

Clarbrough & Welham

Bassetlaw Community Newsletter

Quarterly: Winter 2025



Bassetlaw District Council's latest news
Clarbrough Village Ventures are back
Bassetlaw Museum's Regency Beaker
Retford Town-centre make-over
Nottinghamshire reorganisation
Muslim Charity's national award
Santa Canal Cruises
Recycling is changing
Holocaust Museum
Retford Library's events
Vulcan Appeal
Google it
and much, much more!

© 2025 Clarbrough & Welham IT Group with generous support from Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council and distributed by our tireless team of volunteers.

Material published in this Newsletter does not necessarily represent opinions of the Editor. Material submitted without full contact details will not be published. All publication decisions remain the responsibility of the Editor alone.

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

Two very useful Google tools

Maybe the title of this little article should say 'extremely' useful rather than very useful.

These free additions to Google's usual search facilities are Google Translate and Google Images.

Google Translate is what it says on the tin but readers may be surprised that it can offer translation between 110 worldwide languages!

Using Google Translate, however, can be accomplished in two different ways:

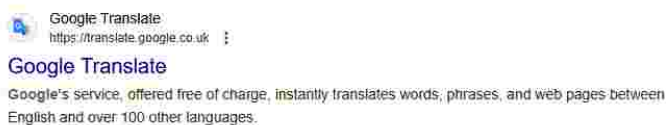
a. Directly from a Google search for 'Translate' yields the following:



If you type the word(s) you want translated and want the English equivalent(s) just click in the 'Enter text' area and then type the required text. As you do so, you will see the English translation developing in the righthand section.

This version also allows you to use the two blue choices dropdown menus to the right of *Detect language* and *English* to select the language you are entering and changing the language you want it translated to. It is worth noting that this tool also includes Latin - powerful tool!

b. Useful as it is, the above route to Translate is more than a little time consuming if you need to type a substantial piece of text into the Enter text box. This is where the alternative version comes in; this will appear as the first Link of your Google search results:



Click on this link yields a slightly different page for entering your text for translation and results window. The vastly more useful feature of this version is that you can copy-and-paste your required text into the lefthand window. This will usually auto detect your texts language and will output, on the right, the translation into your intended language.

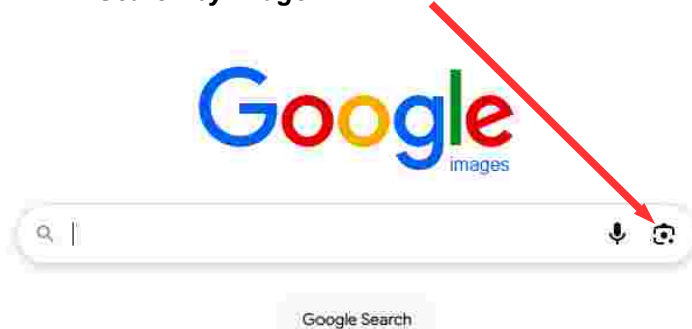
You will see a little subscript in the input area telling you that the characters limit is a useful 5,000 !

When this translation is complete, you will see a small set of links in bottom right of the Translation area – the first tool is really useful since it is **Copy translation** which can then **Paste** this into another document of yours.

If you need a tool to show off your language skills, Google Translate is it!

Google Image is our second tool. This provided a process that involves inputting an image from you and then searching the internet to find websites containing very similar images. This tool is also called **Google Lens** but this latter version is more of a tutorial plus search compared to the simple **Image** version which we will explore here.

Entering **Google Image** as a search yields this version of the standard Google search screen but with the addition of a small **Search by image** icon here.



If you click on this *Search by image* icon the Google search window changes to:



As this shows, you either drag-and-drop your chosen image from your current store or click on the **upload a file** link or use the **Paste image link** in the bottom search box.

Whichever route you use, Google Images produces a vast array of website hits that contain versions of, or very similar versions of your inputted image.

This tool has proven extremely useful for identifying unusual types of flowers or plants as well as helping identify interesting places from vast collections of holiday photos. Our most recent trip yielded more than 750 photos which using previous search processes would have taken months to identify before creating the trip's photo album.

Important footnote: readers should be aware that both of these Google services are completely FREE.

They will also figure as part of Clarbrough & Welham IT Group's next sequence of lessons.

Editor

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)

Clarborough Village Ventures are back!

Up until 2020, the Clarborough Village Ventures group hosted their annual village fair, however the Covid pandemic forced the group to disband. The Clarborough Village Fair was a good day out for all the family which is why a small group of people have come together this year to hopefully revive the annual village fair.

Clarborough Village Fair
 Clarborough Village Hall and Football Field
 10th May 2026
 10am - 4pm

Join us for a fun day with excellent activities! Including:

- Tractor Show
- Raffle
- Dog Show
- Trader's Stalls
- Scarecrow Competition
- Classic Car Show
- Food Vendors

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

In order to do this, the new Clarborough Village Ventures group needs your help. We are looking for volunteers that will help with the organisation leading up to the events or just to help on the day (10th May 2026) with marshalling, putting up gazebos, etc.

Without a team of volunteers, the Clarborough Village Ventures group wouldn't be in a position to hold the village fair so if you can help in any way then please do show your support.

To find out more we can be contacted on **07472 004 745**.

Some examples from previous Festivals ►

I changed my password everywhere to 'incorrect'. That way, when I forget it, it always reminds me, 'Your password is incorrect'.

Anonymous



Retford Library's Crime Café

Tuesday 4th November 10:00 - 11:30

Join Retford Library staff for coffee and chat about your favourite or latest Crime or Mystery reads. A good chance to get new recommendations from staff and others and share your own favourites. Try any of the titles discussed with a free reservation.

£1 to include refreshments

For more information, ask at the **Library's Help Desk** or

Tel: 01777 708 724

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

Website: www.inspireculture.org.uk

Huge amount going on around us, but how do we find out?

With the *Festive Season* now rapidly approaching, a huge range of events are already appearing locally – but how do we keep up-to-date with all of these? The short answer is, keep a regular eye on **Clarbrough & Welham's community website!**

Our website is easily, and safely, accessed by either entering www.clarbrough-welham.org.uk into your web browser or even just typing 'clarbrough' into a Google search – our website usually comes near the top of Google's list.

Goacher's Farm Shop
Wood Lane, North Wheatley

The only traditionally grown Wheatley fruit.

Picked and PYO
Strawberries, Raspberries, Cherries, Plums, Apples, Pears etc
Taste the difference!
Fresh and frozen

Also available;
Asparagus, Honey, Jams, Chutneys, Potatoes, Eggs, Juices and Fruit pies

Now serving hot drinks
For opening times please
Phone; **01427 880 341**
or www.goforgoachers.co.uk

At the time of writing, above is a copy of our community website's home page which has links through the main menu on the left to some 235 pages. This included Discover Retford's Halloween Family Fun Day festivities. Doubtless, with Christmas approaching, many more things for you to explore in the Retford (or wider) area will be published.

Enjoyment and entertainment are not the only aspects of community interest because our website also includes links to many of both Bassetlaw's and Nottinghamshire's newsletters – aimed at residents, tenants and businesses plus the huge range of Health and Welfare provision such as Support networks, Wellbeing & Fitness, Bassetlaw Hospice, Bassetlaw Food Bank, Cancer support, Dementia, Local Screening right through to Lincs Notts Air Ambulance. Add to all of these Local Voluntary Sector links, Law & Order including latest Neighbourhood Alerts together with local Police & Crime Commissioner, Gary Godden's latest Notts Voices newsletter. The list goes on – and don't forget our links to Retford's Little Theatre and our Majestic Theatre too (part of our website's extensive Out-and-About section).

And, finally – but for your Editor's first port-of-call each morning - we have our home page's sunshine symbol which leads to the Met Office's weather forecast for the day – and the coming week. It is also well worth noting that when this page is opened, 'Retford (Nottinghamshire)' is shown in the search bar at the top. If you change this to almost anywhere on Earth, you get their forecast instead! This is a remarkably useful tool when planning trips or holidays!

Computer Sage

Healing Computers
Need help or advice for your computer?
No problem too big or too small.

Hardware, software, virus, Windows, wireless, Internet, upgrades, training or just plain help and advice.

£30 ph, £60 max, no fix no fee, no callout.

Get the job done, 24/7
Email: computersage999@gmail.com

Call: 07807350355

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

The National Holocaust Museum



Welcome to the house of peace

- ▶ Visit **permanent** and **temporary exhibitions**
- ◆ Reflect in our **memorial garden** and **coffee shop**
- Join **events** including talks with **Holocaust Survivors**

Opening Times

Sunday - Friday
10:00am - 4:00pm
Last admission at 3:30pm
We are closed on Saturdays.

National Holocaust Museum,
Acre Edge Road,
Laxton, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG22 0PA

W: holocaust.org.uk
E: office@holocaust.org.uk
T: 01623 836627



Registered charity number 509022



Group visits welcome
Prior booking required



Retford Chiropractic Wellness Centre

Serving Retford and surrounding areas for over 30 years

Our Services:

- Chiropractic
- Neuro Rehabilitation
- Acupuncture
- Photobiomodulation
- Massage
- Hypnotherapy
- Food Sensitivity Testing
- Beauty Treatments
- Endoscopic Microsuction (Ear Wax Removal)



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.

As a fully GDC-registered practice, we adhere to the highest professional standards, ensuring you receive safe and effective care tailored to your individual needs. Let us help you take the next step toward a healthier, happier life.



Choosing the right treatment can feel overwhelming, which is why we offer a **FREE** chat with any of our practitioners to help you find the best option for you. This session helps you explore your options and receive expert guidance tailored to your needs.

Contact Info:

- ☎ 01777 310 720
- 🌐 www.retfordchiro.co.uk
- 📍 57 Grove St, Retford DN22 5LA



Another season at Muddy Fork

Muddy Fork, Retford's Gardening for Wellbeing charity, has had an excellent growing season this year, so unlike last year, when nothing thrived. Although the multiple heatwaves meant extra watering, the combination of sunshine and enough rain to keep things going led to excellent harvests. The beans of various kinds just went on and on, the tomatoes were abundant, the squashes at the time of writing are still ripening, and Muddy Fork's very first pumpkins ever have been harvested. The honesty stand at the garden gate did extremely well this summer, a small but useful source of additional income for the project.



Not all the produce made its way to the honesty stand. Some has been converted by volunteers into jams and chutneys and will be available for sale alongside this year's Muddy Fork honey. The bees have once again done their bit, despite a difficult

period when they were threatened by hornets which had nested nearby. Again these sales all help boost funds, enabling Muddy Fork to continue to provide a free service.

Muddy Fork will once again set up a stall at the Idle Valley Visitor Centre this Christmas and you'll be able to find this in the foyer between 24th November and 12th December, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 to 14:30. Honey and preserves, and crafts and wreaths will be on sale and raffle tickets will be available, with the raffle draw taking place before Christmas.

Rose, the Garden Manager, is currently collecting donations of raffle prizes from local businesses – all offers are appreciated, so please get in touch if you can help. Goodwill from the community is highly valued and makes such a difference. Ongoing support from ASDA is a real boon, and a big boost for the garden from another business has recently come in the form of a new rabbit-proof fence both funded and erected by the Breedon Group. No doubt the indomitable Muddy Fork rabbits will find a way in regardless, but this welcome development is much needed and has helped build valuable new relationships.

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. See page 15 for a few more Muddy Fork photos.

Clarbrough & District WI



Our WI Group continues to grow and we are currently at 22 members. At present we are looking forward to the Festive season with a craft session in November and our Christmas Party in December.

The programme for 2026 is already in place as follows:

- 12th January "My time on Bargain Hunt" with Rev Mark Cantrill
- 9th February "The history of females in the Police Force with Lesley Taylor
- 9th March "7 Year Stitch" with Jackie Howard
- 13th April "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People with Angela Richards
- 11th May Annual Meeting and Resolutions
- 8th June Birthday Meeting - Hat for Hire with Helen Granger
- 13th July Visit to our twin group Hook WI
- August No Meeting
- 14th September "My Mum had one of those" with Janet and Paul Barrass
- 12th October "Harvest Treats" with Margaret Pottinger and Margaret Winters
- 9th November "The North Island of New Zealand" with Kevin Lennox
- 14th December "Modern Hot Air Ballooning" with Adrian Summer

Because of the growth in our membership we are relocating to Hayton Village Hall from January 2026. If you are interested in any of these topics please come along and join in. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £5 which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

**Lucy Richardson, Secretary
(07966 452249)**

Antarctic ice may have reached a tipping point!

Ongoing international research is increasingly pointing to the decline in extent of Antarctica's sea ice which has recently accelerated substantially. Calculations suggest that complete melting of the Antarctic ice sheet has enough water to raise global sea levels by 58 metres!

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC – 43 BC)



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

Bassetlaw District Council would like to invite all Council tenants to the next Tenant Conference of 2025, at **The Crossing, Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT on Monday 24th November, 10:30 – 14:00.**



Please join us for 'Meet the Team', where you can speak to members of the Housing team from all different service areas, including Housing Officers, Repairs and Property and Development. You will also be able to meet with some of our contractors like Equans and United Living. Following this, we will have a complimentary buffet for all attendees and presentations on interesting topics from the world of housing.

If you would like to come along please contact us on 01909 533 263 or

tenant.engagement@bassetlaw.gov.uk

with your name, address and number of people attending.

Family and carers are welcome to join if you require assistance and your travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Bassetlaw Prepares for Smarter, 'Simpler Recycling' in 2026

People living in Bassetlaw can look forward to recycling even more materials from next year as 'Simpler Recycling' will be introduced from March 2026.

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

As part of this, Bassetlaw District Council will be introducing a new glass collection service from 30th March 2026, as well as widening the types of materials that can be placed in our Blue Bins.

To support this, a new App will also be launched later this year that will provide 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 our collections, and much more.

Cllr Darrell Pulk [see below], Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, said: "The way that everyone in Bassetlaw can recycle their waste will be changing from March 2026.

"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 your blue bin.

"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."



More information about these changes will be available over the coming weeks, including when new glass collection bins will be delivered to households, when the App will be available, what additional items can be recycled and exactly when collections will start.

To allow for kerbside glass collections, households in Bassetlaw will receive new 180 litre bins in which to place glass, which will be collected every six-weeks.

These will be delivered to households in the coming months with delivery dates for areas to be confirmed.

Collections will start from 30th March 2026. Please continue to recycle your glass at our Recycling Points across Bassetlaw until this time.

The Government has introduced legislation that requires all local authorities and waste collectors to standardise and simplify recycling and waste across the country.

Simpler Recycling will be introduced in Bassetlaw, along with all other local authorities in Nottinghamshire and England, from 30th March 2026. Local Authorities will also be required to collect food waste from 2027 as part of these measures.

Retford Town Centre gets classic make-over

Retford Town Centre is being given a traditional make-over with new street furniture adding a touch of class to its high streets. Thanks must go to all members of the board for their hard work to make this possible. Consultation with residents was very important and we hope that people will

Continued on page 8

enjoy the opportunity to walk through the town admiring the work.”

The Retford Town Centre Partnership Board was created as a continuation of the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group and seeks to make lasting and meaningful improvements to Retford’s Town Centre.

The Neighbourhood Plan created a ‘Vision for Retford’, which reflected the priorities of Retford’s residents, visitors and businesses.



[Above] Relaxing in Retford's Carolgate [left-right] Rick Brand, Chair of Retford Town Centre Partnership Board, Cllr Sue Shaw, Ward Member for East Retford East, and Cllr Steve Scotthorne, Cabinet Member for Identity Planning and Place.

It has been allocated a portion of Bassetlaw District Council’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support projects across the town centre.

This is being achieved through initiatives that promote local businesses, attract visitors to the town centre and create added value to Retford. streets.

New Georgian style benches have been installed alongside litter bins in prominent areas of the town centre, in addition to repainting lamp posts, tree guards and other pieces of street furniture in a traditional black and gold.

The replacements and renovations began earlier this month, with this phase of improvements expected to be completed by the beginning of November.

These improvements have been made possible thanks to significant investment by the Retford Town Centre Partnership Board (RTCPB), which has been funded by monies made available through Bassetlaw District Council’s allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Rick Brand, Chair of RTCPB, said: “The new street furniture has given our high streets a lift and is helping to improve the overall appearance of the town centre.

“This is just one of the many projects that the board is overseeing and includes additional and improved CCTV and lighting, a new Discover Retford campaign, with much more to come.

“We are very grateful for the work of our Public Realm, Safety and Security and Marketing and Communications groups, and the support that has been provided by all members of the Retford Town Centre Partnership Board.”

The new street furniture has replaced aging or damaged benches and bins across the town centre including on Carolgate, Spa Road, Exchange Street, Market Square, Grove Street, Market Place and other surrounding streets.

A second phase of investment is now being planned with planters installed in key locations to add an extra splash of colour to the town centre.

Cllr Steve Scotthorne, Cabinet Member for Identity, Planning and Place at Bassetlaw District Council said: “The new street furniture is a clear testament to our commitment to invest in our towns. Alongside the vibrant new planters, these enhancements will create a more welcoming and enjoyable experience for visitors.

“Retford continues to shine as a jewel in the district’s crown and make it a destination full of charm and pride.”

The improvements seek to increase pride in place across the town and make it a more attractive location to visit.

Cllr Sue Shaw, Ward Member for East Retford East and the Retford Charter Trustee representative on the RTCPB, added: “This is a very exciting time for Retford town centre. Residents will already have seen physical progress and transformation taking place, and we will soon see planters festooned with plants to further enhance the appearance of our beautiful town.

Windows 10 is dead – so what now?

Microsoft's decision to close all support from Windows 10 came into effect on October 14th, 2025. Hopefully all users of that remarkably common Operating System (OS) will already have made appropriate decision to continue safe and secure computing. However, latest reports suggest that this is widely not the case!

Clarbrough & Welham IT Group has run a set of appropriate classes through October highlighting the Consumers Association's Which? Tech magazine's (June-July 2025 issue) recommendation that folks in this situation get their laptops (and desktop PCs) upgraded to Ubuntu Linux. This provides a very powerful alternative to Windows 11 at an extremely attractive low cost.

To find out more – and get hands-on experience, get in touch with Greg at Clarbrough & Welham IT Group:

Phone **01777 700 918** or
clarboroughwelham@gmail.com

Editor

LAWNMOWERS

Tony Halford



Plant & Grass Machinery Specialist

Tony Halford Lawnmowers, Nelson Street,
Retford, Notts DN22 6LP

Tel. 07976 941 407

Email: thlawnmowers@hotmail.co.uk

PAINTED KITCHEN & FURNITURE SPECIALIST

With over 30 years experience making and painting kitchens, bedrooms and more.

We also offer a complete refurbishment service.

Using a highly durable paint finish, we can transform your current furniture in the colour of your choice.

However, if you want something totally new - we can also do that.



SCOPE SPRAY SERVICES



Call Darren on 07999 489 624
scopesprayservices@gmail.com



10% discount when mentioning this advert (terms & conditions apply)

Debutots®

Imagination takes you everywhere...

at
Uncle Henry's
AT THE heart OF GOOD FOOD

www.debutots.co.uk

A Cosy Christmas Story with Santa and his Elf!

- Tell a magical Christmas story together
- Sing Christmas songs
- Receive a special gift from Santa

Booking Essential

Scan QR code to book:



**Uncle Henry's
Farm Shop & Cafe,
Grayingham Grange
Farm, DN21 4JD**

**Dates:
13th / 14th / 20th /
21st / 22nd / 23rd
December**

(subject to availability)

**£15.95 per child
(inc 1 adult)
£5 per
additional adult**

Vulcan to the Sky Trust launches urgent appeal to safeguard iconic aircraft

The Vulcan to the Sky Trust (VTST) has today (Wednesday 8th October 2025) launched a critical fundraising appeal to protect and preserve the legendary Avro Vulcan XH558, currently based in Doncaster.

Since being asked to vacate Hangar 3 in 2017, the Trust has navigated a series of operational and financial challenges including uncertainty around Doncaster Sheffield Airport's future and the halt of XH558's popular engine ground runs, placing enormous strain on the charity's finances.

In addition, losing the roof over XH558 and the business model that sustained her meant the loss of key revenue streams - such as evening events, shop sales, and public tours. This, combined with the effects of the pandemic, has placed added pressure on the charity.



Despite this, the Trust has worked tirelessly to keep XH558 maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers, to keep her in the public eye, and to continue its education programme, which has reached thousands of students across Yorkshire and Humber.

Marc Walters, chief executive of VTST, said: "This is not the message we wanted to be putting out in 2025, but the reality is that Vulcan XH558 needs urgent support. "Thanks to our incredible community of supporters, we've been able to welcome thousands of visitors to see XH558 over the years. But the journey has not been easy. Since 2017, the complete loss of evening events and shop revenue, the pause in tours and the devastating impact of the pandemic, has tested our resilience. The uncertainty around Doncaster Sheffield Airport's future and the halt of XH558's popular engine ground runs have compounded the issues we have faced and placed enormous strain on the charity's finances.

"We face an immediate need for funding which, if we can secure it, will present us with an opportunity to enter a new and exciting chapter. The recent unanimous decision by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to grant City of Doncaster Council its gainshare funding, up to £160m, will enable the council to press ahead with its work to fully

reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport and FlyDoncaster Ltd, the company set up to manage the reopening and operation of Doncaster Sheffield Airport, has identified a potential plot of land for The Vulcan Experience."

The Vulcan Experience will be a place to tell the story of the RAF, the Cold War, and the iconic V-Force. With XH558 the centre piece, it will also be home to a Green Technology Hub, where we will explore aviation's role in climate change and showcase future innovations.

"Most importantly, it will allow us to expand our education programme and inspire the next generation of engineers and aviators," added Marc. "But before we even get close to building the Vulcan Experience, we need to ensure that the charity has the funds to continue our work maintaining and looking after Vulcan XH558. We need your help to get there. We now need interim funding to continue our day-to-day work to enable us to explore sources of investment to move XH558 to her new home."

Air Commodore Edward Jarron, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said: "Every donation, no matter the size, brings us closer to securing the future of Vulcan XH558.

"Please consider supporting us today. Together, we can ensure that she remains an iconic symbol of British innovation and resilience and a critical source of inspiration for generations to come."

To donate or learn more, visit www.vulcantothesky.org

Retford Recycling Centre Opening times

Recycling centres are open every day of the year except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. The opening times of our recycling centres vary depending on the time of year:

January & February	08:00 - 16:00
March	08:00 - 18:00
April – September	08:00 - 20:00
October	08:00 - 18:00
Nov. & December	08:00 – 16:00

At the time of writing, recycling of *tetra paks* (the type of one litre packages used for fruit juices and milk for example) are proving difficult to find suitable recycling companies but Retford has a bin just in front of the office.

Clarborough Post Office



Opening hours:

Monday:	09:00-12:30	All usual main P.O. services
Tuesdays:	09:00-12:30	
Wednesdays:	Closed	
Thursdays:	09:00-12:30	
Fridays:	Closed	

Halford Room, Clarborough Village Hall
 Main Street, Clarborough, 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



New Acquisition: Regency Beaker

An email from a collector of 18th and early 19th-century glass sparked our interest and led to a purchase of a Regency glass beaker with a local provenance. The beaker appeared at the Reeman Dansie Auction House, Colchester and the estimated price seemed reasonable. It appeared it would be a perfect acquisition for the Museum, funded by the Friends. The FoBM Committee members responded swiftly to my email, expressing their full support and we set the wheels in motion. I requested a condition report from the auction house and registered online to place an absentee bid. Our bid was successful and the beaker was delivered a few days later!



The beaker is intricately engraved with foliate borders and swags, and bears the initials 'WMAS' and the motto 'May the Free Men of Retford Prosper in Their Journey Through Life.'

While the inscription clearly references

Retford, its exact origins remain unclear. Could the phrase 'Free Men' refer to Freemasonry? Possibly, but the absence of any Masonic emblems suggests otherwise.

We believe the phrase more likely refers to the freemen of the Borough of East Retford, men who, in the early 19th

century, held the right to vote in parliamentary elections. At the time, Retford's political scene was marked by corruption and with only around 200 eligible freemen voters, elections were frequently influenced by bribery and



threat. To address this, Parliament passed the Bribery, East Retford Act of 1830, which extended the borough's voting rights to a wider area in North Nottinghamshire, called 'hundred of Bassetlaw', effectively increasing the number of eligible voters and reducing corrupt influence.

As for the 'WMAS' initials, they likely refer to the beaker's original owner, whose identity is still a mystery. Do you have any ideas about who WMAS might have been? We'd love to hear from you.

We'd like to thank the member of the public who brought this beaker to our attention, and the Friends of Bassetlaw Museum for helping us acquire it.

Kasia Wosiak

Bassetlaw Museum Collections Officer

Changes to Museum opening hours for up to a year

Bassetlaw Museum is taking positive action to help preserve its extensive and historically valuable collection for future generations.

A wide assortment of artifacts, not currently on display at the museum due to limited space, are stored off-site and urgently need relocating due to the existing storage building no longer being suitable to safely preserve the museum's archive collection.

To enable the move, the Bassetlaw Museum Team will check the condition of each piece, catalogue it and carefully pack it away, before being moved to its new home. In rare cases, pieces may be transferred to other museums and feature in their public collections.

However, to enable this essential work to take place, there will be changes to the museum's opening hours for up to a year.

New Opening Hours from Monday 12th May:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 - 16:30 (Closed Mondays and Thursdays)

Open Monday to Saturday during school holidays.

"People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992)

Do you require any landbased training?

North Notts Training Group

"Cost effective professional training for a safe and efficient tomorrow"

Health & Safety, Pesticides, Chainsaws, Fork Lifts, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Vermin Control, plus e-learning



info@nntg.co.uk

07855751689

www.nntg.co.uk



Retford Patchwork & Quilting

Anyone interested in learning or improving traditional patchwork and quilting skills, regardless of experience level, are welcome to join our group.



We meet every other Wednesday at The Grove, Retford from 18:30 to 21:00, and the 3rd Friday of the month from 10:00 – 14:00 informally at a member's house. Contact us for how to book a place.

Each month, a "Block of the Month" is

presented along with written instructions suitable for all skill levels. On this occasion, participants completed a Star Block, which will be assembled and displayed at The Star and Nativity Festival on the 22nd and 23rd of November at The Grove Retford. On alternate Wednesdays, members either bring in their own projects or continue working on their block techniques.

The group has been meeting for the last 6 months and have a real mixture of members, Julie and Amy bring the

knowledge, skills and training required, but other members are also happy to help and advise when things do not quite go to plan.

There is a considerable amount of friendly conversation accompanied by tea and biscuits.

For many, patchwork and quilting are so much more than a pastime. There's tremendous satisfaction in transforming scraps into something beautiful and functional - a quilt for a new baby, a wall hanging for a friend, or a piece for a local exhibition. But perhaps the greatest reward is the sense of achievement that comes from seeing a project through from start to finish.

Don't be daunted if you've never picked up a needle - we welcome absolute beginners and will happily show you the ropes (or threads, as it were). Whether you're drawn by the creative challenge, the social connection, or simply the joy of making something with your hands, you'll find a place among fellow fabric enthusiasts.

So, if you're looking for a way to unwind, make friends, and be part of a centuries-old craft, why not pop along to join us? You'll be surprised by what you can create—and the memories you'll sew together along the way.

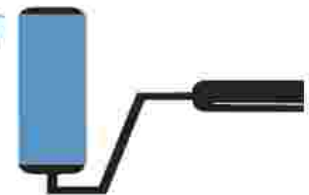
If you fancy finding out more please contact Julie on **07946 742 865**, email info@retfordpandq.com or visit our website www.retfordpandq.com

Julie Ransley

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

ANDI GRAY
PAINTER & DECORATOR



- INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
- QUALITY PAPER HANGING
- DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
- QUICK & QUALITY
- TURNAROUND ON
- RENTAL PROPERTIES

07837 370827

andigraypropertyservices@hotmail.co.uk

A LOCAL TRADESMAN ON YOUR DOORSTEP

A professional service to a high standard





Volunteering can prevent frailty - for everyone

*'It keeps me happy,
connected and happy'*

Local volunteer

BCVS
Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service

The Old Abbey School
Priorswell Road
Worksop, S80 2BU

Volunteering isn't just giving — it's gaining.

Whether you're helping someone learn to use a smartphone, joining a lunch club, or gardening on a group allotment - you're building community, purpose, and resilience.

👉 Join us in tackling loneliness and isolation.

📍 Opportunities available across Bassetlaw

🔗 Register at <https://help.plinth.org.uk/register/bcvs>

More from Muddy Fork



RMTC
Retford Musical Theatre Company

NADA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4th - 7th
DECEMBER
2025

Rapunzel

The Retford Little Theatre.
Bookings: www.retfordmusicaltheatrecompany.org

Phone: 01909 476 118 to speak
about volunteering
or
visit <https://www.bcvs.org.uk/>
for much, much, more



ReNew
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- High Powered Portable Equipment
- Commercial & Domestic Services
- Stain Removal / Reduction
- Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Dry in Hours NOT Days
- 'One Off' or Regular Cleans
- Fully Insured & Experienced
- CRB Checked Operators

Please Call Mob: 0755 000 2242
<https://www.renewccc.co.uk/>

"Failure is a great teacher and, if you are open to it, every mistake has a lesson to offer."

Oprah Winfrey (1954-)

Retford-based Charity Wins National Fundraising Innovation Award

As 2025 comes to a close, the people of Retford and surrounding villages have reason to feel proud. Muslim Charity, headquartered at Eaton Hall, Retford, was honoured earlier this year with the **Fundraising Innovation of the Year** award at the prestigious *National Fundraising Awards 2025*, hosted by the Chartered Institute of Fundraising in London.

The award recognised Muslim Charity’s Ramadan 2024 campaign, which blended modern data insights with traditional values to strengthen donor relationships and increase impact. Judges hailed it as an “outstanding example of innovation and creativity,” showing that organisations rooted in places like Retford can influence and inspire the national charity sector.



But while the award shines a national spotlight, Muslim Charity’s story is also very local. Over recent years, the charity has invested time and resources into supporting communities across Retford and the wider Bassetlaw District. These efforts show that although much of its work takes place overseas, its heart beats strongly here at home too.

In partnership with Bassetlaw District Council, Muslim Charity recently funded **ten ‘Happy to Chat’ benches** across the district — including in Retford, Worksop, Harworth and Langold — to help tackle loneliness and bring people together. The charity also provided **life-saving defibrillators** to Ordsall, Mattersey, Ranby and Sutton-cum-Lound and donated **Platinum Jubilee**

benches to local villages including Tuxford, Headon cum Upton, Ranskill and Rampton and Woodbeck.

Food poverty has also been a focus. Working with the **Bassetlaw Food Bank**, Muslim Charity has helped provide parcels of essential food and household items for families in need across Retford. Meanwhile, at **Bassetlaw Hospital**, the charity funded a much-needed **Resuscitaire Unit** for newborn babies requiring urgent care — a gift described by local leaders as life-saving and community-strengthening. Other projects have supported green spaces too, such as funding a new entrance and sculpture at **Mattersey Millennium Green** to mark the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

Reflecting on both the award and the local initiatives, the Chairman Bakhtyar H. Pirzada said: “This award is not only recognition of innovation, but also of the trust and support shown by our community — from our global donors to our neighbours here in Retford and Bassetlaw.”

So, as Bassetlaw looks back on 2025, there is every reason to celebrate. A local charity, with global reach, has won a national award — while still delivering practical, compassionate projects that improve everyday life for communities across our district.

Chesterfield Canal Santa Special cruises

The Chesterfield Canal Trust’s tripboat Seth Ellis will be running Santa Special cruises on 6th & 7th, 13th & 14th, 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd December from the Chequers Inn at Ranby. You can park in the pub car park.

There will be present for every child and a mince pie (or similar) and a drink for every adult. The cost is £10 per person.

All bookings are done online, search for Chesterfield Canal Trust and follow the links or use the QR code:



The Trust is also running Santa Specials on its other tripboats at Shireoaks, Hollingwood Hub in Staveley and Chesterfield.





Bassetlaw Action Centre is proud to be part of the Community Transport Association and is taking the time to celebrate how much they help the Bassetlaw Community. Community Transport Week 2025 was a week-long celebration running from 13th to 17th October 2025 and Community Transport is vital in helping people stay independent, engaged, and part of their local communities, as Bassetlaw Action Centre CEO Lynn Tupling has seen first hand. "We see people who otherwise don't get out of the house. The community trips are a real lifeline that enable people to retain their independence." said Lynn. "We are lucky to have such wonderful volunteers who are willing to donate their time and energy."

This year's theme, "More Than a Minibus" is one that is dear to BAC's heart as they received a new minibus earlier this year. It enables them to increase the popular low-cost lunch and day trips that they run, doubling capacity, as well as giving not-for-profit organisations in the area the opportunity to hire a minibus at an affordable rate. BAC's minibuses do weekly trips and are frequently hired out too. All of the buses are volunteer driven.

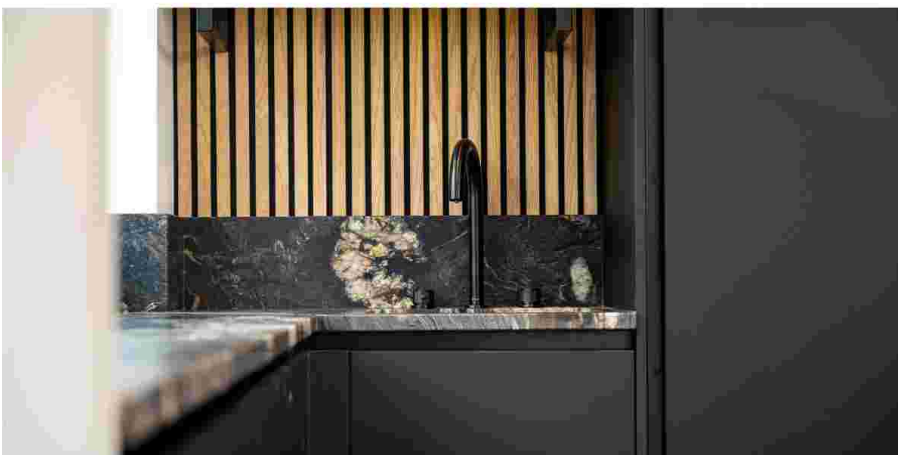
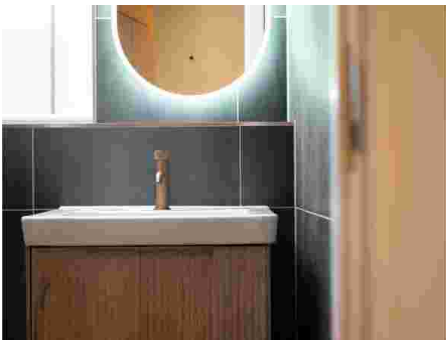
Transport Manager Paula Graham said "We know how important these trips are in decreasing isolation. We have

had friendships made and are often told the positive effect of looking forward to a trip."



[Above] Paula Graham welcoming Bassetlaw Action Centre's new minibus earlier this year.

As well as the minibus trips BAC runs a Community Car Scheme that takes an average of 85 journeys per week and a fully electric Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) that allows people who cannot transfer from their wheelchair to still fully access local facilities. Just like the minibuses, all car and WAV drivers are volunteers and BAC is always in need of more. Full training is given and expenses are paid so no one ends up out of pocket for helping their community. To find out more visit www.bassetlawactioncentre.org.uk, email transport@actioncentre.org.uk or call on 01777 709 650



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

Contact us for more information

01777 702684



Bassetlaw



Could you be a volunteer driver?

Bassetlaw Action Centre urgently needs volunteers for the Community Car scheme, our Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle and our two Minibuses



- Training provided*
- Expenses paid*
- From only a few hours per week*
- Make a difference in your community*

Download the application form from our website or give us a call if you need more information.



www.bassetlawactioncentre.org.uk

01777 709650



Canal Street, Retford,
Notts DN22 6EZ

Registered Charity No: 1106908
Company Registered in England and Wales No: 5177066

Over 11,000 take part in engagement on Local Government Reorganisation

11,483 people have taken part in a public engagement survey about the future of local government in Nottinghamshire.

The six-week survey, which closed on Sunday 14th September, invited residents, businesses, and local



organisations to share their views on the biggest shake-up to local government in over 50 years, known as Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The survey was jointly conducted by all nine councils in Nottinghamshire affected by government plans to create new 'unitary authorities'.

The majority of responses were submitted online, although outreach events and focus groups were also held to ensure the results reflected the diversity of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Over 96% of respondents lived in Nottinghamshire, with responses received from all nine affected areas. The highest number of responses came from Rushcliffe, Broxtowe, and Gedling.

The survey explored people's views on their local area, the effectiveness of current council structures, their awareness of LGR, and the potential impact of the proposed changes. Respondents were also asked to comment on the two options being put forward by the councils.

Respondents highlighted the need for new councils to focus on delivering good quality core and universal services like roads and pavements, crime/anti-social behaviour, and clean streets. As well as highlighting the importance of involving residents in decision-making. Pride in local areas came across strongly, alongside the difference in the urban and rural geographies that needed to be considered.

The feedback gathered will inform the development of final proposals, which must be submitted to government by 28 November 2025.

Under the LGR proposals, all nine existing local authorities would be abolished and replaced with new unitary councils serving larger populations.

Information about proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are available at lgnotts.org

A spokesperson said: "We are very grateful to everyone who took part in this engagement process. It's vitally important that we hear from the public. This is the biggest shake-up in local government in over 50 years, and every response will be reviewed. All data will be available to the councils to support the proposals submitted to central government in November.

It's clear that people want to have their say, and the sheer number of responses has given us a strong understanding of the future needs and priorities of Nottinghamshire's communities."

The government will review the proposals before making a final decision on the LGR option for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, as well as other council areas across England, in Summer 2026.

A supplementary engagement exercise was undertaken by Broxtowe Borough Council, and results of that will be shared with local residents at a later date.



Another busy time is anticipated in November and December at the Retford Arts Hub with the run up to Christmas in full swing.

In the Upstairs Gallery is "Flora and Fauna" which runs until November 14th, then it's all systems go for our festive Xmas Market. This is a must for those special, unique crafted gifts, stocking fillers and decorations lovingly made by our local artists and crafters. If you haven't visited this smorgasbord of Xmas delights, you have from 15th November to 24th December to do this.

We have our final popular painting classes before Christmas, running through November with John Redfern Harris leading a water colour class on 5th November and an oil painting class on 10th November. All materials are provided and classes are held from 10:30 to 13:30 at a cost of just £25 each.

On 17th November Melanie Eldred is holding a beginners stained glass workshop from 10:30 to 12:00 at a cost of £28. All participants will produce an Xmas tree decoration, something special to gift or keep.

Kids Club continues on 8th November and 22nd November and early booking is recommended. This month we should like to introduce another of our artists who has a studio at the arts hub, Mark Bloomer. From a young age Mark was always interested in art and especially in wild life. As he progressed his main medium was pencil and his subject matter ranged from eagles to elephants. Over time he developed a love of painting, experimenting with various media in his studio at the arts hub. He is presently working predominantly in oils and spends much of his time painting en plein air. He can often be seen in and around Retford with his paints and easel and his subject matter of choice is landscape and urban scenes. A highlight of his career so far was being chosen as a wild card for Landscape Painter of the Year 2026 filming which resulted in an exciting and interesting time spent painting in Keswick with other talented artists. Mark's first major solo exhibition will take place in Bassetlaw Museum from 15th November to 8th February and everyone is invited to the preview on 15th November from 13:00. Please come along and take a look at his latest work. Information on this and other work can be found on His website... markbloomerfineart.com

For more information or to book any of our workshops call **01777 860 414** or call in at the **Arts Hub at 11, Churchgate, Retford.** (near the cannon).

Public Engagement Backs North – South Split for New Councils in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

A public engagement exercise with over 11,000 responses has found that people favour a North – South split when it comes to re-organising Local Government in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

LEADERS' STATEMENT

from Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, Gedling and Bassetlaw leaders on Local Government Reorganisation



From 1st April 2028, two new councils are set to replace the existing nine councils across Nottinghamshire to save money and improve public services. An independently run survey carried out over a period of six-weeks and supported by four focus groups found that creating a new Unitary council covering Bassetlaw, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, Ashfield, and Gedling and another covering Broxtowe, Nottingham City, and Rushcliffe was the public's preferred option.

Around a third of all respondents viewed this north and south arrangement as the best available solution to Government plans to reorganise the nine councils across Nottinghamshire.

People felt that the clear North–South split better reflected the way local communities live, work, and connect across the city and county, with one resident summing things up like this: “On the face of it this seems like a more logical and fair option, a more natural split between the north and the south of the county.”

In response, the Leaders of Bassetlaw District Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Gedling Borough Council are calling for Government to back the proposals.

Leader of Bassetlaw District Council, Cllr Julie Leigh said: “I'd like to thank the residents of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for taking the time to share their views on local government re-organisation. This feedback will help shape the final proposals to government in November. A North-South split better reflects our communities across the whole of the County and City areas and that's why we are calling on Government to back this proposal. It is a sensible division of both population and resources and will ensure that the two new councils will be both viable and representative of the people they will serve.”

Leader of Gedling Borough Council, Cllr John Clarke said: “The response to the engagement has been extremely positive, with thousands of residents taking part in the survey. The results are in line with our expectations, people recognise that an option showing a North–South split is the one that makes sense. From the outset, we've been clear that we would follow the data and work together to create

the best option for our residents. These results will help shape the proposal we put forward to government, and I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to have their say on this incredibly important issue.”

Executive Mayor of Mansfield, Andy Abrahams said: “It is encouraging to see that option 1e has attracted more support than option 1b, with around a third of respondents recognising it as the stronger choice. People have told us they value the clearer North–South split and the geographic logic it offers – a more natural and fair division of the county that helps keep communities together, respecting shared culture and history.

“A successful new unitary authority must be built on sensible geography, with strong transport and digital links, while also being large enough to deliver an effective highways network and achieve efficiencies in the way services are run. When you look at the two options side by side, option 1e – bringing together Mansfield, Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood, and Gedling – is clearly the closest fit. These five communities share similar challenges and opportunities, and we have already demonstrated how well we can work together, with our council's openly debating the pros and cons before giving their democratic backing to 1e as the preferred option.

“This momentum gives us a strong foundation as we move forward into the business case submission on 28th November, ensuring that the voices of our residents remain at the heart of shaping a stronger future for our place.”

Leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, Cllr Paul Peacock said:

“I'm reassured but not surprised by the results. Local residents have sent a clear message back to us that the communities of mid and north Nottinghamshire have their own sense of community and identity. In designing two new councils, we have to demonstrate “sensible geography” and it's clear that residents see the sense in creating one new council for the north and the other for the south. “There isn't a perfect solution to local government re-organisation but this is a chance in a lifetime to create two brand new councils that offer better value for money and are genuinely in touch with the people they serve. To create a council that stretches from Worksop in the north to almost Loughborough in the south is not “sensible geography”. And to propose that places like West Bridgford, Trent Bridge and the City Ground should be in a council with Retford and Mansfield but not Nottingham makes no sense in my view. Doing nothing is not an option so I sincerely hope that all Nottinghamshire Councils and the Government will ultimately back one council for the north, and one for the south of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.”

Consumers Association's Which? Magazine's best fix for dying Windows 10 devices

Clarbrough & Welham IT Group has started to demonstrate how effective – and cheap – is the replacement of Microsoft's Windows 10 by the UK-produced Ubuntu Linux.

To find out more, go to the **Local Groups > IT Group** pages on Clarbrough & Welham community website.



We're here to
support you in
your own home

🏠 Home Help

🏠 Companionship

🏠 Personal Care

🏠 Dementia Care

🏠 Live-In Care

NEW Healthcare at Home

NEW Nail Care

To find out more, call our friendly team

01777 712 629

Each Home Instead franchise is independently owned and operated. Copyright Home Instead 2025.



Retford Badminton Club

We are a group of 'senior' men and women who like to play badminton for exercise and fun. We are looking for a few like-minded people to join us for, invariably, doubles games.



Our group plays from 19:00 to 21:00 on Wednesday evenings between September and May inclusive so come along now to get a feel for our atmosphere – entertainment guaranteed!

We play at Barnby Memorial Hall, High Street, Blyth, S81 8EW. Our membership fees are very reasonable!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact...

Alan on 01777 703 991 or aghist@googlemail.com

Greg on 01777 700 918 or greg2know@gmail.com

For example, carpet beetle larvae and certain moth larvae can feed on textiles, posing a danger to our large costume collection. Other insects such as silverfish and booklice can feed on paper, with silverfish even being able to feed on glues in book bindings and coatings on photographs! There are also different types of beetle larvae that can feed on wooden objects, boring holes into them and if not spotted soon enough, eventually damaging the structural integrity of the object. Clues that point towards the presence of pests can also be found such as holes in objects, skins shed from larvae and frass (bug poo!).

In order to avoid any damage to our collections by these pesky pests, we monitor their presence using our traps to see what is there and if anything further needs to be done to protect the objects. Each month, this involves collecting each trap and counting the different types of bugs found in them, recording them and then highlighting any areas of concern.

We can also use lures within these traps to attract certain insects using 'temptations' such as food pellets and pheromones (smell).



[Left] Food pellet



[Right] Pheromone

Despite the scary spiders from time to time, it's all part of the fun that comes with working at the museum!

Jessica Denman
Museum Officer

Pest Monitoring at Bassetlaw Museum

After completing the monthly pest trap checks for September, I thought it would be interesting to write a little bit about pest monitoring, one of the many jobs to be done at Bassetlaw Museum!

Throughout the museum and stores are small sticky traps like this that are used to monitor the presence of potential insect pests that could pose a threat to our collections. Certain bugs eat certain things and some of



those things include objects in our care.

[Left] Photo of a Varied Carpet Beetle Larva by André Karwath aka Aka, CC BY-SA 2.5,



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=268720>

Clarbrough Church at Christmas

We continue to share Revd Mark's time with the other Clays churches. Details of those services may be obtained from tel. 07989 895 813. Listed events are in church.

Every Wednesday evening at 19:00 there is a chance to explore faith in a fresh way. This will be something special for Advent during December. This is not just for regular church goers, everyone is welcome.

November

29th: Christmas Fair at church, 13:00 – 16:00. Contact us if you wish to have a stall.

December

7th : 16:00 Evening Prayers, Revd. Cantrill

16th : Allegra Voice Choir 19:00 Carols for Christmas

20th Afternoon Christmas Tea 14:00-16:00 This includes the Christmas Prize Draw

24th : 23:30 Midnight Holy Communion, Revd. Cantrill

28th : The Clays Group of churches are invited to Grove Street chapel at 10:30

2026 : January

4th : 15:30 Carols and prayers for Epiphany

8th : 10:30 HC Covenant Service, Cantrill & Coates

Greek Beers!

The exclamation mark in the title to this article occurs because most people, when talking about drinking in Greece, automatically assume this must be talking about wine.

So it was that on a recent trip to the Greek islands, your editor and wife were surprised to get onto a trip that was advertised as 'Craft beer tasting experience'. The visit was actually on the island of Rhodes:



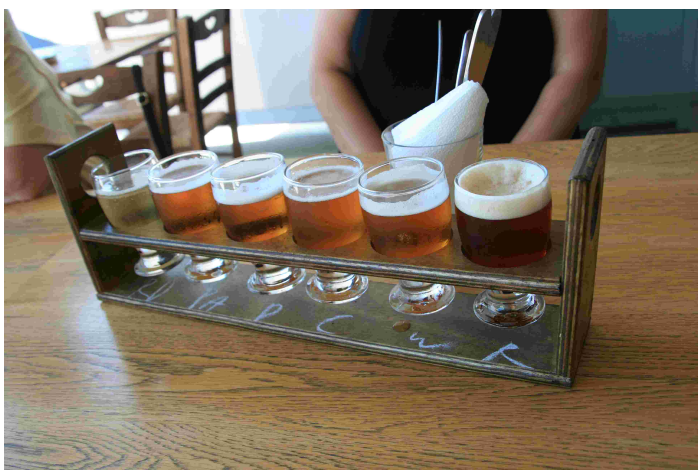
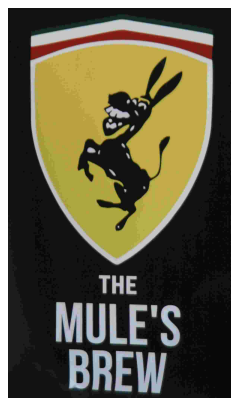
The town of Archangelos is located roughly halfway along the east-facing coast of Rhodes.

The craft brewery known as The Mule's Brew is located on the main road just to

the north of the centre of Archangelos.

After a fairly brief introduction to the brewing equipment and ingredients we retired to the cafe space for a very substantial 'snack' (as advertised) which was accompanied by these six samples created by the brewery.

Working from left to right along this personal selection - yes one of these racks to each per person - we were given a brief summary of their styles. The really interesting - and very tasty items were the last two on the right which were actually blends of beer and wine, something that took us completely by surprise but also with considerable pleasure!



So it was that we, again, met different branches of the fermentation process getting together.

Editor

Why East Retford?

Have you noticed that the 'official' Welcome boards to Retford have recently been updated but now welcome visitors to 'East Retford'? Some important national history lies within this geographic name.

Currently, research suggests that Retford already existed during Roman times although documentary evidence is lacking. The first reliable evidence comes with William the Conqueror's Domesday Survey of 1086. At the time the settlement was known as Redforde or Redeforde. Reasons for this name are still debated but consensus seems to suggest it refers to the water colour at the important crossing of the River Idle where clay particles would have been churned up.

Historical records are quite complex with many statements over a long period referring to Royal Charters that no longer exist. However, records do show that Retford was only the second town granted Royal Charters in Nottinghamshire with Nottingham city itself heading the list and with Newark in third place.

From quite early times Retford comprised settlement on both the east and west banks of the River Idle and as economic developments increased from the 13th century onwards these two settlements established 'East' and 'West' prefixes to their official names with East Retford progressively becoming more influential. The relationship between these two also had periods of - well, let's say, little cooperation!

In 1388 a 'moot hall' was constructed in what is now Cannon Square. 'Moot' derived from Anglo-Saxon meeting places to decide local issues. This hall was demolished in 1754. Back-tracking for a moment; a serious fire in 1528 destroyed much of East Retford followed by a plague outbreak in 1558 which again devastated both settlements.

In 1757 the Town Clerk successfully petitioned for the Great North Road to be diverted to run through the town. This led to an Act of Parliament (1760) authorising its re-routing between Barnby Moor and Markham Moor in order for it to pass through Retford. This programme to enhance Retford's position as a trading centre was further expanded by the routing of the Chesterfield Canal through the town (1777) and arrival of railway services in 1849.

The East Retford Parliamentary Constituency became one of the most serious 'rotten borough' by the early 19th century and forming part of the basis for the Great Reform Act 1830 and soon after, the Representation of the People Act 1832 which extended voting rights to all males over 21 years of age.

East Retford became just Retford in 1974 when the Metropolitan Borough, created in 1835 was abolished when it was merged into Bassetlaw District, part of Nottinghamshire.

For much more about Retford's history, visit our community website (www.clarbrough-welham.org.uk) where much is to be found in **Local History** and also **Local Environment > Chesterfield Canal** sections.

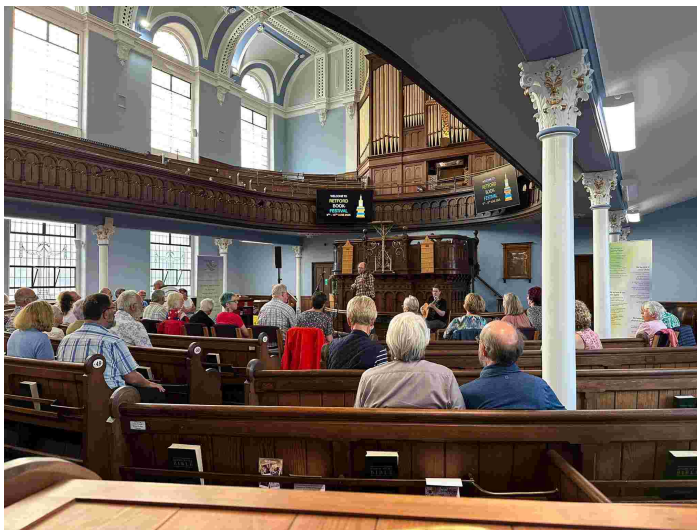
Editor



Note: For a selection of the very latest news that has been provided to our community website (www.clarborough-welham.org.uk) select **Latest Local News** from the top of our homepage's menu.

- 15th November : *Retford Big Market Day – two stilt-walking reindeer.*
- 11th December : *Illuminate – Winter Festival of Light.*
- 20th December : *Retford Big Market Day Frost Fairy, Hathersage Brass Band & free Face Painter.*

Following on from the success of the first Retford Book Festival in June 2025 the dates are now agreed for the second festival which will take place 7th - 14th June, 2026



**Clarborough Village Hall
Excellent for events and parties**

Clarborough's Village Hall is located on Main Street through Clarborough on the A620 towards Gainsborough.

Our Hall lies well back from the road so is easily missed but our entrance is directly facing the Kings Arms pub.

Our Hall has many weekly groups plus our Outreach Post Office on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

We are also quite popular as a venue for events and parties as the hall's main photo below shows :



Rates for hiring our hall are surprisingly reasonable - £14.50 per hour for casual hire, £10 per hour for regular hirers and an **amazing £45.00 for 4 hours for a children's party booking**. This usually allows 1 hour setup, 2 hours for the party and 1 hour for tidying up.

Entrances to our hall include that shown on the left of the photo which provided easy access for users with mobility issues and comes straight from our spacious car park.

We have a separate, smaller, room that backs onto the main hall and is separated by sliding doors. Our well-equipped kitchen has serving hatches just before the three red chairs shown to the left above.

Facilities include toilets for users with mobility issues and also for baby changings.

For much more, see our community website's **Village Hall CDCA** pages. Contact Steve, our Bookings Secretary on 07442 105 268 or clarboroughvillagehall@gmail.com

Newsletter Advertising rates for a whole year of four consecutive issues

Full page	£125.00
Half page	£75.00
Quarter page	£45.00
Business card size	£25.00

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.

Newsletter editorial deadlines
12th January (Spring 2026 issue)
23rd March (Summer 2026 issue)

Clarborough & Welham Parish Council Meetings

1st December 2025
12th January 2026

Meetings open 19:00 in Clarborough Village Hall
Agendas are always posted at least a week in advance on notice boards and on our Parish Council's website.