

Clarborough & Welham

Bassetlaw Community Newsletter

Quarterly: Winter 2026

Local Christmas events
El Nino coming havoc
BDC Glass recycling success
English in Medieval Rome
Clarborough Show in from 1906
Locals take support to Uganda
Teen bikers 'snapping'
Bassetlaw Museum updates
Leisurer centre decarbonisation
Stone Henge calendar
Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Decision 'on hold'!
and much, much more!

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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 Material submitted without full contact details will not be published.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.clarborough-welham.org.uk for much, much more!



[Above] Part of Clarborough & Welham Community website's homepage. Our website has, currently, some 240 pages containing vast amounts of information from all sections of our local (and not-so local) community.
Find out more by visiting our website – details on foot of this Newsletter's front cover.

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Ageing Better Communities

The Ageing Better Communities (ABC) programme has been funded by the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (NNICB) and is led by Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS) in partnership with local voluntary sector organisations and NHS partners.

The project brings together a partnership of trusted local organisations including BCVS, Bassetlaw Action Centre (BAC), Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL), Citizens Advice North Notts (CANNS), Oasis and Muddy Fork, combining expertise across community support, advice services and wellbeing activities.

Organisations are working together to develop tailored support plans that help people remain independent and connected in their communities.

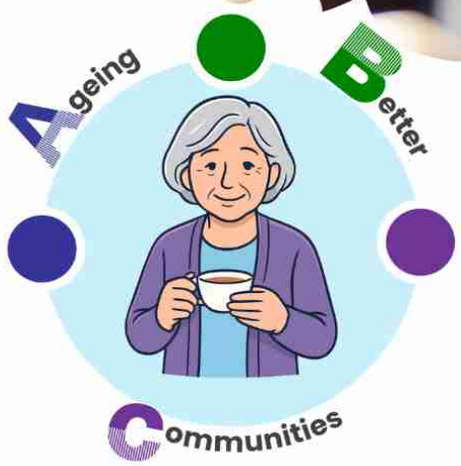
The ABC programme delivers a diverse package of community-based services designed to support people with increasing frailty and complex needs.

These include:

- **Weekly Feel-Good Group**
- **Community advice and enablement support**
- **Local drop-in hubs and outreach support**
- **Befriending and social connection activities**
- **Green social prescribing**
- **Digital inclusion support**

In addition there will be lots of opportunities for people with experience of services and challenges to feed into service development.

bcvs@bcvs.org.uk www.bcvs.org.uk



ABC Health Hub - Drop In

Pop in for a cuppa and a chat!

A friendly, relaxed space to have a chat, ask questions and find out what's happening locally. You might want to:

- ✓ Have a chat about your health and wellbeing
- ✓ Get help with technology and using the NHS App
- ✓ Find out about local support and services
- ✓ Find out what's happening in your community
- ✓ Find out about local groups, activities or volunteering

You don't need to know exactly what you're looking for – that's what we're here for.

Just pop in and say hello - no appointment needed.

Every Tuesday 1-3pm
At BCVS, The Old Abbey School, Priorswell Rd, Worksop, S80 2BU
01909 476118

01909 476 118 involve@bcvs.org.uk

Get into your local library!

Retford Library's Crime Café

Tuesday 10th November 10:00 to 11:30

Join Retford Library staff for coffee and a 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. Booking advised.

What Makes a Great Crime Novel?

A talk by Graeme Cumming

Retford Library on Thursday 12th November at 18:00

From Agatha Christie to Lee Child, from police procedurals to psychological thrillers, crime fiction covers a range of sub-genres that appeal to so many readers. But what is it about crime (fiction!) that's so attractive?

Of course, not all crime novels are equal. In part, that's down to the reader's taste. A fan of cosy crime isn't going to get the same pleasure from gritty noir. Even so, there are elements across all the sub-genres that a reader will be looking for - whether they realise it or not. Would you like to know what those elements are?

Award winning author Graeme Cumming explores crime fiction with his audience, asking these questions and more. Using examples from his own writing and that of others, he'll highlight what works for readers - and what doesn't.

With opportunities to participate and ask questions, this is a must for fans of crime fiction and aspiring crime writers.

There will also be a chance to purchase signed copies of Graem's novels.

Above, Suitable for adults only.

Tickets £3 to cover refreshments. Booking essential. Cash only please.

Retford Library's Quiet Reading Café

Shhh! We are reading in the library!

Monday 23rd November 18:00 - 19:30.

We are giving you permission to read! Join Retford Library staff for an evening of pure calm and relaxing reading. Bring along the book you are reading and enjoy a peaceful hour in our beautiful heritage room. There will be time to chat about what you are reading as well as to enjoy some refreshments.

Booking essential. Tickets £3 to include refreshments. Cash only please.

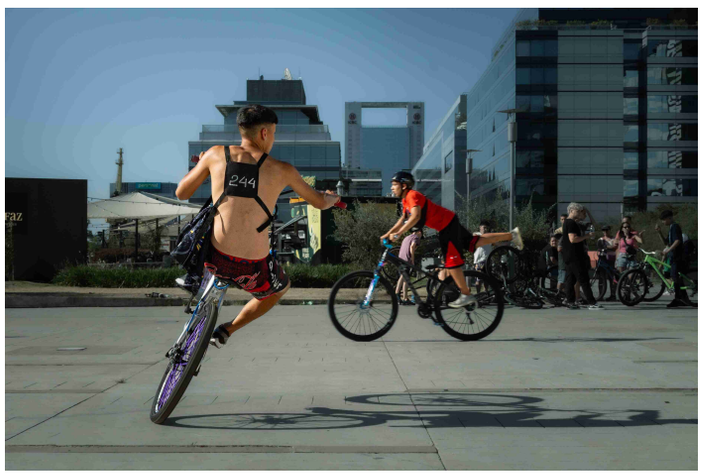
Email : **retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk or call in at Retford Library to book or telephone 01777 708 724**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Check Clarborough & Welham Community website : (Out-and-About > Retford Library) for the very latest Library news and events.

Teen Bikers 'Snapping'

Young people (usually) on their bikes have, recently, demonstrated their skills by riding along on just their rear wheel! This involves teens doing wheelies on their bikes and e-bikes directly into the path of pedestrians and oncoming cars, before swerving at the very last minute.



Of course, they don't always leave enough time to avoid a collision, injuring people – or worse, as well as forcing vehicles to brake sharply.

Recently walking with my wife along Retford's Carolgate, we have witnessed several occasions when two or more lads have 'demonstrated' their skills by snapping towards Market Square. These took place close to the fronts of several shops such that collisions would have been unavoidable if someone had emerged from the shop.

Editor

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Autumn Arrived at Muddy Fork

Muddy Fork, Retford's Gardening for Wellbeing charity, has continued to be challenged by the weather this year. No difference there from anyone else who has tried to grow anything in a year of extremes! Heatwaves seemed to go on and on, until suddenly the rain arrived. Harvests have been unpredictable and often disappointing. Some things didn't grow at all. Some did surprisingly well. Some came early and others late. But the end of the growing season is now in sight.

Perhaps fittingly given the time of writing, pumpkins have been one of the star turns this year and look more than ready for Halloween. Their close relations squashes and courgettes did less well, but the cucumbers thrived. Chillis grew but peppers did not. French beans and runner beans were both extremely productive despite late starts. And the tomatoes definitely struggled with the heat but eventually managed to provide a good crop of green fruit for chutney.

Local partnerships continue to be a source of support and inspiration. The Rotary-funded new polytunnel needs some



more preparatory work before the skin can go on, but is making good progress. An exciting new development has come in the form of a relationship with the National Trust, who are keen to build partnerships with local organisations. Their staff are scheduling regular visits to the Muddy Fork garden and a Muddy Fork group was welcomed by Clumber Park's Head Gardener, Dean, for a guided tour of the walled garden.

As we head into winter, Muddy Fork will be undertaking the usual maintenance work to keep the garden in good shape. Many of the raised beds now need their wooden edges replacing so this will be one ongoing project, and the usual path maintenance will undoubtedly be required. Meanwhile surplus produce has been converted into jam and chutney which will join this year's honey on the sales tables. It is likely that a seasonal stall will once more be found just outside the garden in the run-up to Christmas. Do check the Muddy Fork FaceBook page nearer the time for full details of dates.

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.

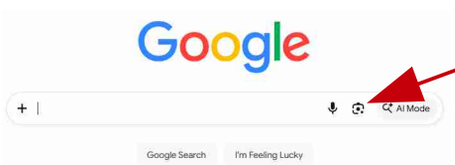
Useful Google Apps

For many years your editor has been using Google's Translate to do just that from photos taken at interesting foreign visitor attractions that didn't display English translations too. A former member of Clarborough & Welham IT Group classes had friends who lived in several other European countries. Like many people, he had developed an annual 'tradition' of providing these friends with a summary of his 'doings' over the past year – something that they did in reply. With those European contacts having quite good English skills, he felt a bit sorry that his language skills were less than his friends!

It was, therefore, quite a shock to his colleagues when he was introduced to Google Translate and translated his 'annual report' that he traditionally emailed to family and friends living in the UK into copies in Franch, Germany and Spanish! He then shared the origin of his improved language skills giving his colleagues a tool for them to further improve their English!

More recntly, Google launched its 'Lens' app which is an image recognition technology developed by Google to bring up relevant information related to objects it identifies using visual analysis based on a neural network. This identification process tries to match an image from a camera, phone or included in published documents.

With Google's massive range of skills built into Lens, it does, in a matter of seconds, provide users with a large list of recognised images with links to the website's within which it found them. Google's Lens is easily added to your usual Google search facility and gives the Google facility shown below:



Click on this little camera icon yields 'Search any image with Google Lens' and a small window opens just below for you to 'Drag an image here or to upload a file'. In a few seconds you get Google's identified images. See page 24 for an example.

Editor

Cinderella
A Magical Pantomime

10th to 13th December 2026
at Retford Little Theatre

Get ready for a magical adventure filled with laughter, music, romance and plenty of traditional pantomime fun as **Retford Musical Theatre Company (RMTC)** proudly presents Stephen Duckham's *Cinderella*!

With a fantastic reputation for producing award-winning pantomimes year after year, RMTC is ready to sprinkle a little fairy dust over this much-loved classic.

Join Cinderella as she dreams of escaping the clutches of her outrageously wicked Ugly Sisters, Gorgon and Zola. With the lovable Buttons by her side, a handsome Prince Charming searching for true love, and a Fairy Godmother with a few modern tricks up her sleeve, the stage is set for a wonderfully entertaining adventure.

Expect hilarious comedy, colourful characters, fabulous costumes, toe-tapping musical numbers and plenty of opportunities to boo, cheer and shout, "He's behind you!"

But will Cinderella make it to the Royal Ball? Will Prince Charming find the girl of his dreams? And will the magic last long enough for everyone to live happily ever after?

With a proud tradition of award-winning pantomimes, RMTC promises another fantastic festive treat for the whole family.

So dust off your glass slippers, gather your family and friends, and get ready for a ball – because you SHALL go to the panto!

Book Your Tickets! Tickets can be booked online at:

www.ticketsource.com/retford-musical-theatre-company

Love Performing? Come and Join RMTC!

Retford Musical Theatre Company is much more than its annual pantomime. The company warmly welcomes new members aged 18 and over from Retford, the surrounding communities and beyond.

RMTC is passionate about celebrating, encouraging and developing talent in the performing arts, offering opportunities to make new friends, build confidence and become part of a friendly and enthusiastic theatre community.

And there's even more excitement on the horizon!

RMTC's next musical production will be the acclaimed *Come From Away*, taking to the stage in May 2027.

Whether you're an experienced performer or simply interested in discovering what musical theatre has to offer, RMTC would love to hear from you.

For further information, email
info@retfordmusicaltheatrecompany.org



The Allegra Voice Choir

The Allegro Voice Choir is working hard after the summer break on music for the December Concerts. The first sees us accompanying the renowned Sean Ruane at his annual Christmas Concert on 5th December 2026 at St. Saviours Church, Retford.

The next is our much-loved Christmas Concert on 12th December at St. John the Baptist Church, Clarborough.



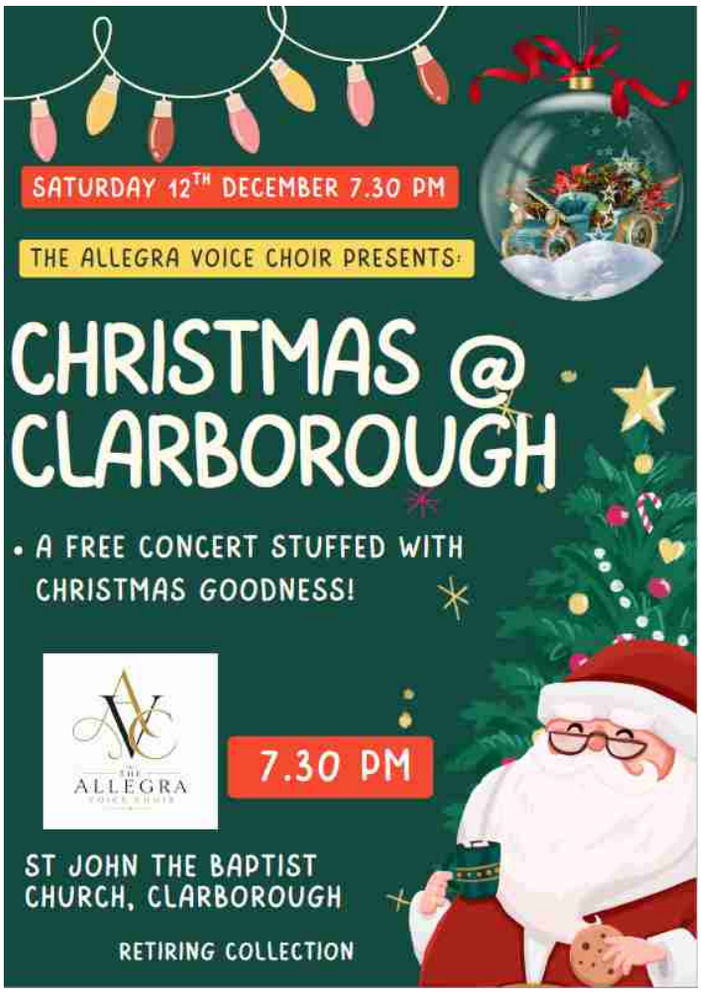
This is a free concert and refreshments are served at half time by the choir. The concert is the highlight of our year and is very well attended by our loyal fans, who very generously show their appreciation at the end of the performance with donations.

We will be posting details of these concerts on our Facebook page. If you are interested in joining us for a taster session at one of our rehearsals, come to St John's Church, Clarborough,on a Tuesday at 19:00 in term time.

If you would like information please contact Fran, our secretary, on **theallegravoicechoir@outlook.com**

We look forward to seeing you.

Judith Smith
Chair



Anglo-Saxon status in Medieval Rome

Recent finds during excavations in Rome suggest that English travelers and expats had special rites in the city. It has been known for some time that the English had their own area, known as Schola Saxonum, within the city.

Recent finds, made within Schola Saxonum, suggests that the English had the right to use their own currency in that part of Rome !

Behind Enemy Lines

True stories of women dropped into Nazi occupied France in World War 2 to carry out secret reconnaissance and risking everything for defeating the Nazis.

Louise Jordan incorporates original music, song and archival audio.

Live & Local show in Ordsall Parish Hall on Saturday 21st November 19:30.

Tickets from Peter 01777 706 433 or 07951 253 343.

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Clarborough & District W.I.

Following our summer break we look forward to the last quarter of the year when our meeting in October will reflect the season with "Harvest Treats". This will be a cookery demonstration by our in-house Speakers, Mrs M Winters and Mrs M Pottinger.

For November and December we go further afield with a talk on the North Island of New Zealand and Hot Air Ballooning respectively.

Our coffee mornings continue at various venues in the area where we have an informal chat amongst our members. If you would like to join us at one of these events a warm welcome awaits you.

Our meetings take place at Hayton Village Hall on the second Monday in the month starting at 14:00. A fee of £5 is charged for visitors which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

For further information please contact me on 07966 452 249.

Lucy Richardson
Secretary

Retford Civic Society reported 2026 Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12th September was a great community event- possibly one of our best.

Working in close partnership with the Museum and the Library, Retford Civic Society brought together exciting new exhibitions, talks and music on the theme of “Everyday Lives”...

and Rattlejag Morris danced for everyone's delight.



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Stories of Hope: From Bassetlaw to Uganda

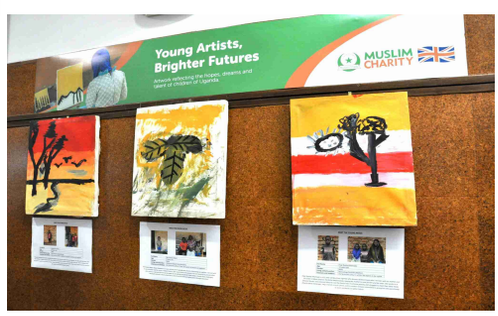
Throughout August 2026, Muslim Charity and Aurora Wellbeing Centre came together to present **Stories of Hope**, a community exhibition celebrating compassion, creativity and what can be achieved when people and organisations work together.

Hosted at the Aurora Wellbeing Centre in Worksop, the exhibition brought together stories from Muslim Charity’s work across Bassetlaw alongside *Voices of Hope: Children’s Art from Uganda*, a collection of original paintings created by children supported through the charity’s programmes.

The exhibition gave visitors an opportunity to discover more about Muslim Charity’s involvement in the local community. Displays highlighted initiatives including the **Happy to Chat Benches**, designed to encourage conversation and tackle loneliness; support for **Bassetlaw Food Bank**; the donation of life-saving defibrillators; a **Resuscitaire Unit for Bassetlaw Hospital’s maternity ward**; and the **Millennium Green Gateway in Mattersey**.

The exhibition also shared the story of Retford residents **Greg and Christine Herdman**, long-standing supporters of Muslim Charity UK. Their display featured their participation in two of the charity’s Tuk-Tuk Pakistan Challenges, where participants travel hundreds of kilometres by auto-rickshaw before donating the vehicles to families who can use them to earn a sustainable income.

Alongside these local stories, paintings by children in Uganda [Right] offered a glimpse into their lives, personalities and ambitions. Each painting was accompanied by the child’s story, showing how creativity, hope and aspirations for the future can flourish even in difficult circumstances.



A striking centrepiece was **A Royal Legacy in Wire**, an intricate portrait of the late Queen Elizabeth II created using a single continuous thread woven around precision pins. It also reflected Muslim Charity’s local Jubilee legacy, including six commemorative benches donated across Bassetlaw and Newark.

The exhibition was officially launched on 4th August 2026 in the presence of local councillors, community representatives and guests, with the portrait unveiled by Bassetlaw District Council Chair Councillor Sybil Fielding and former Retford Mayor Wendy Quigley. [Top of facing page]

Stories of Hope grew from a chance meeting between Muslim Charity and Aurora Wellbeing Centre at a local networking event, developing into a month-long celebration of local action, international friendship and the power of communities working together.



As the Aurora centre exhibition prepared to close down, Chris and Greg prepared to leave on another fantastic Muslim Charity event – to Uganda to support Barkingside Al Medina Mosque's HMS3 project.

A full report on the Uganda trip is currently being prepared but the following is a basic summary of HMS3.

In January 2024, Haji Mohammed Siddique returned to his Creator. Soon after, his family established the HMS Project and made a commitment to complete a 5-year international charity project as a Sadaqah Jariyah* in honour of his memory.

Uganda struggles with widespread poverty and significant wealth inequality. 76% of the population lives rurally, with 41% living on under £1.50 a day and only 53% of children completing primary education. Key challenges include poor infrastructure in health and education. The situation is exacerbated by lack of clean drinking water and high youth unemployment. HMS3 - Uganda September 2026 aimed to help address these needs, Team HMS embarked on a journey to fulfil the following mission:

2 Full School Renovations

4 New Mosque Builds

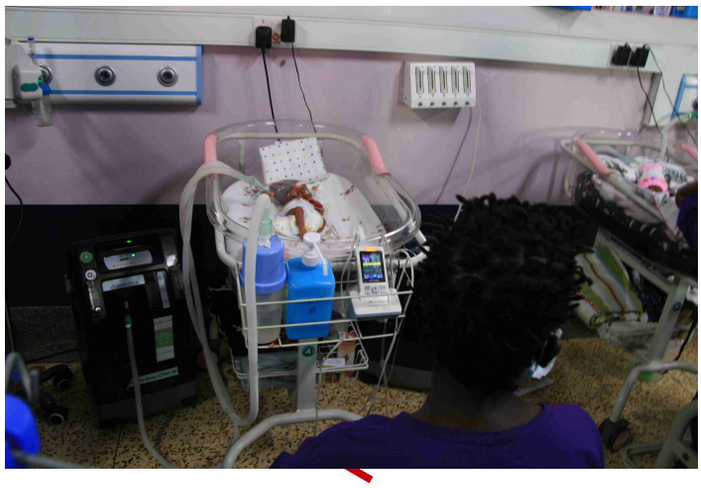
12 New Deep Water Well Installations

Distribution of 1500 Food Parcels to Sudanese Refugees

Supporting a Baby Care Home for Abandoned & Orphaned Babies

***Sadaqah Jariyah** (ongoing or continuous charity) is a voluntary Islamic act of giving that continues to benefit people and earn spiritual rewards for the donor long after they have passed away

See page 23 for more of this 'adventure' which will also appear in future issues of Clarborough & Welham Newsletter.



[Above] Donated CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) units.in Kampala's Baby Care Centre.



[Above] One of team provided lessons in boxing!



[Above] Our team posing! [Below] Murchison Falls.



Clays Gardening Club

Garden lovers from Retford and the surrounding areas are invited to discover Clays Gardening Club, a friendly and welcoming community club based in South Wheatley.

The club meets on the third Monday of each month at South Wheatley Village Hall, Sturton Road, DN22 9DH. Doors open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start. Its varied programme features talks by experienced horticulturists, head gardeners and plant specialists, alongside summer trips to beautiful gardens, historic estates and specialist nurseries. Members also enjoy an annual gardening holiday, seasonal workshops and other social events.

Every two years, the club hosts its popular Open Gardens event across North Wheatley, South Wheatley, and Sturton-le-Steeple. As the club's primary fundraiser, this event plays a vital role in keeping membership fees low and ensuring activities remain accessible to all.

At every monthly meeting, attendees can browse the 'Green Table', a treasure trove of donated plants, seeds, homegrown produce, books, and tools for sale, with all proceeds donated to a chosen local charity. The club also runs a Seed Exchange Scheme, allowing gardeners to swap surplus seed packets or acquire new ones for a small charity donation, helping to reduce waste and spread the joy of gardening.

Upcoming Winter/Spring Programme…

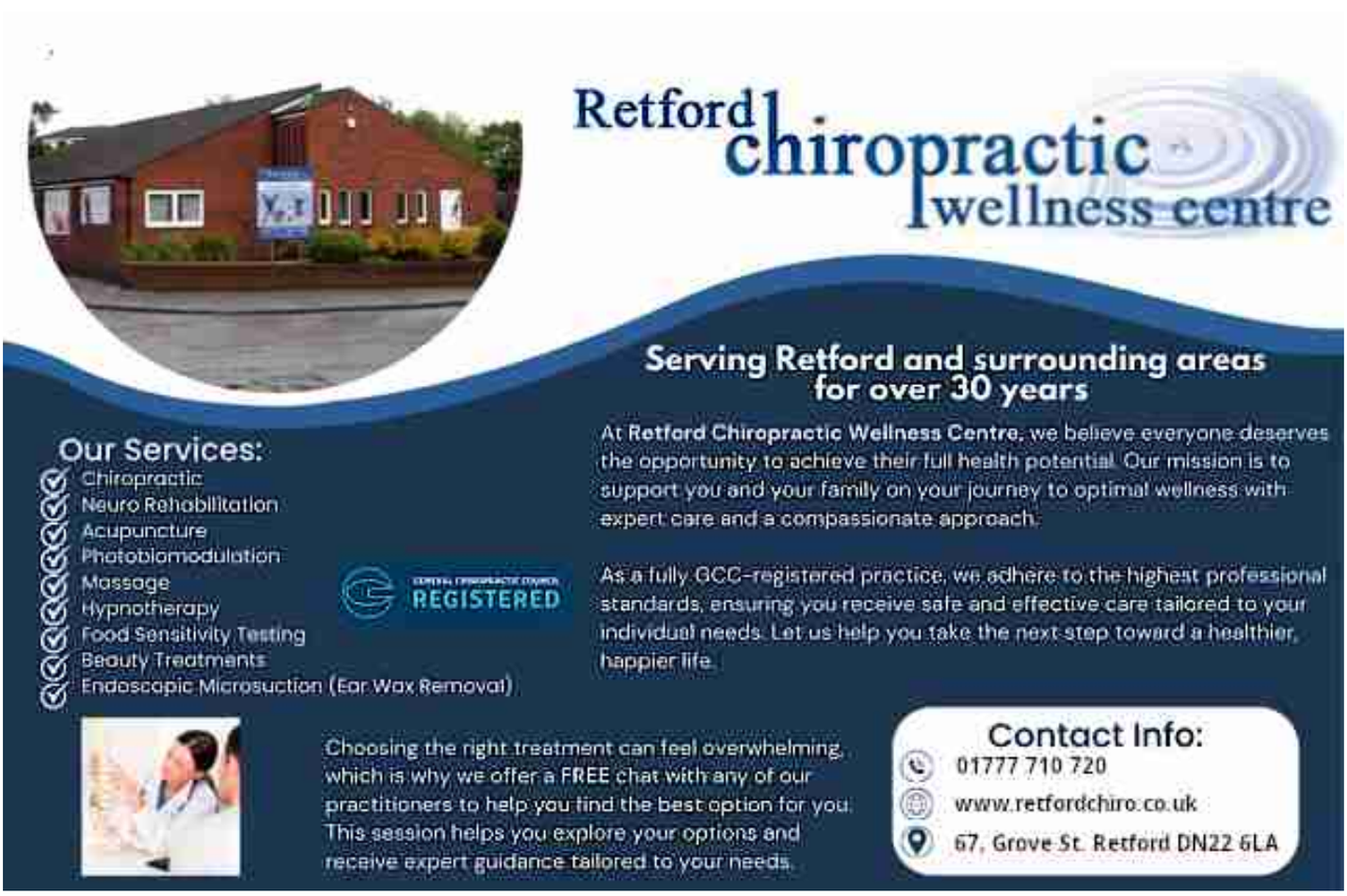
- **16th November:** *Superheroes – The Plant Hunters* with Doug Stewart. An engaging talk exploring the intrepid explorers who travelled the world to introduce many of today's favourite garden plants.
- **30th November:** *Christmas Wreath-Making Evening* A hands-on festive workshop to craft custom door wreaths while enjoying seasonal refreshments (advance booking essential).
- **7th December:** *Annual Christmas Lunch* A festive gathering at Ye Olde Bell, Barnby Moor (advance booking essential).
- **18th January:** *Garden Design & Getting Ready for Spring* with Lyn Hislop. Practical guidance on planning borders, layout techniques, and prepping plots for the spring growing season.
- **15th February:** *Cultivation & Propagation of Agapanthus, Nerines & Associated Bulbs* with Colin Hickman An expert guide on growing and multiplying these striking bulbs, with bulbs available for purchase on the night.

Club membership is £15 a year plus a £3 meeting entry fee. Visitors are welcome at £5 per meeting which includes refreshments and entry to the monthly raffle. Members benefit from priority booking and discounted rates on club trips, workshops, and seasonal activities.

New members and visitors are always welcome, whether seasoned growers or complete beginners. For gardening inspiration, new friendships and an enjoyable evening out, why not come along?

For further information, contact Christine on 07572 261 712 or visit the Clays Gardening Club facebook page.

Sharon Rowland



Stonehenge's Neolithic calendar

Two key aspects of our calendar are the two soltices which mark the moment when the tilt of the Earth's axis is most inclined toward or away from the Sun. This happens twice a year—around **June 20–21** and **December 21–22**.

- The **Summer solstice (June):** The longest day and shortest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, marking the start of summer.
- The **Winter solstice (December)** is shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, marking the start of winter.

A number of very recent scientific research publications that have expanded understandings of our ancient forebears and particularly, Stone Henge.



Constructed over a substantial period from about 3,100 BC through to about 1,600 BC the site is on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. Most of the research that has explored Stonehenge over the past centuries has linked them to 'sun worshipping' in the Neolithic, the very end of the Stone Age.

Increasingly precise measurments have shown that the main orientation of the stones align with the spot on the horizon where the sun rises on the summer soltice, and to the opposing spot where the sun sets on the Winter Soltice.The stones that are relevant for these orientations were erected around 2500 BC. All measurements have taken into account the predicted changes in solstice orientation over the centuries.

A recent discovery, about 5 kilometres from Stonehenge, appears to have been a short-lived settlement some 500 years older than the start of Stonehenge. Pottery found on this site has been dated to roughly 2,950 BC. Two of the pits on this site have been identified as different to the others which has clear evidence of habitations. These two pits appear to have been the base for two substantial wooden 'posts'. Careful detailed measurements have shown that these two items appear to be earlier 'solitce' pointers that later appeared in Stonehenge.



What these research programmes, particularly that of Stonehenge itself, is how our distant ancestors managed to move (both horizontally and vertically) the huge stone blocks now gracing Stonehenge. Given that recent research has shown that most of the large stones, some weighing more than 25 tonnes and measuring 7 metres tall! Even with modern machinery these are really demanding transportation challenges. Research has shown thet most of these stones originated in some tens of kilometres from Stonehenge but the central, Altar Stones which is sandstone, originates in north-east Scotland!



Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

In December 2024, central government announced plans for the biggest reorganisation of local government in England in over 50 years. Their proposal is to replace all two-tier councils with single-tier unitary authorities, meaning one council in the area will handle all local government services with the aim of making governance simpler and more efficient.

In Nottinghamshire, local services are currently delivered to 824,700 residents under a two-tier council structure. Nottinghamshire County Council overseas county wide services such as social care, education and road maintenance, while the seven district and borough councils are responsible for local services including waste collection, planning, housing, homelessness and leisure centres. Residents are also represented by two sets of Councillors.

Nottingham City Council is an existing unitary authority, which means that it delivers all the services above, in its geographical area, to a population of 323,700 residents.

In most parts of the county there are also town and parish councils that make up a third layer of local government. These provide very localised services at village or parish level such as managing community halls, cemeteries and allotments. Town and parish councils are not directly affected by LGR, however, they may have the opportunity to take on different services in the future as a result.

Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council formally submitted the Greater Nottinghamshire Proposal to the UK Government in December, 2025, setting out a bold vision for modernising local government and improving services for residents in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
This change to local councils is happening because the Government has asked us to reorganise how local government works in Nottinghamshire. We are following this requirement to make sure our services are better, simpler, and more joined up for everyone in our communities.
Our proposal recommended replacing the current two-tier system with two new unitary councils. Under this plan, one council would bring together Nottingham City, Broxtowe, and Gedling, creating a single authority focused on the urban core and its surrounding communities. The second council would unite the remaining districts of Rushcliffe, Newark and Sherwood, Ashfield, Mansfield and Bassetlaw, ensuring that services are delivered efficiently and reflect the needs of local communities.
The number of councillors across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire will be slashed by more than 200 members under the most significant shake-up in local government in 50 years.

In July, 2026 the Labour Government announced Nottinghamshire's nine councils would be scrapped in favour of two new unitary authorities under its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) plans.

Nottingham city's boundaries will expand to absorb parts of Rushcliffe, Gedling and Broxtowe, while the remaining parts of these neighbouring boroughs will merge with Newark and Sherwood, Ashfield, Mansfield and Bassetlaw to form another, separate authority.

Existing councils had proposed three different options between them following often contentious debates, and it was Nottingham City Council's plan that was chosen by the Government.

In a letter to councils on Thursday, July 30th Beatrice Andrews, the deputy director for LGR, revealed the two new authorities would be called the Greater Nottingham Council and the Nottinghamshire Council.

However, on 7th September 2026 Government notified that they are suspending planned Local Government Reorganisation across many areas - including Nottinghamshire - while legal issues are carefully considered. Which 'legal issues' currently remains unclear.

Editor

El Niño set to wreak Havoc

El Niño is part of a complex natural climate cycle that affects ocean temperatures and disrupts global weather patterns. With India already struggling with one of the driest monsoons on record and Indonesia experiencing some of the worst wildfires and their respiratory health effects ever.

While El Niño is expected to peak at the end of 2026 it will take another three to four months for all of its heat to move around the world. Together with predicted global warming this is predicted to result in heatwaves during northern hemisphere's summer 2027 (that's us!).

One of the most serious global predictions that is already rattling both governments and supply chains is the effects of these global droughts on food production, storage and distribution.

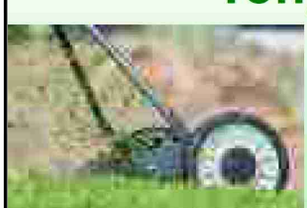
Recent policies show that the likes of India have been building their grain stores while UK and US have not!

Because global food chains are really global, the impacts of crop failures due to a wide range of climate changes will be felt everywhere – so watch the prices – or even availability – of key foods on our supermarket shelves!

Such effects will also impact societies that are economically poor such that political unrest will follow widespread famine.

Editor

LAWNMOWERS
Tony Halford



Plant & Grass Machinery Specialist

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Email: thlawnmowers@hotmail.co.uk

Local Christmases

At the time of writing this Newsletter, details of this year's planned run-up-to-Christmas events are still arriving!

This page has a few 'memories' from previous events – watch our community website (**www.clarborough-welham.org.uk**) for this year's events as they are announced.











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)

Glass Recycling Service Delivers Early Success

Bassetlaw residents and waste collection crews are being praised after more than 770 tonnes of glass have been collected since the launch of the Council's new kerbside glass recycling service.



Introduced at the end of April, the service has been welcomed by households across the district, helping to ensure hundreds of tonnes of glass bottles, jars and containers are recycled instead of being placed in general waste.

Bins are collected from households every six-weeks and during the first 12 weeks of the service, crews collected a total of 771.22 tonnes.

If you would like to know when your next Bin Collection is due to take place, you can download the Bassetlaw 'Binformation' App, which allows you to view your collection dates for each bin, sign up for alerts and access information on which items you can put in your recycling collections.

Cllr Darrell Pulk, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, said: "Collecting more than 770 tonnes of glass in the first two collection cycles is a fantastic achievement and clear evidence that Bassetlaw residents are committed to recycling. The success of the service is down to the combined efforts of our residents and waste collection crews, and I would like to thank everyone involved.

"By recycling more glass, we are reducing the amount of waste sent for disposal and helping to create a cleaner, greener Bassetlaw for future generations. A huge thank you is also extended to the Council's waste management crews for their continued hard work in collecting waste and recycling across Bassetlaw."
The Binformation App is available to download free from the Apple App Store and Google Play. A desktop version is also available through the Council's website.

For more information and to access the desktop version, visit the Bins, Recycling and Waste section of **www.bassetlaw.gov.uk**

One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.

Bob Marley (1945-1981)

16 Years Waiting for Planning Enforcement Action Is Simply Unacceptable



At a recent meeting of Bassetlaw District Council, I questioned Labour about the Council's handling of planning enforcement cases and the length of time residents are being left waiting for action.

The answers were deeply disappointing.

The Council confirmed that there are **324 live planning enforcement cases across Bassetlaw**. Of these, 256 are awaiting investigation, 46 are awaiting the outcome of a planning application, and 22 have had an enforcement notice issued.

But the most shocking revelation was that two cases date back to **2010**. That means these matters have been ongoing for around 16 years.

For residents in Clarborough, Welham and our surrounding villages, this raises serious questions about whether the Council is doing enough to protect our communities and ensure planning rules are properly enforced.

I recognise that planning enforcement can be complicated. Some cases require detailed investigations, negotiations with landowners and consideration of planning applications. However, residents deserve a clear explanation of why cases can remain unresolved for so long.

Labour's response was that cases vary in complexity and that officers prioritise those where the greatest planning harm has been identified. While prioritisation is understandable, it does not remove the need for accountability, progress and timely decisions.

When residents raise concerns about potential breaches of planning rules, they should have confidence that their complaints will be investigated and dealt with fairly. They should not feel that their concerns have disappeared into a system where cases can drag on for years.

As a councillor, I will continue pressing for greater transparency, stronger accountability and meaningful progress on outstanding enforcement cases.

Our villages deserve a council that listens to residents, takes their concerns seriously and delivers results.

This is another example of why I believe **Bassetlaw is broken and needs a fresh approach.**

Reform UK believes in putting residents first, improving accountability and making local government work properly for the people it serves.

Bassetlaw is broken. Reform will fix it.

Cllr Fraser McFarland
Bassetlaw District Council
Leader of the Opposition and Group Leader for Reform UK
Councillor for Clarborough, Clayworth, Hayton, Welham and Wiseton

Retford Arts Hub

Autumn is here, chilly evenings and sunny days...so far!! and, there are only 10 weeks until Christmas, you may now be wanting to get a wriggle on with your Christmas shopping.
Well, the Retford Arts Hub can help you with that!

Everything in our shop is created by local artisans so, if you like to shop local and support local shops and artisans, you really need to come and have a look.

Our artists and crafters have all been very busy preparing their fabulous festive loot for you.

Their work will be available in our renowned Christmas Fair displays.

Our Fair will run for 7 weeks starting from 13th November. We have original paintings by the dozen (as always) on show throughout the hub and, in addition, our current exhibition entitled 'seasons' will run for two more weeks up to 13th November so there's lots of opportunity to find that special gift you are after.

For something a little bit different you might want to gift a loved one with a chance to join in one of our creative workshops.

We have gift tokens if you are unsure which workshop to choose too.

There are a variety of workshops/courses on offer and as an example, these are our November/December offerings....

- Paint a winter scene in oils with local artist John Redfern Harris on Friday 6th November 13:00-16:00.
- Fresh flower handbag workshop with Tracey Mills on 7th Novwmber 13:30-15:30.
- Water colour ink flowers with Sandra Openshaw on 11th November 1.30-3.30pm.
- Acrylics landscape with Mark Andrew on 25th November 13:30-15:30.
- Palette knife landscape taster session with Iain Davenport on Saturday 28th November. 12:30-15:30.
- Festive wood block printing with Carrie on Saturday 5th December. 2 sessions; 10:30 to 12:30 and 13:00 to 15:00pm.



Finally, we have an Introduction to Watercolours course with Ian Davenport in March 2027.

Anyone with bored kids? ages 7 to 12years? Well, our kids creative club is on Saturday 28th November. 10:30 to 12 noon. Just £3.00. Booking essential for all the above sessions.

So, what are you waiting for...come and have a festive browse, enjoy a hot drink in our cafe and chat with our friendly volunteers who will be more than happy to help you get something crossed off the list or to give you information on upcoming workshops! It's never too early to make a start on that gift list and it's never too late to try something new!

Facebook/Instagram; @retfordartshub
Tel; 01777 860 414



[Above, left] Kids' Club. [Above, right] Acrylics landscape.

Winter in Clarborough church

It's not long now to our Christmas Fair. Book a stall by ringing 07989 895 813 or speaking to any of the PCC. The date is Saturday 28th November. Seasonal refreshments will will be available, and the fair is open to the public between 13:00 and 16:00. The special Christmas prize draw will be made during the afternoon.

Service Station. From the 25th of November to the 16th of December each Wednesday evening the service station will be putting on an advent course for us to explore more about Christmas. This will be from 19:00 in church.



Christmas concert. At 19:30 on Saturday the 12th of December Allegra Voice choir will be putting on a concert in Clarborough church. This will be a special evening, and we hope many will come and enjoy it. See page 8 for details.



Christmas Eve Midnight Service. This treasured celebration for Christmas begins at 23:30. It has an atmosphere all its own. If you feel that this is too late for you there is a crib service on Christmas Eve afternoon at 16:00 at Sturton church. On the 27th of December, on the Sunday morning, there is a 10:30 (said) Holy Communion in Clarborough church.

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

Dolly Parton (1946-2026)

Bassetlaw Museum returns with expanded opening hours



Following the successful completion of a major project to preserve its extensive collection, Bassetlaw Museum is expanding its opening hours, allowing visitors to enjoy the museum five days a week from Tuesday 1st September.

In April 2025, the Museum took urgent action to protect its collection after one of its storage facilities were deemed no longer suitable for the safe preservation of its artefacts.

Now that the work has been completed, the museum will now be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 16:45.

Dr Mike Galer [above], Curator at Bassetlaw Museum said: "We want to thank everyone for their patience whilst we carried out the work necessary to protect the museum's artefacts which are currently in storage.

"We look forward to welcoming back visitors through our doors more often to be able to explore our collections and enjoy everything the museum has to offer."

The museum will remain closed on Bank Holidays and on Wednesdays for internal stores work, collection work and outreach in the community.

During the school holidays, Bassetlaw Museum will be open Monday to Saturday, offering more opportunities for families and local visitors to enjoy the museum's collection.

Exhibitions and Events at Bassetlaw Museum

The Age of Cine

Exhibition opens on Saturday 13th December

The Age of Cine: Cameras, Projectors and the Magic of Film

This exhibition showcases a selection of cine equipment designed for the home-movie market. Highlights include a range of cine cameras, among them the iconic 1920s Baby Pathé, as well as projectors and accessories. The display also features programmes from local cinemas and the original ticket machine from the Regal, Worksop. Together, these objects evoke memories of cinema-going and home filmmaking, offering a nostalgic look back at earlier technologies and the remarkable contrast with today's digital world of film.

The image below pictures the Palace Cinema interior, Carolgate Bridge, Retford.

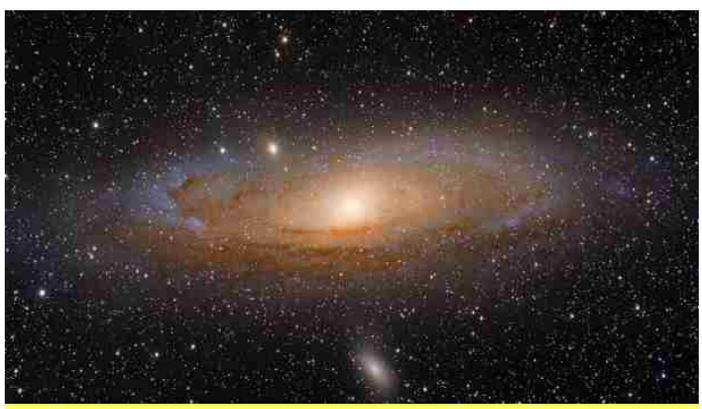


Astronomy Evening

Friday 13th November 2026 18:30 – 21:00

Discover the wonders of the night sky at our Astronomy Evening.

Join the experts from Bassetlaw Astronomical Society for engaging presentations, explore the scale of the Solar System in the museum grounds, view celestial objects through telescopes, and learn about astrophotography.



Doncaster Sheffield Airport News

Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA) has invested in a new radar system, marking the "largest capital cost" ahead of the site's reopening.

Technology group Raytheon UK will next year install equipment from RTX, which provides air traffic systems to facilities in 45 countries, in a deal worth £7m.

DSA closed in 2022 with its owners declaring it unviable, but City of Doncaster Council hopes to fully reopen the site in April 2028.

The greatest thing a father can do for his children is to respect the woman that gave birth to his children. It is because of her that you have the greatest treasures in your life. You may have moved on, but your children have not. If you can't be her soulmate, then at least be thoughtful. Whom your children love should always be someone that you acknowledge with kindness. Your children notice everything and will follow your example.

Shannon L. Alder (1969 -)

South View Farm and the Clarborough Show

In the Bassetlaw Museum's collection, there is a photograph which highlights a lost aspect of Clarborough's history. Dated 1906, it depicts the 'Clarborough Show, Retford' (see below), and immediately raises two questions: what was the Clarborough Show, and where was this photo taken?



[Above] The Clarborough Show in 1906. (Photograph courtesy of Bassetlaw Museum, Retford)

The Show

Unlike the modern Fairs, the Clarborough Show was an annual exhibition of farmers' produce, typically held on the first or second Wednesday of September. The Bassetlaw Museum also has the catalogues for the 1911 and 1913 shows, and the 1911 one, specified as 'The 19th Annual Exhibition', lists the typical features of horses, cattle, flowers, fruit and vegetables. The latter is seen in rows in the 1906 photograph, being scrutinised by several men.

Despite the photograph's male demographic, the shows were very much a village event. The Clarborough School Log Books, digitised on the Clarborough and Welham Community website, document schoolchildren given the day off for the event, for example in 1893 (the first Show), 1896, 1910, 1911, 1920 and 1921.

The Location

But where were these shows held? The 1911 and 1913 catalogues stated that the shows were held in 'a Field kindly lent by' and the 'Homestead' of J. Bingham respectively.

In the 1901 Census, John Bingham (born 1863) lived at Hayton Castle Farm with his wife Ada. A decade later in the 1911 Census, the family moved to South View Farm, Main Street, Clarborough, and the census recorded that his first two children were born at Hayton Castle, while the younger three were all born at Clarborough. The second child, John Stanley, was born on 21st April 1902, and the third child, Elsie May, on 23rd February 1905, so the Bingham family moved to Clarborough between these dates, making John the host of the Clarborough Show at South View Farm in September 1906.

By the 1950s tthe image opposite shows an aerial view of the largely-unchanged farm from this time. For clarity, a red dot and arrow show the approximate location and angle from which the 1906 photograph was taken.



[Above] The same farm in the 1950s. (Reproduced by kind permission of Rosetta Gleadon)

Unfortunately, the farm's days were numbered. The opening of nearby power stations West Burton and Cottam in the 1960s required more housing for the workers, and Nottinghamshire County Council compulsorily purchased South View Farm and its land, later demolishing the farm to rebuild the primary school and construct Hillview Crescent.

The 1906 photograph thus harks back to Clarborough's recent agriculturally-dominated past, when local farmers exhibited their produce at the annual Show, often hosted at South View Farm. The fate of this particular farm embodied the village's fundamental shift from working to residential, as its land, worked by generations of farmers, was repurposed to house power station workers and their families. Similarly, the Clarborough Show changed from agricultural business to the Fairs of family entertainment that we know today.

Lauren Emery
Volunteer at Bassetlaw Museum

St.Swithun's Christmas Tree Festival

St.Swithun's Church, Retford is, once again hosting its annual Christmas Tree Festival.

To find out more and to book your involvement, go to St.Swithun's website or any of their other contact routes:

Portia Crossley

Operations Manager / Senior Leader | St Swithun's Retford

Chapelgate, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 6PL

Working Days Sunday to Wednesday



www.stsretford.org

www.facebook.com/stsretford

www.instagram.com/stsretford

Major decarbonisation projects getting underway



Preparation work for Bassetlaw District Council's biggest decarbonisation project ever undertaken got underway in July 2026.

Two of the council's biggest carbon emitters, Worksop and Retford Leisure Centres, are being made more energy efficient by replacing the end-of-life gas heating systems for the building and pool with modern heat pumps. This is alongside other smaller improvements such as installing solar panels, heat recovery ventilation, a draught lobby, and improved LED lighting.

The work is being part funded using £2.18 million of the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, which is contributing to the UK's ambition to be net zero by 2050, with additional investment from Bassetlaw District Council.

Contractors Miller Freeman started work at Retford Leisure Centre from Monday 13th July to mid-August. This has enhanced the sustainability of the building.

Similar work will take place at Worksop Leisure Centre from 17th October to 16th November, 2026, and once this is completed, it will mean fossil fuel consumption at properties owned by the District Council will have reduced by 62% since 2021. That's despite adding more assets such as the Bridge Skills Hub during that time.

A Little Christmas Magic Comes to Clarborough!

Come and join us for our Christmas Tree Lighting on Wednesday 2nd December!

The countdown to Christmas is on, and what better way to begin the festive season than by gathering together as a village for a cosy evening full of Christmas cheer, twinkling lights, happy faces and a little bit of Christmas magic!

Clarborough Village Ventures, in conjunction with Clarborough and Welham Parish Council, warmly invites you all to join us for our special Christmas Tree Lighting Event, starting at 17:30.

Just before 5:45pm, we'll enjoy the lovely sound of children singing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree. With the lighting of the Christmas tree at 5:45pm to make this a truly special moment for everyone.



And of course, no Christmas celebration would be complete without a visit from Santa himself! Children will have the chance to meet Santa, and every child visiting Santa will receive a little gift from him to take home. Best of all, entry to see Santa and receive a gift is completely free!

There'll also be Christmas stalls to browse in the Village Hall, where you can warm up with a delicious free mince pie and a hot drink or squash. It's a lovely opportunity to catch up with neighbours, meet friends and enjoy some festive treats together.

Whether you're bringing excited little ones, joining in with the carols, meeting up with friends or simply looking forward to seeing our village dressed for Christmas, everyone is welcome.

So put on your woolly hats, wrap up in your scarves and bring the family along for an evening of festive fun, Christmas songs and magical memories!

When? Wednesday 2nd December

From 17:30 — Christmas tree lighting at 17:45

Clarborough Village Hall and village Christmas tree
Free entry, a visit to Santa, Christmas carols, stalls, free hot drink or squash and mince pies.



We can't wait to see you there and share the magic of Christmas with our wonderful village community. Let's make it a heart-warming start to the festive season.

Nicholas Smith
Clarborough Village Ventures




A FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE
The Rotary Club of Retford
in partnership with The Royal British Legion
LEST WE
Forget
Saturday 7th November 2026
at 7.00pm, The Well Church, Hospital Road, Retford
Featuring The Pleasley Colliery Welfare Band &
The Retford Musical Theatre Company (The Mob)
Tickets £12 including refreshments
Tickets from Mamma G's Coffee Shop, Carolgate
and Co-op Travel, Marketplace, Retford or online at
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubofretford1/1875157
Designed, Printed & Supported by
Burgess Design and Print, Retford


Rotary
Retford
Retford Rotary Santa
Fun Run/Walk
Supporting Bassetlaw Food Bank
Sunday 6th December 2026
Starts at 10am (warm up with Sally at 9:50am)
Market Square Retford
2kms or 4kms
Cost
Adult £12 (includes FULL suit)
Adult £8 (BYO suit)
Child £5 (includes a hat)
Child (under 3) FREE
Sponsor
JONES & CO SOLICITORS
Sponsor
Specsavers
Sponsor
PHYSIO PILATES
Scan QR code for full details and entry form or visit our website!
www.rotaryclubofretford.co.uk

Muslim Charity UK Support for Uganda

The Uganda visit gave Greg and Chris Herdman an opportunity to see a broad range of Muslim Charity's humanitarian and development work in Uganda, particularly in the areas of health, education, safe water and support for vulnerable communities.

Some of the projects and areas of work visited included:

• **Healthcare and newborn care** – supporting premature and vulnerable babies through improved neonatal facilities and lifesaving equipment at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, alongside a mobile clinic and training facility helping extend care into communities.

• **Care for vulnerable children** – visiting a Baby Care Home in Kampala which provides abandoned babies with a safe environment, medical care, nutrition and ongoing support.

• **Education** – visiting primary schools where new classrooms have been constructed and existing facilities renovated, helping provide safer and more suitable learning environments for thousands of children.

• **Safe water** – seeing clean-water initiatives providing communities with more sustainable access to safe drinking water.

• **Refugee and humanitarian support** – visiting Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement and seeing some of the challenges faced by refugee families, including access to food, water and other essential support.

The map on the right is a 'travel map' summarising the route for our adventure startng with flights from Gatwick to Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and then from Addid Ababa to Entebbe in Uganda.

If any readers would like to support Muslim Charity's work in Uganda, donations can be made directly through the **Muslim Charity website**: https://muslimcharity.org.uk/ and following the QUICK DONATE box. On the final checkout page there is a question, "Add any comments about your donation (optional):" where donors can mention that they heard about us from the "**Clarborough & Welham Newsletter / Herdman**".

Alternatively, donations can be made by **telephone** or **bank transfer**. The relevant bank details and other ways to donate can be found here:

https://muslimcharity.org.uk/other-ways-to-donate/

When donating, please use the reference **UGANDA / HERDMAN** where possible, so that we can identify donations arising from your appeal.

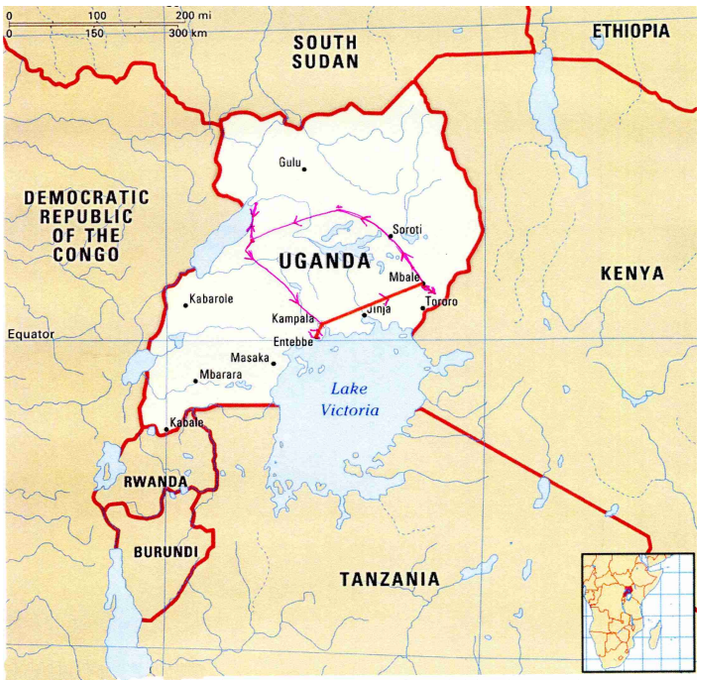
This note was received from Maroof Pirzada, UK Director of Muslim Charity which is based at Eaton Hall just outside Retford, Nottinghamshire.

For more on our Muslim Charity information – and a vast library of local (and not so local) community links and information – visit Clarborough & Welham Community website:

www.clarborough-welham.org.uk

which at the time of writing comprised at least 240 pages!

You will find our website's Muslim Charity page within the Local Faith section from our website's main menu on our site's home page.



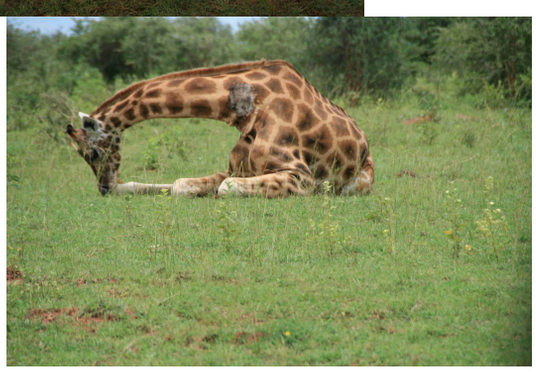
Uganda itinerary outline

Flights from London (Gatwick) to Addis Ababa
followed by Addis Ababa to Entebbe
After landing we were taxied from Entebbe to Kampala.
Kampala to Mbale
Mbale to Bufumbo
Mbale to Kirjadongo
Mbale > Soroti > Lira > Kirjadongo
Masindi > Kafu > Karuma > Nakasongola > Kampala.
Flights returned to Gatwick from Entebbe via transfer to Addis Ababa.

Just a couple of photos from your Editor's collection of well over 400 taken on this trip:



[Left] 10kg food bags for donation to Sudanese refugees on 23rd September.



[Right] Long legs do need resting!



Retford Christmas Market & Lights Switch-On (Sunday 29th November)
Illuminate - Winter Festival of Light (core event Wednesday 9th December)
Christmas Window Competition

Retford Big Market Day Saturday 19th December – The Frost Fairy plus Hathersage Brass Band, Santa (Retford Lions), Free Face Painter, plus more tba.

Retford Railway Station's former Station House (DN22 7DE) is 'to let'; contact Retford Business Forum for details.

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)

Clarborough & Welham IT Group

Through this issue of Clarborough & Welham Newsletter we have made refernce to several aspects of recent computer features which readers might find interesting to have a bit of face-to-face teaching.

If this is so, your Editor previously ran Clarborough & Welham IT Group which met in Clarborough Village Hall. This group still has its hardware available for lessons although members could also bring their own laptops.

If this seems interesting, get in touch with Greg. This could either be at Clarborough's weekly Coffee Mornings (10:45-11:45 – and just £1.20 for a cuppa and piece of cake) or

01777 700 918 or clarboroughwelham@gmail.com

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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.



When relaxing at home, your editor and his wife often do some of the online jigsaw games that are quit common.

The one we usually use are called ***jigsaw collection HD.***

Although the games themselves are good to play, an increasingly annoying aspect is that the images of many jigsaws show real locations/features from around the world. None of these have the title for the image which has, for a long time, been really annoying!

However, when Google Lens became available, this 'annoyance' effectively disappeared since taking a screen shot of a completed jigsaw - just tap the Print Screen key on your PC's keyboard* and drop it into Google Lens – job done!

*The Print Screen key, particularly on laptops or even smaller devices gets abbreviated to the likes of 'ptsc' or similar abbreviations. Once this key is tapped your device saves an image of your screen at the moment the key was pressed into the so-called 'clipboard' – a special part of your device's memory, the contents of which which can be 'pasted' into various apps.

In the example at the top of this page, Google Lens found the following: The image shows the famous Golden Bridge (*Cầu Vàng*) held up by giant stone hand sculptures in the Ba Na Hills near Da Nang, Vietnam.

Newsletter editorial deadlines

11th January 2027 (Spring issue)
12th April (Summer issue)

Clarborough & Welham Parish Council Meetings

7th December
11th January, 2027

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.