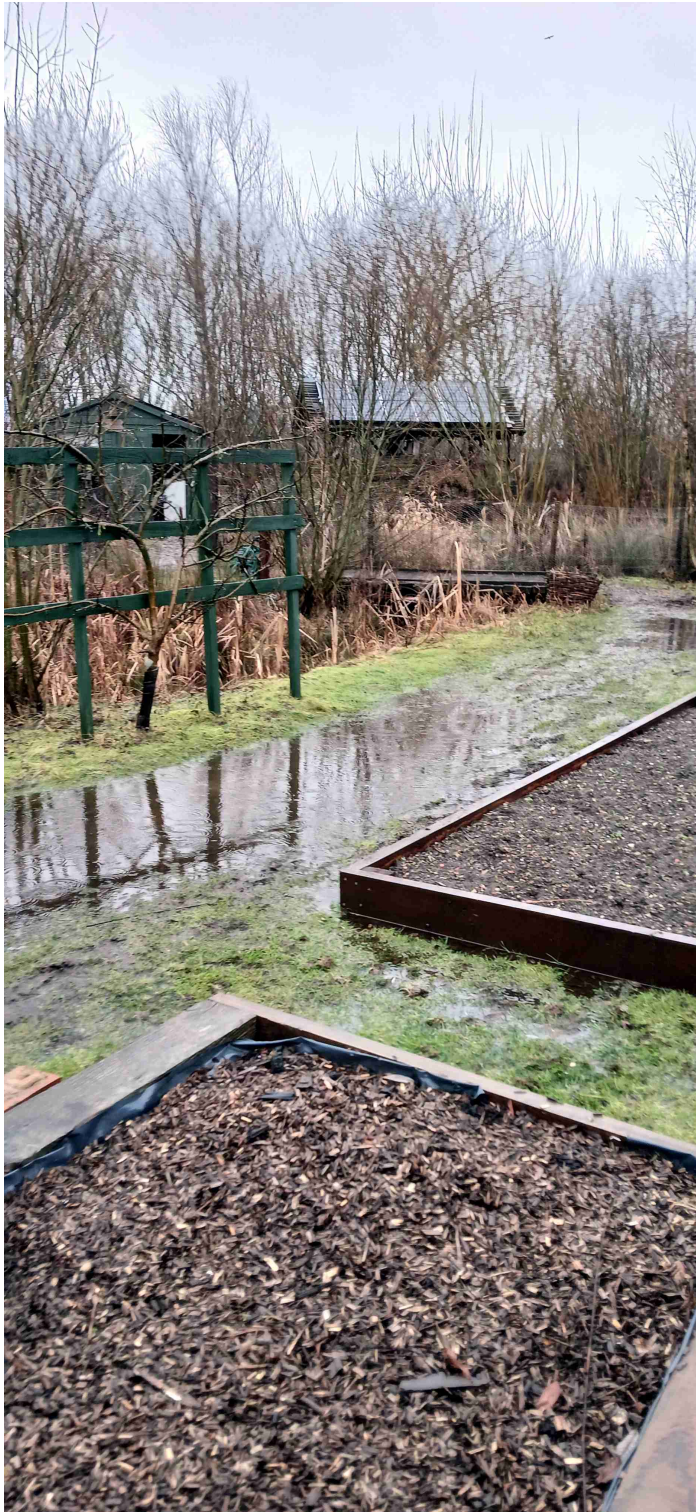
*“Don’t walk in front of me... I may not follow
Don’t walk behind me... I may not lead
Walk beside me... just be my friend.”*

Albert Camus (1913-1960)



Underwater gardening at Muddy Fork

Muddy Fork, Retford's Gardening for Wellbeing charity, has had a quiet start to the year. Gardening activity has been



limited to put it mildly. Thanks to incessant rain the garden has often been under water, offering new opportunities to the nature reserve's waterfowl. When the puddles subside, the paths are sodden and extremely muddy, and the raised beds waterlogged, making digging out of the question.

Amazingly, despite all this, referrals have continued to come in and new participants are attending regularly – a clear demonstration of the need for the service and its value to the community.

At least the garden is now ready for spring, if and when it actually arrives. The application of donated woodchip to the paths must have been some help and much other winter maintenance work has continued. The willow 'wall' has been trimmed to a more manageable height and gaps filled in. Donated topsoil has topped up the raised beds. As the beds have started to dry out it has been easy to remove the weeds which have sprung up everywhere. It is all looking very neat and tidy, if somewhat damp.

This year's garden plans are prepared and everything is ready to go. Potatoes are chitting and seeds lined up. Help with the latter came from Muddy Fork's new friends at the East Markham Gardening Club and is much appreciated. Other local goodwill continues to be quite overwhelming. Muddy Fork is so grateful to all the individuals, organisations and businesses which are so supportive in so many ways, and is also pleased to report that funding from the National Lottery Community Fund has recently been agreed, a real boost to the project.

Meanwhile a few brassicas and leeks are still hanging on and the overwintering chard is coming back. The raspberries are peeping through and the spring bulbs around the garden are providing a welcome splash of colour. All we need now is some sunshine!

For further information, if you might be interested in volunteering, or could make a donation, check out the website at www.muddyfork.org, while referrals, whether self-referrals or on behalf of someone else, should go to Rose, rose.muddyfork@outlook.com. Visitors to the garden are always welcome.

Dangerous products on sale online

Consumers' Association's Which? Magazines* has, yet again, reported recently (March 2026 issue) that rather than online market places' usual statements that they 'take consumers' safety a priority' their record is poor.

The **Product Regulation and Metrology Act**, which received Royal Assent on 21st July, 2025, has the potential to be a game changer for consumer safety.

Product Safety Minister Justin Madders said: "By giving regulators the teeth to clamp down on unsafe products, we're ensuring people can shop with confidence whether online or on the high street."

Following the bill's Royal Assent, the government must act fast to tighten definitions of online marketplaces, introduce a clear duty so that online marketplaces are accountable for product safety, and empower regulators to issue heavy fines for those that fall short of the required standards.

However, at the time of writing these supplementary aspects of the July 2025 Act have not yet been considered in Parliament so, effectively, the Act has no impact!

Key advice: when shopping online, only buy products from recognised manufacturers!

Editor

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IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER GET IN TOUCH TODAY



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Retford Book Festival

The second Retford Book Festival will take place at venues in and around Retford from 6th to 14th June 2026.



Our principal venue will once again be the historic Grove Street Methodist Church where we were made very welcome last year. There will also be events at the Glass Lounge café, Idle Valley and St. Saviours church.

We are committed to our mantra of “something for everyone”. This year’s festival will include poetry, journalism, crime, sport and

philanthropy, history, photography, illustration, up and coming writers and a special event in aid of the RNIB.

The festival continues to punch above its weight with some big names this year: Alastair Campbell, Mark Steel, Stephen Booth, Blake Morrison, Henry Normal and Roger McGough. We agreed with Alastair Campbell that we would offer local politics students fifteen free tickets to his event and these have been enthusiastically applied for.

We are running two workshops this year – one on writing horror and one on self-publishing. The popular crime writers’ panel will be chaired again by local crime fiction author, Graeme Cumming, and will feature Zoe Sharp, Wes Markin and TM Logan.

Authors will be talking about their work and their writing lives. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and buy their books.

After the success of last year’s eight school events, we are funding fifteen events this year in local schools with poet, Paul Cookson and illustrator, Liz Million.

The festival is organised by an enthusiastic group of volunteers but without our sponsors and supporters the Retford Book Festival would never have happened.

Tickets are available from 27th March from wegottickets.com or from **Wonderland** book shop on Retford’s Carolgate.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more information: [#somethingforeveryone](https://www.facebook.com/somethingforeveryone) [#telleverybody](https://www.instagram.com/telleverybody)

Editor’s footnote: The latest Festival Brochure can be accessed on your community website (www.clarborough-welham.org.uk) homepage through the Book Festival poster link shown at top of this article.

Parish Chair Phil Gibson Honoured with Achievers Award for Community Service

Clarborough & Welham Parish Chair, Phil Gibson, has been recognised for his outstanding dedication to the local community after receiving a prestigious Achievers Award.

The award celebrates individuals who go above and beyond to make a positive difference, and Mr Gibson was singled out for his tireless efforts in supporting residents, championing local initiatives, and strengthening community spirit. From organising events to advocating for improvements across the parish, his leadership has had a lasting impact.



Speaking after receiving the award, Mr Gibson said he was “deeply honoured” and proud to serve the community, adding that the recognition reflects the collective efforts of many volunteers and residents who work together to make the area a better place.”

Cllr Fraser McFarland, District Councillor for the ward, praised Mr Gibson’s commitment and influence, saying: “Phil’s dedication to the parish is second to none. He consistently puts the needs of residents first and works tirelessly to bring people together. This award is thoroughly deserved and recognises the real difference he makes every day.” The Achievers Award highlights the importance of community leadership, and Mr Gibson’s recognition serves as an inspiration to others to get involved and contribute to local life.

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Clarborough Church News



Grateful thanks to all who put so much effort into making our Burns Night Event on 24th January, a great success. Even those of us who did not join in the Scottish dances after the meal enjoyed watching those who did.

If you missed it this year, think about joining in next year. In the meantime there are a few events planned for the summer. Church will be involved with the Village Fair and dog show, with Tombola

and refreshments in the village hall. It is great to see Village Ventures back in action as this was originally a church initiative.

Also, in the church itself, we plan:

Saturday, 18th April, 14:00: Bingo and refreshments.

Sunday, 21st June, Strawberry Tea. This is to celebrate our Patronal festival. Our church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and his special day is 24th June. Watch out for

details of these and other events on Facebook and WhatsApp.

Can you help? The person who cut our churchyard grass has left the area and we cannot find anyone else. **Would you be able to give a little of your time to help?** Some areas we hope to re-wild in line with our being an *A Rocha Silver Award Eco Church*, but the memorial garden and between the graves needs to be neater.

Volunteers are also needed on Saturday 16th May to repaint the lower areas of the inside walls. Could you help with that? Even if you can drop in for just an hour that would be useful.

Church News Contact 07989 895 813

Medical Microbots

So-called microbots which are tiny (1 millimetre), spherical, robots that can be used to travel through human veins and arteries, are currently being developed across the world..

There can be used to clear blockages and also deliver medication precisely when they are delivered using magnets from outside the body.

Specifically controlled magnetic fields, which don't have any detrimental effects on human tissues, are used to direct the microbots to their intended destination, This 'route control' is monitored by X-ray.

Once the microbot reaches its intended destination, a change in magnetic field inputs causes the microbots outer 'skin' to dissolve, releasing the effective chemical to treat the target.

Editor



Retford Chiropractic Wellness Centre

Serving Retford and surrounding areas for over 30 years

At Retford Chiropractic Wellness Centre, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve their full health potential. Our mission is to support you and your family on your journey to optimal wellness with expert care and a compassionate approach.

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Contact Info:

- 01777 710 720
- www.retfordchiro.co.uk
- 67, Grove St. Retford DN22 6LA



NOMINATE A LOCAL VOLUNTEER!

Nominations for Bassetlaw CVS and Bolsover CVS Volunteer Awards Open!

Bassetlaw CVS and **Bolsover CVS** are thrilled to announce the opening of nominations for the annual Volunteer Awards.

These prestigious awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort to making a positive impact in their communities.

As part of Volunteers' Week, the joint awards ceremony will take place on Friday 5 June, providing an opportunity to recognise and honor the invaluable work of volunteers.

For the first time, we are celebrating both Bassetlaw and Bolsover volunteers in a joint ceremony at **Lady Margaret Hall, Wellbeck** and we will be featuring a 'Gratitude Photo Gallery' showcasing our wonderful nominated volunteers.

We are also allowing people to nominate an organisation this year who they feel is a great place to volunteer for (only volunteers can vote).

How to nominate

To nominate a **volunteer**, visit bit.ly/4bdQxyS

To nominate an **organisation** visit bit.ly/3NihgCj

Alternatively, you can contact our offices for a hard copy by calling 01909 476118.

The deadline for nominations is **30 April 2026** at Middy.



How volunteering helps tackle Loneliness in Bassetlaw

Loneliness affects people of all ages and backgrounds. In Bassetlaw, we see first hand how feeling isolated can impact wellbeing. But we also see how powerful volunteering can be in helping people reconnect.

Volunteers play a vital role in building a friendlier, more connected community. And the benefits are two-way.

Building real connections

Volunteering naturally brings people together. Whether helping at a local group, supporting an event, or joining one of our community projects, volunteers often meet new people and form friendships. For many, it's a gentle and supportive way to rebuild confidence and social contact.

Boosting wellbeing and purpose

Having a reason to get involved can make a huge difference. Volunteers regularly tell us that they feel more confident, more valued, more motivated to get out of the house. These positive experiences help reduce loneliness and improve overall wellbeing.

Small actions, big impact

You don't need lots of time or experience to make a difference. Even a couple of hours a month can brighten someone's day and often boosts the volunteer's wellbeing too.

Want to get involved?

BCVS can help you find a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests and confidence level. Get in touch on the details below.

 bcvs@bcvs.org.uk

 www.bcvs.org.uk

 01909 476 118

 involve@bcvs.org.uk

Retford's Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity

Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity, one of Retford's oldest charities, is seeking new volunteer trustees.

Founded in 1658, the charity provides safe, affordable homes for people in the Retford area who can live independently but value a supportive community. Today it manages 46 almshouse properties across several sites in



Retford.

[Above: Sloswicke's Hospital, Churchgate, Retford originally built in 1806 and extended by two adjacent houses behind the 1806 one in 1819.]

Trustees meet around six times a year in Retford. We would particularly welcome experience in working with people, property, finance, communications, or charity governance, but enthusiasm for supporting the local community is just as important.

To find out more, please send a short note with your contact number to: sloswickes@brown-co.com

A current trustee will then arrange a friendly conversation.

PS. If this is not for you, please share information about this opportunity with others who may be interested in joining us.

[Below Close-up of the oval plaque added at the time of rebuilding in 1806. It reads (in Latin):



By God, from the gift of the generous Richard Sloswicke

"If you tell the truth, you don't need to remember anything."

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Batteries – accelerating history!

Batteries have, over the last couple of centuries, made huge changes to how humans interact with the world – and this effect is accelerating now!

The discovery of 'electric effects' goes back to the Ancient Greeks (c.650 BC) who discovered that rubbing pieces of amber could lead to it attracting small, light-weight, particles such as dust. 'Amber' in Greek is ἤλεκτρον (*ēlektron*)!

Winding forward to circa 1740 when a number of European science experimenters were studying these electric effects. A key experimenter was **Ewald Georg von Kleist** who developed a device later known as a *Leyden Jar* which could store huge amounts of electric charge – painfully demonstrated when accidentally discharged through many experimenters!

By the turn of the 18th century experiments around electrical effects led to creation of the first voltaic pile by **Alessandro Volta** which comprised discs of copper and zinc separated by brine-soaked material.

The main advantage of the voltaic pile was that it produced a continuous current over a significant duration rather than the 'all-in-one-go' behaviour of Leyden Jars.

In 1836 the English professor of chemistry, **John Frederic Daniell** invented the so-called *Daniell cell* which quickly became the standard source of electricity in telegraph systems. Danell's cell became the first *galvanic* cell which have developed through to our current, supermarket, available batteries.

For a detailed history of batteries go to Wikipedia's 'History of the battery':

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_battery

The story of batteries includes the efforts of Elon Musk – a name you may have heard before! Musk opened what he called his *gigafactory* in Nevada in 2016. (Giga is the term for 1 billion or 1,000 million or 1×10^9) and this has opened a gateway for global electrical power storage by manufacturing on a global scale such products as advanced batteries, electric motors and solar cells.

Space doesn't allow us to describe in detail how this manufacturing revolution has already impacted decision making at government levels as well as manufacturers using the technology to move in new directions. Looking back we can already see how battery developments change our lives – how would we function today if batteries hadn't shrunk so small that mobile phones were invented? Probably one of the most significant of these developments that is already influencing consumers – electric cars!

It is already predicted that these new technologies will soon make electric 'fuel' a direct alternating to fossil fuels (petrol, diesel or coal/coke). Add to that the predicated arrival of A.I. (artificial intelligence) technologies to replace human drivers across almost all technologies – from private cars through HGVs to railways and then even aircraft and shipping – watch this space!

Editor

Annual networking event brought together health and wellbeing professionals

Bassetlaw District Council's annual 'Health and Wellbeing: New Year Networking' event returned in 2026, giving individuals, groups and organisations across the health and wellbeing sector an opportunity to connect and learn together.

Hosted by Muslim Charity, the event on 4th February at Eaton Hall focused on collaboration, information sharing and highlighting the fantastic work taking place across the district.

Councillor Darrell Pulk, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods at Bassetlaw District Council said: "Following the success of our previous New Year Networking events, it was a pleasure to once again unite a range of professionals working to improve and sustain the wellbeing of our communities.

"We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Muslim Charity for kindly hosting this year's event. We hope that everyone who dropped by found the session valuable and enjoyed taking the chance to strengthen existing relationships and form new ones."



Cllr Pulk and Bakhtyar Pirzada, Chairman of Muslim Charity welcomed everyone to the event. The introduction was followed by presentations that provided valuable insights helping to support Bassetlaw's residents.

Barnsley Premier Leisure discussed health referrals and sports development, and the Retford and Villages Primary Care Network (PCN) explored available cancer support.

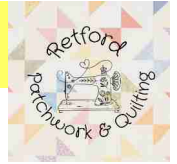
Attendees were also invited to take part in additional activities including a mood boost session, quiz and discussion panel with three men who shared their lived experience of being diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Bakhtyar Pirzada, Chairman of Muslim Charity, said: "It was a privilege to welcome so many colleagues, partners and friends to Eaton Hall, and I thank everyone for taking the time to join us.

"We are grateful to Bassetlaw District Council for choosing this venue and for bringing the health and wellbeing community together in such a meaningful way. At Eaton Hall, we remain committed to working in partnership to support strong, connected and thriving communities across Bassetlaw."

[Pictured: Peter Clark, Head of Neighbourhood Services (Bassetlaw District Council), Bakhtyar H. Pirzada, Chairman of Muslim Charity, Councillor Darrell Pulk, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods (Bassetlaw District Council) and Maroof Pirzada, UK Director of Muslim Charity.]

Retford Patchwork & Quilting Group



As we celebrate our first anniversary its a good time to look back on what we have accomplished. The Group was established in Spring 2025 after mother and daughter Julie and Amy Ransley discussed the need for accessible quilting groups for people of all ages in the area. The starting membership of 5 has steadily increased and now stands at 14 regular members with interest growing.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening each month from 18:30 to 21:00 at The Grove Retford. Our new informal daytime meetings are on the 3rd Friday each month from 10:00 to 14:00 are held in a Member's home.

Evening meetings are held twice a month, each following a relaxed yet structured format.

Members can bring their own work or participate in *Block of the Month* on the second Wednesday or an optional project on the fourth Wednesday. An informal daytime session on the third Friday each month, held in a member's home, offers a chance to practise new skills or complete evening projects.



Block of the Month

We have successfully completed 9 BOMs, along with Christmas pieces donated to The Grove and St Swithun's church festivals. Over the course of a year this has



enabled the group to gradually learn new techniques and improve their skills with each monthly block. Finishing a monthly block keeps group members motivated and gives a sense of accomplishment as new techniques are learned.

Our Block of the Month comes to an end in May but will be

replaced with a new and exciting project. 'Sew-A-Row' will introduce new techniques and build on those already acquired, **Sew-A-Row**. The aim is to complete six rows of blocks, applying new and old techniques to build into a quilt.

The final optional project of the year will be a sensational Japanese Knot Bag. This project involves creating a bag with two handles at different lengths, It is a reversible and functional bag that reflects the rich textile heritage of Japan. Suitable for a beginner or an experienced sewer this offers a creative way to incorporate Japanese design into your sewing projects. The instructions for all our projects are freely available to all our members.

Advice is always at hand between meetings from our WhatsApp group and our new Facebook page provides updates on future events. New members are welcome to join us; you might be amazed at what you are able to achieve. Plus, anyone under 18 can take part for free when accompanied by a paying adult.

To book a place at any meeting, or just to find out more contact Julie on **07946 742 865** or email:

info@retfordpandq.com, Take a look at our new Facebook page or visit our website :

www.retfordpandq.com

Julie Ransley

Bassetlaw Action Centre Celebrates 30 years

Bassetlaw Action Centre (BAC) played host to a number of dignitaries, including Lord Lieutenant Veronica Pickering and celebrity Reverend Kate Bottley, to celebrate completing 30 years of helping their local community on 26th February, 2026.



At this event presenter Howard Bradley [Left] from LS14 spoke about the difference made to over a quarter of a million people who had been in touch with BAC saying "What struck me most about the afternoon was the warmth, pride, and shared sense of purpose as people

came together to celebrate Bassetlaw Action Centre. Great food and great fun and hearing directly from people whose lives have been shaped by the work made it clear that this organisation is not only reflecting on an impressive past, but is well placed for the next 30 years as well."

Bassetlaw Action Centre began in as an offshoot from Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Services. with just 2.5 full time staff and over the years has grown to include 36 staff members and a large number of volunteers. Over the years it has increased its services from a Community Car Scheme to adding minibus trips, providing support in the home and when people have just left hospital,

befriending, housing and benefit advice, and running courses on managing long term conditions.

One thing that has never changed is their commitment to helping local residents. CEO Lynn Tupling says "I could write a book about all of the people that we have helped over the years and the number of different workstreams we have developed to meet the individual needs of local people. None of this would have been possible without the exceptional professionalism and dedication of the staff and volunteers and it is an absolute privilege to have each of them in our team."



One attendee at the event said "From small acorns huge trees grow – what a fantastic 30 years of growth, bringing help and support to everyone who needs it."

The event also celebrated the long service of many staff and volunteers, with a large number having been there for over 10 years and some reaching the 20-year milestone, the longest serving staff member having clocked up 28 years. One of the 20 year crew, Preventative Services Manager Jayne Bullock, said "I'm proud to have served Bassetlaw Action Centre for 20 years. When I joined, it was a small organisation, and I'm honoured to have helped it grow into a Countywide-reach - always keeping the people we support at the heart of everything we do."

Bassetlaw Action Centre continues to need volunteers in a number of roles in order to provide different services. Anyone who is interested, or who feels they would benefit from assistance, should visit:

www.bassetlawactioncentre.org.uk
email **enquiries@actioncentre.org.uk**
or call **01777 709 650** to find out more.

Nottinghamshire dialect!

Ayup / Ayup me duck	Hello / Hello
everyone. Allreet	Are you OK
Wottjowont?	Do you require something?
Tara / Tara-a-bit	Goodbye.
Yo jammi sodd!	You lucky person!.



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**Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust**

**Lead by
Example**

NWT backs new measures to protect livestock but highlights the importance of keeping dogs on a lead to prevent disturbance and harm to ground-nesting birds.

Following a change in the law designed to provide farm animals with greater protection from dog attacks, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is urging dog owners to keep their pets on a lead when visiting nature reserves to prevent disturbance of ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.

On 18th March the maximum penalty for livestock worrying in England and Wales has been raised from £1000 to an unlimited fine, and police now have powers to seize and detain a dog where they have reasonable grounds to believe it has attacked or worried livestock and that there is a risk it could do so again.



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, which runs an extensive conservation grazing programme with both sheep and cattle and has welcomed the strengthening of the law relating to livestock but has also highlighted the risk posed to wild birds by dogs off leads on nature reserves.

Speaking about the issue, the Trust's Head of Communications Erin McDaid said:

“Getting out into nature is vital to many of us for exercise and wellbeing, but as an increasing number choose to enjoy their time in nature accompanied by their pet dogs the presence of dogs, off a lead can be a real issue for wildlife – especially in spring. Wild birds perceive dogs as predators and when dogs roam freely, birds may stay away from or even abandon their nests - leaving eggs and chicks cold and unprotected.”

Whilst most dog owners are enthusiastic about nature and wouldn't perceive their pet as a threat to wildlife, even the best-behaved dogs can unintentionally cause damage or distress, simply by following their natural curiosity.

Erin added: “People often think of birds' nests as being high up in trees, but a surprising number nest on the ground or just above it, in low bushes. Ground nesters include skylarks, nightjars and curlews, and whilst it is true that dogs roaming free can be devastating for these

species, dogs wandering off paths on nature reserves can also be a real problem for species such as dunnocks, willow warblers, chiffchaffs and even blackbirds which all sometimes nest close to the ground.”

A question of balance

Erin added: “We are sometimes asked why, when there is so little space left for wildlife, do we allow dogs on our sites at all? We believe that connecting people with nature is vital, a vital part of protecting it and recognise that for many dog-owners this connection can be created whilst exercising their dog. The perfect compromise is to experience and enjoy wildlife from the paths – whether you're on two legs or four!”

To help get this message across, the Trust launched the **Lead by Example** campaign last year to highlight the need for dogs to be on leads and to recognise and reward responsible behaviour. At a handful of sites, including Attenborough and Skylarks Nature Reserves, the charity has enlisted the help of responsible dog owners to spread the message about the importance of keeping dog on a lead and picking up pet's poo – accompanied by their 'Ambassadogs'. The Trust is **currently recruiting volunteers** and 'Ambassadogs' to help extend the campaign to the **Idle Valley Nature Reserve**, its largest site, near Retford.

As well as reducing disturbance of birds, keeping your dog on a lead will also reduce the disturbance of mammals, amphibians and reptiles. It also prevents dogs disturbing wildlife on lakes and rivers and limits the impact of dog poo, pee and pollution linked to flea treatments.

Erin added: “Each spring we issue the call to dog owners to take extra care to ensure that their pet's don't scare adult birds or trample eggs, and farmers have to repeat their concerns about dogs worrying livestock, particularly at lambing time – but these seasonal messages can fade over time. This is why we now call for people to keep dogs on leads when visiting our nature reserves – whatever the time of year.



To find out more about our *Lead by Example* campaign visit nottinghamshirewildlife.org/lead-by-example

You can also find out more about the nest protection behaviour of ground nesting birds in our latest blog by naturalist Mike Vickers at :

nottinghamshirewildlife.org/blog

Photos : Rachel Rutherford and Peter Cairns.

Volunteering can provide huge opportunities to enhance your career – and life!

Not only does volunteering help and support the folks or organisations that you volunteer to, but crucially, it provides you with opportunities to develop and share your skills in



new environments and also expand your social group(s).

Opportunities to experience aspects of organisation management could provide you with material to enhance your CV when applying for your next (or first) job or moving on/upwards within your current employment. Choosing to volunteer with an organisation that has wide engagement with a multitude of organisations and local groups could expand your skills to not only help those you are working with but also equip you with tools to enhance your career.

Clarborough & District Community Association (CDCA) are managers of Clarborough Village Hall which has a

considerable body of weekly hirers extending through a range of physical activities such as table tennis and various 'exercise' activities as well as social groups such as regular 'Coffee Mornings'. Regular groups occupy 5-days-per-week and time slots varying between one and two hours across mornings, afternoon and evenings (to 9pm) so it is easy for you to find something that fits with your current commitments.

Weekend party/events bookings are also quite common to which we should also add the monthly (first Saturday) Table Top Sale events.

Get in touch with CDCA to find out what's involved in a variety of options to see if it's for you :

- try out different career ideas
- learn new skills or build on ones you already have
- meet new people and develop your network of contacts
- boost your confidence and wellbeing by expanding your local contacts as well as...
- ...giving back to your community

Think about what interests or excites you. This could be something you enjoyed doing before, or something that is completely new to you.

Think about what time or skills you can give. With so many opportunities to choose from, it's a great idea to narrow down the choices by deciding what you're willing to give.

Greg Herdman
CDCA Chairman





7TH - 9TH MAY 2026

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Original Vocal Score by
BRIAN MAY, ROGER TAYLOR & MIKE DIXON

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The Majestic Theatre, Retford. Bookings: **01777 706866** or www.majesticretford.org

Clarborough & District WI



Our move to Hayton Village Hall is going well and we are seeing increased numbers in membership which is heartening.

Our programme continues to be varied and in April we welcome a visit from Angela Richards who will talk on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

May sees our Annual Meeting where we deal with the business side of our organisation and vote on Resolutions which are often reach the level of lobby in Parliament.

June is our Birthday Meeting and our Speaker will be Philip Braund with the intriguing title of a "A slight misunderstanding"

The membership of our Group covers Clarborough, Hayton and Welham but we are happy to welcome interest from a wider area not covered by another WI.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month and start at 14:00. A cost of £5 is charged for visitors which includes a raffle ticket and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

Lucy Richardson
(07966 452 249)



Looking for something creative to do? Then come along to Retford Arts Hub where a variety of inspiring workshops for all abilities may tempt you to try something new.

If it's sewing you are interested in, come along on Fridays for help to create gifts and items for the home. If you prefer to try creative sewing or garment making, classes are held on the first and third Saturday of the month.

If you would like to learn how to crochet or knit, call into the hub and put your name down for the next four week beginners courses.

Children's Art Club continues to take place twice a month in term time with fun classes on various topics, lead by local artists.

The Upstairs Gallery is hosting an exhibition in May titled "skies and seas" After the previous exhibition in April, which was in monochrome, this exhibition demonstrates what can be achieved with lots of imagination and a variety of mediums.

If you need some help in achieving artistic skills or would




just like to try your hand with oils or watercolours, John Redfern Harris [Left] runs workshops at the Arts Hub in both. We would also like to introduce one of our artisans, Roy Bennett, {Above, right} who has been

producing quality articles in wood for many years. These include practical items like cheese and bread boards, but also decorative ones like rabbits and reindeers. With Spring in the air, his nesting boxes are especially in demand and each one is made paying attention to the intended inhabitant so that the opening is made in accordance with RSPB guidelines. These are priced mostly at £10 and provide perfect accommodation for our feathery friends.




For more information on any of the courses, becoming a friend of the hub, or, displaying/selling your art/craft work, please call 01777 860 414 or call in at the Arts Hub and talk to one of our volunteers.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram @retfordartshub



Artist

Roy Bennett



11 Churchgate, East Retford, DN22 6PA
01777 860414 info@retfordartshub.com

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
Dolly Parton (1946-)



The National Holocaust Museum is the UK's only museum dedicated to Holocaust education and remembrance. A unique place of learning, our immersive exhibitions, artefacts, films, and memorial gardens — enriched by the personal testimonies of Holocaust survivors and the expertise of our educators — engage visitors of all ages in deep, reflective learning.

The museum is open to the public Sunday to Friday from 10:00 until 16:30, with last entry to the exhibitions at 15:30.

A full programme of events is available throughout the year and full details are on the museum website:

www.holocaust.org.uk/whats-on

Upcoming events:

Jewish Culture Month: What Does it Mean To Be Jewish? Thursday 28th May 11:30 – 12:30

Celebrate the UK's first Jewish Culture Month by exploring real stories from young British Jews and discover meaningful objects that bring Jewish life to life, past and present.

Refugee Week - Monday 15th to Sunday 21st

A variety of events relating to refugees throughout the week. Including Survivor testimony, an author event and a curatorial talk. Please visit our website for updated details.



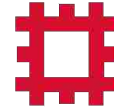
Summer Holidays

1. Daily tours of The Journey exhibition
2. Survivor testimony both in person and pre-recorded
3. Family Events relating to the Kindertransport each Monday, including a Journey tour and handling objects from our museum collection.
4. Curatorial talks with objects to look at and hold relating to Jewish Resistance, Jewish Identity and Liberation.

During your visit take some time in the Memorial Garden where there are over 1,000 roses planted, each with a dedication to lives lost in the Holocaust. The roses start to bloom in June so summer is the time to see them at their best.

Why not pause to reflect on your visit over refreshments in the homely coffeeshop? A selection of hot and cold drinks, snacks and delicious cakes are available.

If you are a member of English Heritage you can benefit from the 2 for 1 offer admission. Just show your membership card on arrival.



ENGLISH HERITAGE



Spring is here.....

And it's an ideal time to start thinking about getting outdoors more.

Do you need fresh air, exercise, a good chat or perhaps a chance to get out and enjoy the countryside.

We are a small friendly group who like to do all the above. We walk on Sundays and meet in Chapelgate Car Park to arrange car sharing, if needed.

Please take a look at our website for more information and walk details.

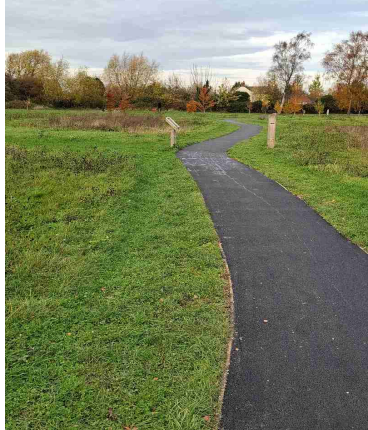
www.retfordramblers.org.uk or contact us at retford.ramblers@gmail.com

You are very welcome to come and try a couple of our walks before making any decision to join the Ramblers.

Helen Bell
Retford Ramblers secretary

Clarborough and Welham Parish Council News

A parcel of land known as the Parish Pastures is located in Clarborough adjacent to the canal. A path that was installed across the pastures had been finished off with stone chippings. Although it looked great it was not suitable for wheel chair and push chair users. With volunteers from the public the parish council removed the chippings leaving the sub base. Although this did improve things it was still not ideal. The parish council made the decision to divert some funds to have the path tarmacked which was completed last year. This has made the pastures accessible to all. The council would like to thank parishioner Dave McDonald for managing the contractors. Also thanks to all members of the public for all their kind and positive comments.



The area where the skate park once stood is to be redeveloped.

The PC are in the process of creating a partnership with the Canal & River trust. This will allow them to open the canal side adjacent to where the skate park was. This should have happened during the winter. However, it is now going to have to wait until the nesting season is over.

The plan for hard standing area is to install some gym equipment and create a picnic area. Bassetlaw District Councillor, Fraser McFarland has kindly donated £700 from his community fund to put towards the purchase of a picnic table with wheel chair access. The PC have consulted the public regarding gym equipment and are currently evaluating their feedback.

How will the community benefit from this project?

People are less active nowadays, partly because technology has made our lives easier. We entertain ourselves in front of a TV or computer screen. Whatever your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier and happier life. Exercise can reduce your risk of major illnesses, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer, and lower your risk of early death by up to 30%. Research shows that physical activity can boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy, as well as reducing your risk of stress.



[Left] The owl box in the community orchard was falling apart. Parishoner Dave McDonald kindly supplied a scaffold tower and helped put up a replacement.

The parish council are looking for another location for a second owl box. They welcome any suggestion

The council are looking for people to rekindle the Friend of the Parish Pasture (FoPP group). With the support of the parish council they would be responsible for maintenance and develop of parish pastures. If you are interested and have some spare time please contact the council.

The Clarborough and Welham Parish Council have there own website. This was created and developed by councillor Nic Smith. Having a website is the simplest way to meet transparency regulations. Transparency is a central responsibility of every Parish Council. Agendas, minutes, financial data, and policy documents are shared in a manner that allows residents to easily find and understand them. The website address is clarboroughandwelhamparishcouncil.gov.uk



Clarborough and Welham spring community litter pick took place 22nd March. There was 11 volunteers including BDC Councillor Fraser Mcfarland. We collected over 12 bags of rubbish from across our parish. Thank you for all those involved.

Phil Gibson
(Clarborough & Welham Parish Council chairman)

History of Free English Schooling

Before 1870 children could receive education through voluntary or church schools. The 1870 'Forster' Act created local 'school boards' in areas lacking what we would now call 'primary school' facilities. This act did not make education free, nor compulsory.

The 1876 Elementary Education Act did make parents responsible for ensuring their children did attend local schools from 5 years old to 10 years old but didn't give grants to cover fees. Many poorer families endeavoured to get their children into some form of paid employment instead.

The 1891 Elementary Education Act did provide state payment of school fees up to ten shillings (50p) per head, making primary education effectively free and the 1893 Elementary Education Act raised the school leaving age to 11 while a follow-on Act in 1893 raised this to 12 years.

Editor

Bassetlaw and Notts County Council Newsletters

Our local Authorities regularly publish lots of online Newsletters related to their wide range of provision :

Bassetlaw District Council:

Residents Newsletters
 Housing Newsletter for Tennants
 Newsletter for Businesses
 Bassetlaw has also published renewed versions of its *Vision 2040 Bassetlaw* document.

Nottinghamshire County Council:

Family Life Newsletter
 Family Hub Newsletters
 Health & Wellbeing
 Support for Carers
 Cost of Living Support
 Notts C.C. Also has an online News Room.

Finally, **East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)** is also starting to publish Newsletters regarding its services.

Most of all of these publications are updated regularly and readers with online facilities can use the online services to request regular e-mail copies of each updated version.

However, you may decide that using your community website (www.clarborough-welham.org.uk) provides a more centralised **one-place-for-them-all** service. Just go to our community website and then access any or all of the above authorities from of our website's homepage main menu.

Editor

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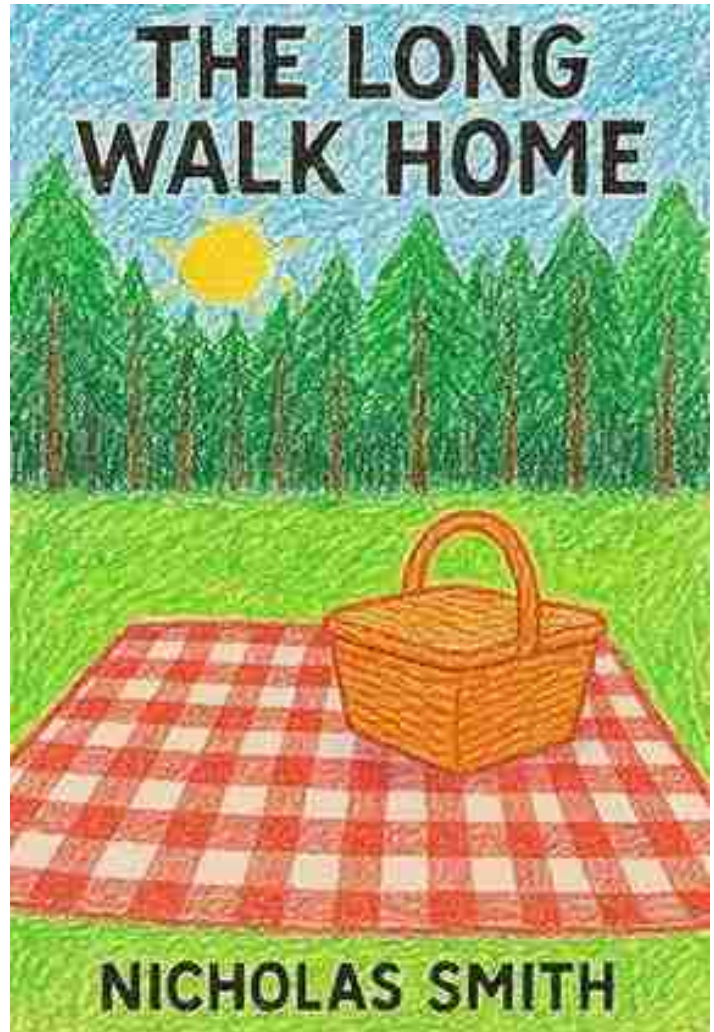
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 or www.goforgoachers.co.uk

The Long Walk Home : local author

We are delighted to share that our parish councillor, Nic Smith, has recently published a heartfelt new ebook, *The Long Walk Home*, a moving story that is already touching readers' hearts.



The Long Walk Home introduces us to Freddie, a young boy navigating one of life's biggest changes: being adopted into a new family. Through Freddie's eyes, readers step into a world that feels both exciting and uncertain. There are new faces to trust, new rules to understand, and a new place to call home. With honesty and warmth, the story captures the joy of discovery, the sting of heartache, and the quiet courage it takes to truly belong.

From unexpected adventures to tender moments of doubt and hope, Freddie's journey reflects the very real highs and lows that come with opening your heart to love. Told entirely from his perspective, the narrative feels intimate and authentic, allowing readers to experience every brave step alongside him.

Tender, uplifting, and deeply moving, *The Long Walk Home* is a powerful story about resilience, belonging, and the transformative meaning of family. We are incredibly proud to see Nic's compassion and insight brought to life in this beautiful ebook, and we encourage everyone in our community to support and celebrate this wonderful achievement. Download it here (free on Kindle Unlimited):

<https://amzn.eu/d/0aUIOLck>

Nic Smith

War Graves Week

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission look after the graves and memorial walls of all those who died in the First and Second World Wars. The deaths must have occurred within a set timescale but extend to cover some of those who died after the war had ended due to wounds and illness connected to the war.

Every year they set aside a week in which special events take place across the World to highlight the work of the Commission and to enable us all to learn more about those who are commemorated. This year events will be held from the 16th to the 24th May.

I have been a volunteer for the CWGC for almost 5 years and I inspect local scattered graves in ten locations twice a year. This includes one burial in Hayton Churchyard and two in Clarlborough. This role piques the curiosity to learn more about those I care for and last year I took on the role of tour guide at East Retford cemetery. As well as explaining the work of the Commission I am able to provide some background into the lives of those buried there.

As part of War Graves Week I will be conducting two tours of Retford cemetery, the first on Saturday 16th May at 14:00 and a second tour on Wednesday 20th May at 11:00. The tours are free although there is a chance to make a donation to the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation which is the fundraising arm of the Commission. The tours can be booked through Eventbrite, or by visiting the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's website. Spaces are limited so it is advisable to book as soon as possible. The route taken is accessible to all and is taken at a leisurely pace.

There will be more tours during the summer months if you are unable to join me on this occasion. I know that many people walk in Retford cemetery so this is an opportunity to learn more about the stories behind the graves.

Judith Goodall

Becoming frail isn't just an 'old age' issue

Frailty, which can be recognised by unstable feet to mental confusion is a condition that is familiar in older people, but recent research is starting to identify extremely early aspects of the condition!

Recent research has started to uncover complex and diverse aspects of that can start early in our lives. Infact, a significant number of individuals in their 30s or 40s may be unaware that some of their traits indicate a 'pre-frail' state.

What is becoming clear is that frailty is a condition that can begin to show warning signs quite early in life. This might be slow walking speed, self-recognised exhaustion, unintentional weight loss, low physical activity and weak grip strenght. It has become fairly clear that the first of these is probably the best indicator of potential frailty.

These pointers indicate that physical exercise in the 30-50 year age range is a key element in reducing frailty in later life.

Editor

Improve your internet searching Some useful tips

Have you noticed how confusing can be the results of doing a Google search for something like *jaguar* (*Panthera onca*) when you're actually looking for the wild cat species?

A very useful single word addition to a search word is illustrated by searching for *jaguar -car* which returns all results for *jaguar* except those for Jaguar cars.

Some multiword searches can yield complex mixtures of results because Google usually provided results for both (or all in many) words as well as combinations of the words. A couple of easy ways to simplify the search is to enclose the whole search iin quotes. So looking for "supersonic aircraft social impacts" will yield results for only this whole query.

Another approach to getting results for a multi-word search is to separate each word within your search by the plus (+) sign. Thus, searching **welham+nottinghamshire** yields results for the Welham linked to Clarlborough village rather than the identically named places in various UK counties and ever as far as India!

If you are shopping online, a reliable way to exclude a particular site such as Amazon, is to uses **article -site:amazon** for where *article* would be replaced by your intended item; *and -site: is* placed between your article following a single space with the site to be excluded immediately following the **-site:** with no space after the colon.

Thus, searching for trainers excluding results from Amazon website, your search would be: **trainers -site:amazon**

Editor

Local Education Authorities

Further to our little article on page 20 we should add the Education Act 1902 which created Local Education Authorities overseeing schools in their areas which were able to set local tax rates. The Act disbanded school boards created from the 1870 Act.

The 1918 Education Act made attendance at Secondary Education compulsory to age 14 and made these schools the responsibility of the State.

Editor

Clarlborough Post Office

Opening hours:

Monday: 09:00-12:30

Tuesdays: 09:00-12:30

Wednesdays: Closed

Thursdays: 09:00-12:30

Fridays: Closed



**All usual
main P.O.
services**

Halford Room, Clarlborough Village Hall
Main Street, Clarlborough, Retford, DN22 9LN
If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact:
Michael C.Carnall 07836 375 808 / 01427 884 469
michaelcarnall@yahoo.co.uk

Rancho Texas Lanzarote park

Recently chats with various 'locals' has raised the topic of holidays and with that a surprising number of who had been taken in the Canary Islands. With (at time of writing) so much disruption and chaos associated with the Middle East



it is quite likely that holidays taken well away from this area are now much more popular. The Canary Islands are just that, and surprisingly 'available' if we visit your favourite holiday store! Flights from the UK typically take around 3 hrs 30mins to 3hrs 45min. While the islands are really popular with 'beach hunters' they do host a great range of other opportunities of which Rancho Texas Lanzarote Park is a great example.- and has been visited twice (so far!) by us.

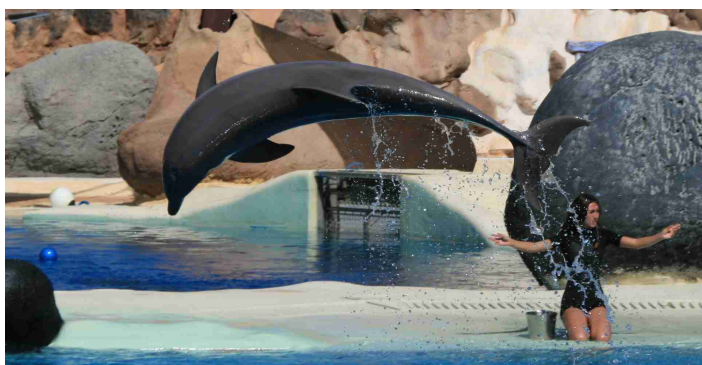


The park offers a get-up-close experience of lots of local – and not-so-local – wildlife, together with a number of wildlife demonstrations, so rather than write an essay about our visits, just enjoy some of our photos.

First off, a bit of sea life which began very relaxed...



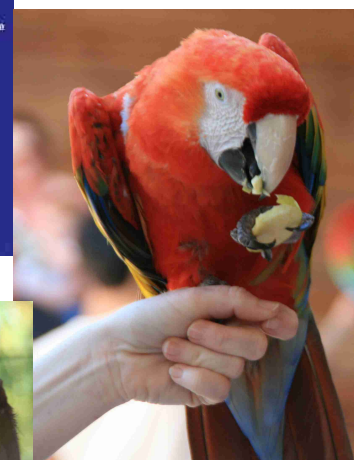
but then, lots of action...



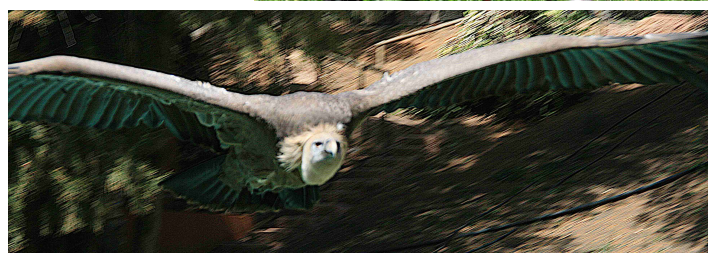
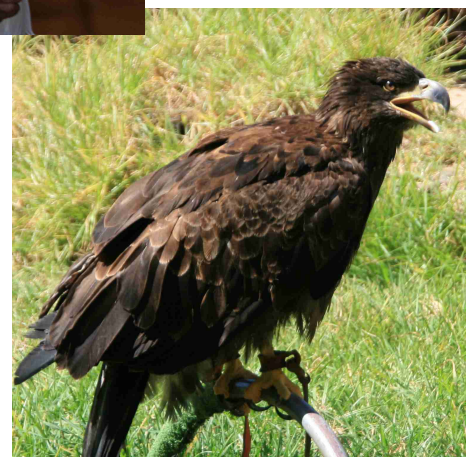
... ..until it was... good bye everyone!



Next, Parrots and relatives experience with a bit of practice for the Birds of Prey demonstration to follow.



[Below] This shot shows why we were all told to 'remain seated' during the display – this vulture's tail brushed your photographer's hair in passing!





Note: For a selection of the very latest news that has been provided to our community website : (www.clarbrough-welham.org.uk) explore all that is displayed on our website's home page.

Our Bassetlaw District Councillor, Fraser McFarland, has strong views on 'Rising Business Rates Risk Undermining Bassetlaw's Local Economy' which can be explored on his Facebook pages at:

Cllr Fraser McFarland

Leader of the Opposition and Group Leader for Reform UK Councillor for Clarbrough, Clayworth, Hayton, Welham and Wiseton

Tel: **07341 568 602**

Follow me on Facebook: [fb.com/CllrFraserMcFarland](https://www.facebook.com/CllrFraserMcFarland)

Yet another forthcoming talk at Retford Library Heritage Talk: "Almshouses – Past, Present and Local"

Retford Library Thursday 30th April, 19:00 – 20:00

Most people will be aware of almshouses – the north of Nottinghamshire has some excellent examples, but what do we really know about them? Why were they set up, and how do they differ from other housing?

Join historian Robert Mee at Retford Library to hear about the origin of almshouses in the Byzantine era, their development during the Medieval period and their continuation into modern times. Robert's talk will look at the 30 or 40 almshouses closest to Retford, some of which are still in use today.

Newsletter Advertising rates for a whole year of four consecutive issues

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Contact Greg (01777) 700 918
clarboroughwelham@gmail.com

**Special rates for 'one off' insertions
Yet again, our greatest thanks go to our tireless (!) team of volunteer distributors.**

Tickets for the talk are £3.50 and booking is essential. To purchase tickets, visit Retford Library, call Ask Inspire on 01623 677 200 or book online at www.inspireculture.org.uk/heritage

[Below] From our community website's home page simply click on the main menu's Education & Training...



Summer 2026 Course Guide - Out Now!



Summer is almost here... and so is our brand new course guide!

Re-opening Doncaster-Sheffield Airport is gaining momentum with a range of new job opportunities coming online to add to already some 40 appointments already made; the Airport's job portal is at:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/work-jobs-training>

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."
Bill Keane (1922-2011)

Newsletter editorial deadlines
13th July (Autumn 2026 issue)
12th October (Winter 2026 issue)

Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council Meetings
11th May
15th June
20th July
14th September
Meetings open 19:00 in Clarbrough Village Hall
Agendas are always posted at least a week in advance on notice boards and on our Parish Council's website.