

Clarborough & Welham

Bassetlaw Community Newsletter

Quarterly: Winter 2023

**Retford now in Pakistan!
Holocaust Centre Kindertransport
East Midlands Devolution
IT Group Linux classes**

**Improving your CV
Disabled Access
Local Christmas events
Clarborough Footpath**

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 Material submitted without full contact details will not be published.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!

Volunteers Urgently Needed in Bassetlaw

The voluntary sector is in urgent need of volunteers across Bassetlaw.
 Could you spare a few hours a week or more to volunteer somewhere locally?
 Would you enjoy gaining new skills and meeting some amazing new people?
 Organisations across Bassetlaw are waiting to hear from you and would really appreciate your help.
 BCVS is here to help you find a role that matches your needs and interests.
 Contact us today to find out what is needed in Bassetlaw.
 If you are already involved in a voluntary group that needs more volunteers please also get in touch.



If you are interested please visit www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteer, email involve@bcvs.org.uk or call us on 01909 476 118

Community Grants 50 years of BCVS Cost of Living Volunteering



50 Years 50 Voices

As we continue to celebrate 50 years of BCVS we are looking for stories and memories from our vast history of supporting groups and residents in Bassetlaw.
 Have you got a story to tell?
 We would love to hear from you.
 Please email our Heritage Project Lead, Marie, via marie.brown@bcvs.org.uk if you can help.



Community Grants for Bassetlaw - Round 2 opens on 20th November

Eligible community and voluntary groups in Bassetlaw can soon apply for up to £15,000 in the second round of community grant funding.

The priority for the fund is projects that support the development and improvement of "Communities and Place" within Bassetlaw.

To find out more, and to apply, please visit www.bcvs.org.uk/bassetlaw-community-grants or email communitygrants@bcvs.org.uk



New Booklet Out Now



visit www.bcvs.org.uk/colbassetlaw

A new booklet for 2023 has been produced alongside partners to support local people once again with the Cost of Living. There is a booklet and a bookmark as well as a digital version. The booklet is also available in braille. If you would like one, or can have them available in your venue, please email bcvs@bcvs.org.uk

www.bcvs.org.uk/colbassetlaw

tel: 01909 476118

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service, Old Abbey School, Priorswell Road, Worksop, S80 2BU
 web: www.bcvs.org.uk | email: bcvs@bcvs.org.uk | Charity Number: 1140782



Harvest time at Muddy Fork

It may be nearly Christmas by the time you read this, but at the time of writing the autumn harvests at Muddy Fork are making everyone very happy. Even more exciting, despite not being edible, is the Make a Difference Award from BBC Nottingham, won by Muddy Fork in the Green Award category. This award is about making where we live more environmentally friendly and better for nature.



Nottingham, won by Muddy Fork in the Green Award category. This award is about making where we live more environmentally friendly and better for nature.

Rose Thorpe, no longer 'new' in the role of Garden Manager, accepted the award on the charity's behalf at an awards ceremony in Nottingham in September. Her

elegant acceptance speech made it very clear that Muddy Fork is not just about the environment but very much about the people involved and the benefits for both. Muddy Fork brings people together in a supportive 'green' setting with positive impacts on wellbeing.

In the words of writer Jenny Uglow 'We may think we are nurturing our garden but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us'. Worth reflecting on; it's also at the time of writing the week of World Mental Health Day (10th October), but this message is one for all the year round.

Back in the garden, the tomatoes and beans are coming to an end but there are still squashes, courgettes, cucumbers and chillis, and some lovely displays of flowers. Produce is used by participants or placed on the honesty stand outside the garden and offered to the public in return for donations. An abundance of plums has been converted into chutney for sale and this may yet be the destiny of any tomatoes which remain green.

A much-appreciated grant from Bassetlaw District Council has helped support the project's financial stability this year but the future remains somewhat insecure and the funding group is currently looking closely at other potential sources of grants. Muddy Fork now has a new website and more details of the project can be found at www.muddyfork.uk, while referrals, whether self-referrals or on behalf of someone else, can be made directly to rose.muddyfork@outlook.com

Do take a look if you are interested, and consider whether you would like to support the garden maybe as a volunteer, or by making a donation.

Clarbrough & District Women's Institute



The Autumn sees us settling down to our new routine of afternoon meetings, very much appreciated in forthcoming winter months.

In October we enjoyed a talk from Sue Smith on the work she does at the Hedgehog Rescue and in November we look forward to "Just Gems" when hopefully we will be able to start our Christmas shopping. Members enjoyed our regular coffee morning also in October although the weather could have been a little more kind for the journey to Oldcotes. Another coffee morning is planned with a visit to The Cafe in Sherwood Forest at the end of the month. We look forward to our members' lunch in December. As published in last edition of this Newsletter there will be no Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch, if any other village organisation would be interested to take this over, we would be happy to advise.

We welcome three new members to our Group and have interest from one or two other people. Our meetings are held on the second Monday in the month at Clarbrough Village Hall and start at 14:00. If you are interested, please come along and you will be made very welcome. We will be having stalls at the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Church Christmas Market, and are always ready to have a chat.

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

*Lucy Richardson
Secretary*

Global Warming makes things windier!

We all know how windy weather seems to be a more common feature of our own weather than it used to be. However, analysis of all tropical storms in the Atlantic between 1971 and 2020 have revealed that hurricanes are, on average, growing stronger, faster.

This fits with what climate change theory predicts would be the case since it is well established that warmer ocean surfaces generate these powerful storms.

Editor

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





Your Parish Pasture

The Open Green Space

The Annual cut of the Wildflower Meadow was taken at the end of August. This cut has two purposes. The first is to remove the stems and leaves of the grass and wildflowers from the Meadow. This removes nutrients in those stems and leaves and so it weakens the soil. Wildflowers thrive best on weak soil. This is a long term programme – perhaps 20 years! The second purpose is to shake seeds from the plants onto the soil so that they can grow next year. The cut plants are turned once (spun) to allow them to dry and shake out all the seeds. The dried grass – known as Hay, not straw – is then baled and removed.

This year some of the Hay will be kept on the land to help form a ‘Dead Hedge’. This is a hedge between posts which is made up of dead plant material such as branches and Hay or Straw. This gives all kinds of wildlife alternative places in which to hide and survive the winter months.

Damage on the Pasture

We have been lucky in that we have had little damage on the Pasture in the 6 years it has been developing. However, in August there have been two incidents. One was the cutting and theft of about 40 metres of the rope fence which was put up to restrict access to the Wildflower Meadow. A previous article has explained why this fence was needed. The second incident was the digging of a hole in the mowed area of the Pasture near the canal. The reason for this is unknown. However, this could have had serious consequences for injuries to anyone unfortunate enough to have fallen into the deep hole. They could easily have broken a leg etc. Please do nothing to the Pasture – **leave nothing but footprints and take away nothing but memories!**

‘Helping’ on the Pasture

There is someone – or more than one person – who appears to think that they are helping by doing little ‘jobs’ on the Pasture without asking for permission. Whilst it is open access land it is managed to a system. Please do not take it upon yourself to do any work on the land without permission! If you see a job which you think needs doing, then please let us know – but don’t do it yourself! There are a number of trees which have been tied with plastic twine. This is bad for the tree and bad for the Pasture. Twine can cut the bark and kill the tree and we are trying to remove plastic from the Pasture, not add to it.

We would like your help but only on those jobs we have authorised. Please contact the Parish Council on clarandwelpc@yahoo.com or friendsofpp2018@gmail.co.uk to offer your help.

Dogs

Once again there are a number of piles of dog poo around the Pasture. It is your responsibility to be with your dog and to pick up after them. **It is against the law not to pick up after your dog** – with a possible £1,000 fine for those who do not! There are number of bins around the Pasture in which dog poo bags can be left. **The Pasture is not a dog toilet!**

Paul Willcock
Parish Councillor



Inspire Adult Learning
Culture | Learning | Libraries

Learn Local, Go Far

Researching Family History: An Introduction.

6 Week Course at Worksop Library
Saturday 13th January – 17 February 2024
10am – 12pm
Cost: £36 or Free!

Are you interested in tracing your family tree but don't know where to start? Suitable for beginners in family history, this course will introduce you to the main types of records available for your research. You will discover where to locate family history documents and online information, as well as developing your research skills to help you make sense of what you find.

Learn in your local library | Distance Learning | Online Courses | Recognised qualifications

inspireculture.org.uk/learning | 01623 677 200 | learning@inspireculture.org.uk
[f](#) InspireLearningSkills | [@Learn_Inspire](#) | [#BeInspired](#) | [#InspireLearning](#)

working with Nottinghamshire County Council | Education & Skills Funding Agency

Clarbrough Post Office

Opening hours:

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

Halford Room, Clarbrough Village Hall
Main Street, Clarbrough, 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

Where are local church services?

With winter weather ahead of us, it is often tempting to stay by the fire rather than go out in the cold to church. Founder of the Moody Bible Institute, D.L.Moody, was once concerned about a friend who had been missing from church. Thinking him to be ill, he went round to the house. The friend explained he could be a good Christian without going to church.

By way of an answer, Moody picked up the tongs on the hearth and lifted a brightly glowing coal out onto the tiles. Both men watched the glow fade and turn to pale ash. At that, he silently let himself out of the house. His friend was back in church the next Sunday. We might not get along with all of our fellow Christians but we can learn from each other and keep the spark alive. Come to Clarborough when we have a service, and when we do not have one there are others in the group. Lifts can be arranged.

5th Nov 10:30 N. Leverton dedication of the Book of Remembrance, 16:00 Bole Evening Prayer with Revd Mark

12th Nov Remembrance Service 10:45 at Clarborough

19th Nov Hayton 10:30 HC (Holy Communion)

26th Nov Clarborough Victorian Christmas Fair. 13:00-16:00 Decorations, costume and carols.

3rd December Bole 10:30 HC

Sturton, Hope and Remembrance 16:00

10th December Clarborough 18:00 HC

17th December Wheatley 10:30 HC

21st December

(Thurs 18:00) Carols

by Candlelight in

Clarborough church

24th December 23:30

Midnight Mass for Christmas

Eve at Clarborough Church

25th December 09:00 HC Christmas Day service at Hayton

7th January 18:00 Evening prayer at Clarborough. (HC at Bole 10:30)

14th January Hayton 15:30 HC

21st January Clarborough 10.30 HC

28th January All to Wheatley 10:30 Joint Covenant Service

4th February 16:00 Hayton Evening Prayer and HC for Candlemas

11th February Bole 10:30 HC

14th February (Wed.) Wheatley 19:00 Ash Wednesday service

18th February Clarborough 10:30 HC

25th February Clarborough Evening Prayer 16:00

Also happening:

Brass Band and Village Harmony Concert Saturday 9th December at 19:00

16th December Rock 'n' Roll Christmas 19:00

19th December Allegra Voices in Clarborough Church 19:00

All in Clarborough's St.John the Baptist Church

Slow Heart and Beetroot delight!

For your slow cooker. 2 servings.

Ingredients

- 3 lamb's hearts
- 1 large beetroot
- 1 large onion
- 1 tsp Mustard powder
- 1 tbsp Worcester Sauce
- 25 ml white or red-wine Vinegar
- 1 tsp Red Currant Jelly

Method

1. Slice beetroot into large chunks.
2. Slice onion.
3. Layer these in your slow cooker.
4. Halve the hearts, removing gristle and fat.
5. Place in slow cooker on top of the vegetables.
6. Add all other ingredients.
7. Cook for about 5 hours.
8. Remove hearts and thicken sauce with cornflower if desired.
9. Serve with either a jacket potato or pasta.

Chris Herdman

Teacher: 'How old is your father?'

Pupil: 'He's six years old.'

Teacher: 'How is that possible!'

Pupil: 'He only became a father when I was born.'

Nothing like a bit of basic pupil logic!



Lifeline Sitter &

Befriending Service

Carer Respite | Outings | Home Support | Socialisation

A local support service providing bespoke support packages for people living in the community.

We support older adults including people with dementia, parkinson's disease, those at risk of social isolation and frailty.

Families have their own named support worker and regular support packages from 2 hours to full days.

Please give Lesley a call on 07704 035757 or email lifelinesitterservice@outlook.com for more information.

www.lifelinesitterservice.co.uk



Clarlborough & Welham IT Group is up-and-running again!

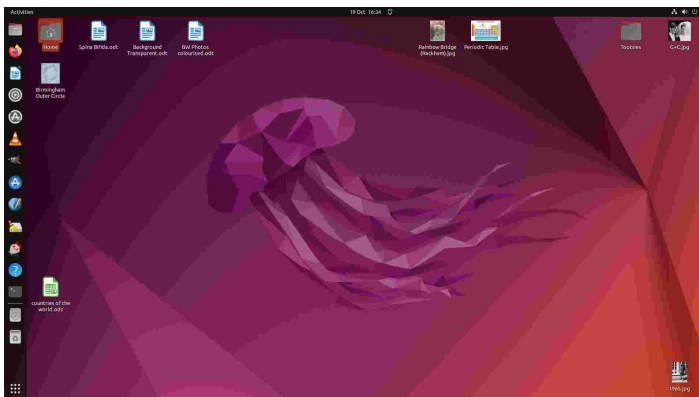
After what seems like 'ever' our community IT Group resumed classes in Clarlborough Village Hall (DN22 9LN) on 14th October for our customary five-week block of classes with one significant change – classes now take place on Saturday afternoons (13:15-14:45) but for the usual fee of £30 covering the whole five-week block. The first block of classes for 2024 – with same timings and fees – are currently planned to start on 6th January, 2024, running through to 3rd February.

Anyone who has joined our classes in the past will be familiar with our 'approachable' style that always kicks off with a 'Gardeners' question time' session which gives members opportunities to determine the contents of classes.

What will come as a surprise for members will be the form of our group's laptops; all of these have been converted from Microsoft Windows 10 to Ubuntu Linux which, as far as our IT Group is concerned, addressed the challenges that Microsoft put in our way when trying to update our laptops to Windows 11. This has been – and continues to be – a significant issue for many Windows 10 users (and earlier versions) and with all Microsoft's support for Windows 10 scheduled to cease from October 14th, 2025 is becoming ever more crucial.

With fairly long experience of Ubuntu distro ('distribution' or release) of Linux operating system, your Editor decided to have our IT Group's laptops converted by local provider, Chris Guest, at minimal individual costs – nothing like the alternative that a replacement laptops equipped with Windows 11 would have demanded!

Below is the desktop of the current, 22.04 distro of Ubuntu Linux known as *Jammy Jellyfish*.



With classes now based on Ubuntu Linux, this could provide another **transferable skills avenue** for anyone in employment – hence our widening of access by running classes at weekends instead of mid-week. **Experience of Linux could form an important part of your next CV!**

Linux OS developed from the same original OS source (Unix) as that which became Apple's macOS which means that 'hands on' experience of our Linux laptops can provide widening experience that allows users to be comfortable with all of these three 'core' OS systems. Having emphasised our switch of laptop operating system (OS) we should also emphasise that we provide members

with FREE access to a wide range of so-called open source applications that focus particularly on LibreOffice which is a free alternative to Microsoft's Office variants – and can read and write files of Microsoft's file-types.

Another strand of current lessons is that of digital images (from camera or phone) manipulation by another open source application – Gimp (GNU Image Manipulation Program) – a remarkably powerful but also easy to get into application! Note that virtually all of the images in this Newsletter (and all earlier ones) have been processed by Gimp. Meet Gimp's mascot, Wilber.



P.S. A very recent suggestion is to reintroduce online family history research tool!

So, if any – or all – of this sounds interesting, get in touch with Greg on: 01777 700 918 or e-mail clarlborough-welham@gmail.com to find out more, or to book your place.

Greg Herdman

Clarlborough & Welham Community website keeps growing – including worldwide weather forecasts!

Are you one of the 300+ people who visited our community website every day through October, 2023? According to our website's data page this shows not only average visitors per day but also number of pages that they have viewed. Again, October data shows this to have been around 550 pages each day!

Visit our website at www.clarlborough-welham.org.uk

Your Editor is also webmaster - a posh term for someone who spends a lot of time at his computer updating latest news! And there is a lot of news flowing in for our nearly 260 pages covering a huge range of sectors from central Government right down to local community groups.

The recent storm Babet flooding gave just one example with news updates coming in very frequently from Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire Country Council as well as central Government. Hopefully some of this helped readers prepare for – or avoid – flooding issues. On a related but daily useful point, our community website also has a link to the Met Office showing latest local weather forecasts for the coming week – just click on the sun on our homepage:



Want your local weather forecast? Click the Sun! Replace 'Retford' with almost any destination on earth to get their forecast - ideal for holiday planning!

It's also worth noting the little text at the end of this which reads *Replace Retford with almost any destination of earth to get their forecast – ideal for holiday planning!* This instruction applies to the search bar that starts with *Retford (Nottinghamshire)* in it but which clicking on it allows you to type any new location of interest. This makes use of our Met Office's worldwide links.

Editor

Before you marry someone, you should first make them use a computer with a slow internet to find out who they really are.

Will Ferrell (1967-)

East Midlands Devolution

The following news was originally released in August but in case you missed it, we include it here.



Mark Rogers has been appointed as the Interim Chief Officer of the East Midlands devolution programme, as part of plans to set up a new mayoral combined authority covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham.

Having played a pivotal role in the formation of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Mark will take the lead in ensuring the region is well-placed to establish the East Midlands Combined County Authority, which is due to come into existence next year subject to Royal Assent for a new Act of Parliament.

In his most recent role in public service, Mark served as a Director General for the Government of Jersey. Since 2022 Mark has held the role of Chief Executive of the Leadership Centre.

Mark, who also has extensive senior leadership experience in local government as Chief Executive of both Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, will be joined by other new interim appointments.

Working with the four councils involved in the devolution programme, Mark and his team will develop the key actions underpinning the deal, which include improving transport, skills, education, housing and working towards net zero across the region.

Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council have been working with the Government on devolution plans, which include a package of local powers and funding worth £1.14 billion.

Plans for an East Midlands Combined County Authority is subject to legislation being approved, but it would mean a new guaranteed funding stream of £38m a year for the region, over a 30-year period.

A regionally elected mayor would lead a new combined authority, which would include representatives from existing local councils, with decision-making powers and resources moving from London to the East Midlands. Local councils across the region would all continue to exist as part of the devolution plans and would still be responsible for most public services in the area. The mayor and combined authority would instead focus on wider issues like transport, regeneration, and employment across the cities and counties.

<https://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk/>



Curatorial Special Event Monday 18th December, 2023

After the Night of Broken Glass in November 1938, nearly 10,000 unaccompanied children were bravely sent to the UK to escape Nazi persecution. December 2023 marks the 85th anniversary of the Kindertransport. Our Curator-led talk will guide you through our survivor experiences of the Kindertransport, precious objects that they brought with them to the UK and the British rescuers, including Nicholas Winton, who helped them to safety.

Talks: 11:00-12:00 & 14:00-15:00

"The whole family came to see me off at the station in Königsberg and my father travelled with me to Berlin to join the Kindertransport train. I remember one of his cousins racing down the platform as the train was starting, just to say goodbye to me. It was a bit tearful, but I didn't take it that seriously. I thought I would see them all again."

Ellen Rawson, Holocaust survivor.



Ellen Rawson's doll that accompanied her on Kindertransport



[Left Memorial to Kindertransport unveiled at Harwich, Essex in 2022 to commemorate the port where many of the children arrived in the UK through 1938 to 1939 until World War 2 started.]

Booking is advised:

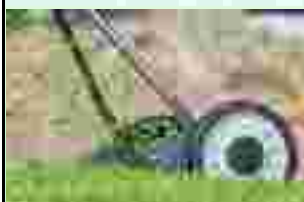
www.holocaust.org.uk/whats-on

**The National Holocaust Centre and Museum, Acre Edge Road, Laxton, Nottinghamshire, NG220PA
Telephone: 01623 836 627**

Editor's note: The Holocaust Centre will be closed over the Christmas period, so check their website for details.

LAWNMOWERS

Tony Halford



**Plant & Grass
Machinery
Specialist**

36 Albert Road, Retford, Notts. DN22 6JB

**Tel: (01777) 860 704
Mob: 07976 941 407**



Bassetlaw Action Centre @BassetlawBAC



Bassetlaw Action Centre Team Score A Hat Trick of Awards

Bassetlaw Action Centre has recently received the Get Out Get Active (GOGA) Embedding Inclusion Award at the recent GOGA awards ceremony in Birmingham. This is in recognition of the involvement of Bassetlaw individuals in becoming more active. This is not about joining a gym but is aimed at people with mental and/or physical health or with a long-term condition to become more engaged in regular activity and covers walk talk groups through to playing tennis. It has been instrumental in reducing social isolation amongst participants.

In addition, Bassetlaw Action Centre won the value for money award at the Health and Care Awards for the Promoting Independence project which supports patients on discharge from hospital. The awards Ceremony took place at Nottingham University and the award was presented by Dr Kathy McLean, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board.

Last, but not least, the Action Centre has also been nominated for a National Award by the Community Transport Association for the Provider of the Year (for large fleet size CT with above 5 vehicles). There are 3 finalists in the category and the winner will be announced in November at the awards ceremony at Birmingham NEC.

Achieving or being nominated for these awards confirms how the Action Centre really does make a difference throughout Bassetlaw and values the work and support of its staff and volunteers to meet the need of its service users.

Lynn Tupling, BAC Chief Executive said "I am so incredibly proud of my staff and volunteers for being recognised for their hard work, commitment and determination at both system and national level. These awards mean so much to us and demonstrate clearly the quality services provided by Bassetlaw Action Centre". See page 24 for some photos.

A grassroots community initiative that aims to support Men's Mental Health by encouraging men to open up, feel able to talk to other men and reduce social isolation whilst enjoying a nice walk in beautiful surroundings.



To book a place please email goga@actioncentre.org.uk or visit www.menwalktalk.co.uk/bassetlaw

We have many different volunteering roles at Bassetlaw Action Centre including:

- Driver
- Administrator
- GOGA Activity Supporter
- Befriender
- Minibus driver

For more information, please call: 01777 709 650

VOLUNTEER



GOGA aims to provide support to encourage greater activity in a genuinely inclusive environment, helping to build friendships, maintain health, increase independence, reduce stress and boost self-esteem.




If you would like some support to become more active, please call our team on:

01777 709 650 or email goga@actioncentre.org.uk

For any enquiries or bookings phone 01777 709 650

The Staying Well Programme is a Long Term Health Condition self-management course to help people living with long-term conditions maintain their health and improve their quality of life. The course led by a tutor who is living with a long-term health condition.



It is a FREE 6-week course 2.5 hours a week either face-to-face or virtually via Zoom.

For more information or to find out when the next course is due, please phone:

01777 709 650



Flooding in Clarborough

Friday 20th October 2023 will be remembered by many in Church Lane,

Main Street and Big Lane areas for one of the worst flooding events in recent memory. Although water got into a number of gardens the Parish Council have received very few reports of water actually getting into homes and businesses.



Church Lane at the height of the flooding with fast flowing water 120mm deep.

The Parish Council and residents discussed the issue of flooding at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 23rd October 2023. Major incidents of flooding have taken place in the Parish in 2007, 2014, 2019 and now in 2023. As we can all see, these are becoming more frequent. It was an issue addressed initially by the Parish Council during the consultations for the Neighbourhood Plan, which was passed in 2017. Since that time the Council has been working on the problem of how to alleviate flooding in the Parish. The steps taken include:

- Storing 200 ready filled sandbags for distribution to residents in the event of flood warnings or actual flooding. All 200 were given out on 20th October.
- Parish Councillor Andrew Avery has been liaising especially with Nottinghamshire County Council, the lead agency on flooding, to alleviate the source of the flooding. This resulted, in 2020/2021, in the building of 'leaky dams', ponds and bunds to help slow water flow. Slowing the flow helps prevent flooding. This has worked for some 2 years. However, the volume of water produced by Storm Babet was just too much for these structures and they were overtopped. (I recorded 73mm of rain in my home rain gauge during just 36 hours. This is the most I have ever recorded in 10 years and is more than the average October rainfall for the whole month!)
- Examining, with other more qualified agencies, ideas to cope more effectively with this type of very heavy rainfall. This is called the 'engineered solution' but is very complicated and therefore very expensive. This consideration is on-going within the Parish Council and within the other agencies.

Lessons Learned

The Parish Council has on it's Agenda for the November Meeting a discussion of lessons learned from 20th October. One already recognised is that of communication. New sandbags have already been bought and filled and are stored for distribution in case of another Parish flooding problem.

What can residents do?

What may be an unpalatable truth to some is that protection of any property is the responsibility of the owner not the Parish Council nor any other agency outside of the Parish. Easy to

install flood gates, keeping a stock of your own sandbags to quickly block off your entrance (remembering to temporarily cover air bricks), installing a permanent hump on your drive, installing a rain water drain and sump. Admittedly some of these are either hard work to do personally or expensive to get in a professional. There are many other commercially available solutions.

Riparian Responsibilities

Some residents have responsibility for a water course on their land – even if it appears to be outside their boundary.

We can all help those next to flooded roads by driving slowly through deep water to avoid the 'wash' pushing water into adjacent properties. Many owners were, understandably, aghast at the carelessness of a number of drivers on 20th October!

The Parish Council has every sympathy with the problems of those who have recently had flood water into their property. It will continue to work to alleviate what flooding issues it can. But it has limited funds and even more limited expertise! **For sandbags in the case of another flooding event - look on the local Facebook page or find contact numbers on Parish Notice Boards (Village Hall & Welham).**

The Parish Council would like to thank two local farmers, Ross Spencer-Joyce and David Hogg, for giving up several hours of their time on 20th October, in the pouring rain, to help some of the owners of flooded properties.

If you have suggestions or comments on this issue please email them to the Parish Council at: clarandwelpc@yahoo.com

Paul Willcock
Parish Councillor
Clarborough & Welham Parish Council

Read BDC's article on this topic on page 22.

Bassetlaw ACTION Centre

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGHOUT BASSETLAW

Bassetlaw Action Centre, Canal Street, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 6EZ

HOME SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED

£10.56 per hour plus £1.27 per hour holiday allowance.
Higher rates for weekends and bank holidays.
Own Transport Required as work is throughout Bassetlaw.

The Home Support service aims to enable individuals to remain independent in their own home and provides help and support covering a range of domestic services including general cleaning, shopping, correspondence, befriending and assisted visits.

If you feel that you have the drive, commitment and life experience to bring to this demanding but highly fulfilling role this is an exciting and rewarding opportunity, which offers the chance to make a difference within the community and to people's lives.

Application packs can be downloaded from our website **www.bassetlawactioncentre.org.uk** or are available from The Bassetlaw Action Centre, Canal Street, Retford, Notts, DN22 6EZ. **Tel: 01777 709 650**

Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on

Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On 2023

Retford Market Square & Town Centre
Sunday 26th November 2023

Stalls and Shops • Cafes and Pubs • Retford Town Hall Craft Market
 Bassetlaw Museum • St Swithun's Christmas Tree Festival • Fairground Rides
 Rattlejag Morris • 'Stormtroopers' • Christmas Organ • The Grove Church star-studded spectacular: 12noon - Retford Ukulele Band, 2pm - Salvation Army Band

On Stage

10:30am - Opening Service: Elizabethan Academy Choir
 11:15am - Elizabethan Academy
 12:00noon - Santa arrives
 12:15pm - Sam Adams
 1.00pm - Majestic Theatre School
 1:45pm - Blue Ice Cheerleaders
 2:15pm - Hannah Harris
 2:45pm - LCS D Dance Academy
 3:30pm - The Performance Hub
 4:05pm - Jessica Mary Brett
 4:30pm - Pantomime Dame
 4:45pm - Civic Ceremony
 5:00pm - Lights Switch-On followed by great Elton John tribute band: Eltonesque

Bassetlaw District Council | RETFORD BUSINESS FORUM | NORTH NOTTS BID



Trading Standards is warning the public to be on their guard against rogue traders following Storm Babet

Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards is warning members of the public to be on their guard against rogue traders looking to cash in on consumers affected by floods and wind damage.

When extreme weather hits the UK as we have seen over the last few days, legitimate traders are in high demand. Trading Standards urges the public to:

- Never engage with cold callers knocking on your door or who call out of the blue
- Be wary of using traders recommended on social media
- Choose a trader that is part of a **Trusted Trader Scheme**
- Get 3 quotes from different and independently sourced traders
- Be careful of online reviews as these may not be genuine

When gathering quotes, it's important to always get these in writing and make sure you get a contract so you know exactly what you are paying for, to help avoid additional costs that you thought were already included in the price.

If your home or business has been affected by flooding then you maybe eligible to receive a one off payment through the hardship fund. Further details are available, with details of who to contact at the following link: [Flooding hardship fund | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

You should be cautious and do your research if you receive any unsolicited contact offering you money in relation to flood or storm damage, particularly if you are being asked to share your personal and financial details.

For consumer advice or to report a trader to Trading Standards, please call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133. The Citizens Advice Consumer Service are also able to provide advice, prior to you entering into a contract to purchase goods or services.

Some fun facts

Although it may sound counterintuitive, your small intestine is actually the largest (internal) organ in your body.

Vatican City is actually the smallest country in the world at only 0.2 miles wide.

Freddie Mercury has a pretty memorable smile. But did you know it's because he had four extra teeth in his upper jaw? Yup. That's why Rami Malek had to wear prosthetic teeth while working on Bohemian Rhapsody.



Bassetlaw Food Bank are looking for more volunteer drivers ahead of what they are anticipating to be another difficult winter for households across Bassetlaw.

They are currently looking for anyone with access to a vehicle who could be available for a couple of hours a week to collect emergency food parcels from the warehouse in Worksop and deliver out across Bassetlaw.

They are particularly looking for people who can volunteer on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays, 14:00-15:15, or to help with the Fruit & Veg' Box scheme on Thursdays.

If you are interested, or would like to know more, please email them at: Admin@bassetlawfoodbank.org

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Rotary Club of Retford
supporting
Bassetlaw Food Bank, Bassetlaw Hospice and
Local Rotary Charities Fund

**Rotary Santa
Fun Run**
SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023
STARTS AT 10AM
(warm up with Sally at 9.50am)
MARKET SQUARE RETFORD

2kms or 4 kms

Cost
Adult £12 (includes FULL suit)
Adult £8 (BYO suit)
Children £5 (includes a-hat)
Child (under 3) FREE

All ages welcome

Scan QR code for full details and entry form

or visit our website
www.rotaryclubofretford.co.uk

Library Christmas Reading Cafe

If you enjoy Retford Library's Poetry, Crime, Craft and Heritage Cafes, you might like to join us for a Christmas get-together on Monday 11th December at 13:30. We will have some short readings, a fun quiz and seasonal refreshments to brighten up a winter's afternoon and hopefully get us in the mood for the festive period.



Bring along a festive or seasonal poem or a short reading to share or simply come along to listen to others and enjoy a lovely afternoon.

Please keep the readings under 2 minutes long, as numbers for this event are usually large and we will struggle for time.

Please do book your place as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £1 and include refreshments.

01777 708 724 or Retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk

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Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries
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Driving Change: Muslim Charity's Pakistan Rickshaw Challenge Transforms Lives in Rural Punjab

In a remarkable display of unity, compassion, and determination, Muslim Charity recently completed its much-anticipated "Pakistan Rickshaw Challenge." From 30th September to 8th October 2023, 31 participants hailing from various corners of the UK, Pakistan, and even Vienna, Austria, embarked on a transformative journey across Pakistan's rural Punjab. The route from Lahore to Multan is shown below by the red line on top left of the map:



Chris and Greg Herdman together with Maroof Pirzada took part in Muslim Charity's 2023 Rickshaw Challenge from 30th September to 8th October, 2023. Their mission? To drive 15 brand new rickshaws over 400+ kilometres, ultimately handing them over to 15 pre-selected vulnerable families in Multan. The event was not just a unique adventure; it was a testament to the power of collective effort and the desire to make a meaningful impact.

A Journey of Unity and Purpose

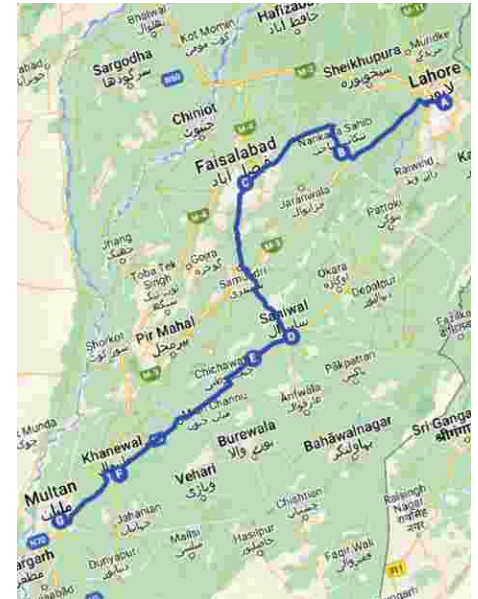
The participants of the Pakistan Rickshaw Challenge came from diverse backgrounds and walks of life. From cities like Glasgow, Stockport, London, Rochdale, Retford, and many others across the UK, they converged to provide income-generation opportunities for needy families while immersing themselves in the rich culture of Pakistan. As they traversed rural Punjab, the bonds of friendship grew stronger, forming connections that will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

The Heart-warming Teams

The 31 participants were divided into 11 teams, each with its own unique name, adding both an element of camaraderie and competition:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Brave Dils | Rickshaw Ranis |
| 2 Fast 1 Furious | The Three Rickshawteers |
| Road Runnerz | Road ke Malika |
| Team Parveen | Tuk Tuk Titans |
| The Retford Rickshaw | 2 Basanti 1 Hero |
| | The Peace Makers |

The journey commenced in Lahore, where participants received invaluable training on how to navigate rickshaws, especially for those who had never driven a rickshaw or a motorcycle before. After this orientation session, the adventurers explored Lahore's historical treasures [see page 13], including the iconic Badshahi Mosque, Walled City, and Wazir Khan Mosque, taking time to savour traditional ice cream (kulfi) on a particularly scorching day (40+°C). Their path then continued westward to Nankana Sahib, where they visited a Government Secondary High School. Here, Muslim Charity's impactful "Adopt a School" project was in full swing, with the renovation of a complete Science Laboratory funded by the charity. It was here that one of the rickshaw challenge participants, Mr Greg Herdman hailing from Retford, Nottinghamshire, received a Shield of Appreciation from the school's headteacher on behalf of Muslim Charity and all our generous donors.



The participants even contributed to the environment by planting new trees on the school grounds, acknowledging the pressing issue of global warming and its impact on Pakistan. Nankana Sahib is also of massive importance to Sikhs – it's Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib (see page 13) remembers the birth place and first teachings of Guru Nanak (1469-1539).

Empowering Vulnerable Families

From Nankana Sahib, the journey continued through Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Khanewal, and culminated in Multan, where the rickshaws were handed over to 15 pre-selected vulnerable families who had been selected following Muslim Charity's comprehensive due diligence and needs assessment processes. What sets this initiative apart is its potential for profound transformation. Munawwar, one of the beneficiaries (who 'guided' Retford Rickshaw team), shared his story. Currently driving a rented rickshaw, he spends a significant portion of his earnings paying the owner. With the new rickshaw, he anticipates tripling his profits, enabling him to provide a better life for his family and invest in his children's education—a heart-warming testament to the ripple effect of charity.

Furthermore, Muslim Charity's rickshaw project has a condition: families must send their children to school and cannot sell the rickshaws for two years, ensuring a sustained positive impact on both the families and their children.

Exploring Local Life and Culture

The journey was not just about the rickshaws; it was also about experiencing the authenticity of rural Pakistan. Along the way, participants stopped at a cattle farm, witnessed village life, visited a brick kiln to observe the art of brickmaking, and even tasted organic sugarcane fresh from the fields.

A Glimpse into Multan's Projects and Heritage

In Multan, the participants visited projects aimed at educating street children and empowering them with valuable skills. Pakistan has an estimated 25 million children of school-going age who don't attend school, and these initiatives aim to change that narrative. They also visited a Madrassah ('place of learning') where students were learning not only about the Qur'an and the Arabic language but thanks to Muslim Charity's investment in a computer lab, they are also now gaining skills in graphics design, video editing and other computer-related areas, opening doors to digital livelihoods.

The participants also explored Multan's rich heritage, visiting the grand shrine and mausoleum of Shah Rukn-e-Alam, an awe-inspiring site that attracts pilgrims from all over Asia [Top, right].

Moreover, they witnessed the art of blue pottery at the Institute Of Blue Pottery Development, highlighting the preservation of ancient craftsmanship.

A Remarkable Closing Ceremony

At the closing ceremony in Multan, participants experienced the true essence of their efforts. They physically handed over the keys and paperwork of the rickshaws to the beneficiaries, allowing them to witness the profound impact of their mission. It was a moment of intense emotion and joy.

At the closing ceremony, Muslim Charity's Vice Chairman, Bakhtyar Pirzada, underlined the importance of creating independence and self-reliance among beneficiaries. He shared the profound wisdom of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), emphasising the value of self-sufficiency over dependency on aid. This wisdom guides Muslim Charity's "Zakat for Business Startups" projects, aimed at lifting people out of poverty for good.

The "Pakistan Rickshaw Challenge" by Muslim Charity was more than just a journey; it was a transformative experience that brought people together from different corners of the world to make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable families. It showcased the power of unity, compassion, and faith in creating a world of hope, tolerance, and social justice.

Muslim Charity has already started planning next year's Pakistan Rickshaw Challenge to take place in September/October 2024, if you're interested you can register your interest here and you'll be the first to know when details are announced, sign up here:

www.muslimcharity.org.uk/rickshaw2024 Furthermore, you can learn about our other upcoming events and activities by visiting www.muslimcharity.org.uk/events

Maroof Pirzada
 Director, Muslim Charity



Retford Rickshaw out in Multan after its donation.



We would really appreciate any donation you feel able to make to our fantastic adventure!

We have set up a donation page which anyone can access and make donations to conveniently, either by computer, laptop or mobile phone, please see it here:

www.muslimcharity.org.uk/TheRetfordRickshaw

As you will see we have already added the £2,400 fundraising amount to the page which Chris & Greg have donated plus those gratefully received from Friends of Bassetlaw Museum and Bassetlaw Action Centre.

Donations will be gratefully accepted for some time to come; please contact *Editor* if you need any other contact details.



Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib

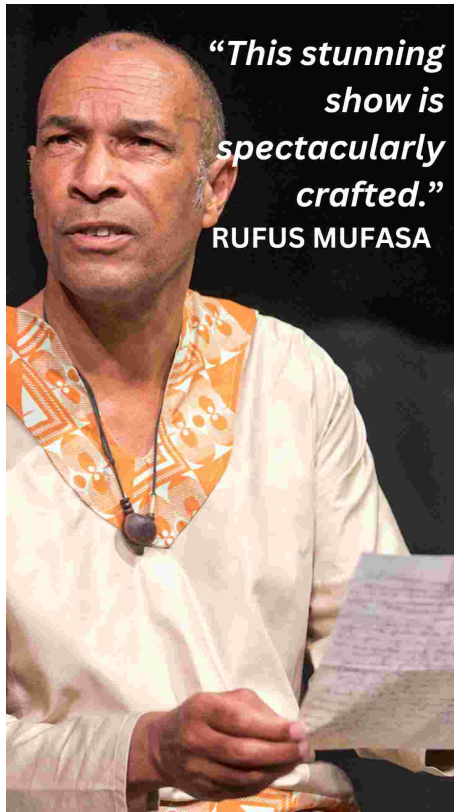


Lahore Badshahi Mosque

Live & Local+
(Ordsall, Retford)

Ordsall Parish Hall in Retford has more shows lined up over the coming months under the Live and Local banner, plus an additional show with the very popular Jonny & Lynnette.

On **Friday 24th November**, a moving, funny and warm-hearted one-man performance (with props) from storyteller **Phil Okwedy** recounts experiences of growing up as a child of dual heritage in 1960 & 70s Wales. This is expert story-telling with interspersed song,



myths, folktales and legends of Africa from a former schoolteacher who grew up in Wales in a foster family but later discovered a host of letters from his unknown Nigerian father to his Welsh mother. The show explores growing up, family, racism, equality and freedom in a gentle way that may well evoke all sorts of memories of your own.

Jonny & Lynnette return on **Saturday January 27th 2024** with their special brand of traditional country music and banter. Book early if you want a seat!

The Allotment Project on **Saturday 16th March** combines documentary, dance & theatre to explore allotments and the green-fingered communities around them. Gentle, human and humorous, the performance connects audiences with the joy of growing plants, food and relationships across all four seasons.

All shows are at 19:30. An (optional) light meal with a veg option will be served in the interval of each performance. For tickets, contact Peter Thomas on 01777 706 433 or 07951 253 343, or email thomas_peterf@hotmail.com

Tessa Rolph

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.

Carl Jung (1875-1961)



Be the best you can be!

Have you considered being a School Governor?

Clarborough Primary School is looking to recruit three new governors from the wider community and draw on the enthusiasm and expertise of individuals who have a commitment to continuous school improvement that enables the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

The governing body is responsible for setting the ethos and vision of the school. Governors work with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to identify areas where the school needs to improve and plan how to make those improvements. We strive to ensure that the educational performance of the pupils is strong and that the budget is used properly and effectively.

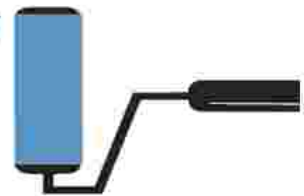
As Governors we believe it is important that we help and support staff to create an environment where children feel safe, valued and can meet the school ethos – ‘Be the best you can be!’

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Chair of Governors, Julian White: jwhite@clarborough.notts.sch.uk or pass your details to the school office (01777 708 065) and Julian will contact you.

Julian White



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**LINCS & NOTTS
AIR AMBULANCE
SAVING LIVES EVERYDAY**

Did you know Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance receives no direct government funding for its missions. As a charity it receives no direct funding from the Government, and it is not part of the NHS. It will cost £10 million this year to



deliver their life-saving service and they rely on the generosity of organisations and people in the communities of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire for support.

The team of highly skilled doctors, paramedics and pilots give critically ill and injured people their very best chance of survival. Their clinicians are trained in pre-hospital emergency medicine and carry out procedures such as deliver anaesthetics, emergency blood transfusions and administer advance pain relief – procedures usually only possible in a hospital.

Our crew are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year.

Ways You Can Help

More information on Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance can be found on their website: ambucopter.org.uk

Join the LNAA Lottery for a chance to win £1,000 every week: Lottery@ambucopter.org.uk

Clarbrough's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event

The 2023 event will take place at Clarbrough Village Hall between 17:00 and 19:00 on Friday, 1st December.

Join us for events: House of Bounce with their Snow Globe, Food Trailer and Sweet Trailer alongside a new addition by way of Wallace & Dough for stonebaked Pizzas.



We also have live music by the fabulous Craig Done, and an outside bar by the Kings Arms and a special guest appearance by Santa too.

Lights will be switched on around 17:15 and our Hall will be full of local crafters and businesses. We also have our raffle with a cash prize of £50



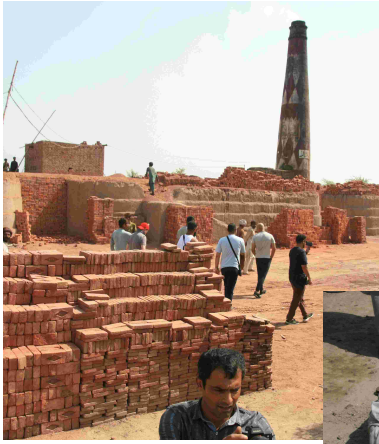
alongside various vouchers and donations from local shops and vendors.

Please support Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council by enjoying this local event.



Indus Valley or Harappan civilisation

On a recent visit to the Punjab province of Pakistan gave us time to visit the site of one of the oldest civilisation sites on earth – Harappa near Sahiwal, south-west of Lahore. This was particularly interesting because earlier that same day we had visited one of many brickmaking factories. We soon learned that most, even medium sized, communities have their own local brick works.



Although, today, the bricks are baked in furnaces, in earlier times these were sun-dried*. Pakistan remains, to this day, a country where the vast majority of buildings are brick-built.



[Above: brickmaking factory and [right] worker making some of his 400+ bricks that he creates each working day.]

Known as both Harappan and also Indus Valley civilisations, both Harappa and also Mohenjo-daro in neighbouring Sindh province were its major centres. This was a Bronze Age civilisation that spanned 3,300–1,300 BCE**.

The civilisation flourished both in the alluvial plain of the Indus River, which flows through the length of Pakistan, and along a system of perennial monsoon-fed rivers that once coursed in the vicinity of the Ghaggar-Hakra, a seasonal river in northwest India and eastern Pakistan.

Recently research in Dharamjali Cave in the Himalayas over a 230 year period around 2000 BCE has record the deficits in winter and summer rainfall during the urban phase of the Harappa/Indus Civilization. We can only imagine how serious an agricultural civilization with cities



[Above: Part of the excavated remains of Harappa.]

whose populations were in the tens of thousands or even more, would have experienced such lengthy changes in rainfall, but it seems to have led to a migration of peoples into the North Indian Gangetic plain.

The Harappa archeological site is believed to have had as many as 23,500 residents (about the same as modern-day Relford!) at its greatest extent during the Mature Harappan phase (2600 BC – 1900 BC). The site is thought to have been occupied even before these dates.

A tour around the site – in an all-electric bus - revealed just how big the site is, with many of the excavated features already show signs of decay, probably since they have been exposed to the weather!

The associated museum also exhibited examples of objects excavated from the site such as the following: Both of these game pieces shown below are at least some 4000 years old!



Did you realise how old these games are?



*A major issue for preservation of sites such as Harappa is due to their construction – they are almost entirely made from sun-dried mud bricks. This means that rainfall or even flooding can destroy the bricks, something that presents local authorities and even the UN with massive ongoing costs.

**BCE Before Common Era, Before Current Era or Before Christian Era is now commonly used as a replacement for BC and AD when counting dates based on the Gregorian Calendar.

Editor

Clarborough Village Hall Bookings

Clarborough Village Hall is a modern, attractive and accessible venue for all sorts of activities and events with a substantial programme of regular, weekly, groups.

Our hall is managed by Clarborough & District Community Association (CDCA) who are a registered charity (No. 502076). **CDCA's committee is desperately in need of new members since our team has shrunk to just 5 individuals who are managing the hall under guidance from the Association of Communities in Rural England (ACRE).**

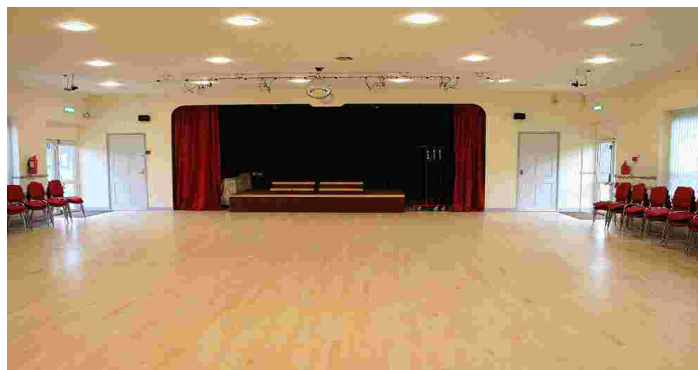
At the time of writing, bookings of events such as parties or celebrations are pretty popular.

Please keep an eye on our community website (www.clarborough-welham.org.uk) and particularly the **Village Hall** page for the latest situation.

Our rates are surprisingly reasonable - £14.50 per hour for casual hire 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.

If you are a group who would be interested in committing to a regular booking, our rates are even more reasonable at just £10 per hour.

To explore our meaning of 'regular booking' or to make a hall booking for your forthcoming event(s) please contact us on **07442 105 268** or email us on clarboroughvillagehall@gmail.com



[Above] Clarborough Village Hall's main hall showing our stage area – when not in use the curtains are drawn across the front of the stage to make a more 'comfortable' appearance.

Our hall has kitchen facilities linked to the main hall through 'serving hatches' to the left of the above picture and also a smaller room that is used, for instance, by Parish Council Meetings and other small groupings.

Our hall is single storey with easy access, toilet facilities including disabled toilet and a substantial car park to the rear.

Access is via quite a long driveway that has its entrance directly opposite the Kings Arms on Clarborough's Main Street (A620) from Retford towards Gainsborough. Our Hall's post code is DN22 9LN.

Editor



Call 01777 702684 for more information or email us at enquiries@durhamsheating.co.uk

Younger readers – improve your CV by volunteering

Have you noticed how the whole topic of volunteering seems to be focused on folks who have retired? This is so far from the reality of the 'voluntary sector' but also fails to explore how much volunteering has to offer to young people.

Let's take a look at a few of the most obvious reasons young people can, and do, volunteer.

1. Volunteering gets you out! This provides a different social environment where you will meet different people with different life experiences and interests. It will also provide opportunities for you to develop those all-important inter-personal skills that are so important in many jobs.
2. Volunteering is rewarding in the sense that your own feelings get a boost by doing things for other people - 'giving'. This rewarding aspect also improves your own self-confidence and so improves those vital inter-personal skills.
3. Building self-confidence. As mentioned in 1. above, meeting different people in different situations can build your own self-confidence which will lead to
4. better performance in job interviews. For instance, if you were to volunteer in a charity shop, you might learn how to work at a till and so increase your customer-service skills.
5. Strengthens your CV. With many voluntary organisations happy to provide either references or contacts for your CV, this can emphasise those skills and experiences hinted at in the above plus up-to-date information to expand your 'portrait' to potential new employers.
6. Volunteering also gives individuals opportunities to experience other employment sectors – another important source of information when career planning. Remember that the range is vast – from local community groups, through retail outlets all the way to hospital and Army volunteers.
7. We should also state that research has shown that those who volunteer in, and through, later life not only display signs of good mental health but that they actually tend to live longer!

For anyone over 18 years old, the range of opportunities expands substantially even to the extent of volunteering overseas!



So, whether male or female, whether you are looking to take steps to improve your promotion prospects or move into another sector, see what volunteering can do for you. Also, if you are still at school, don't forget that volunteering can do so much for your skills and knowledge.

Whatever your thoughts on these topics, it is worth doing some local research and receiving local-based advice. We are acutely aware of how several local organisations need more volunteers (Clarborough & District Community Association, Clarborough & District W.I. to name but two) but also that both Bassetlaw Action Centre (see adverts on pages 8 and 9) and Bassetlaw Community & Voluntary Service (see their advert on page 2) have dedicated advisors for volunteering advice and contacts as well as a wide range of local volunteering opportunities.

Editor

Scammers - don't fall into their trap!

Scams (a dishonest plan for making money or getting an advantage, especially one that involves tricking people) are a widespread feature of modern life so it is vital that we all know how to spot scams and know which 'vehicles' are used by scammers.

Phishing is probably the commonest form of scam which often arrives in the form of emails or text messages. These messages try to convince you that they come from genuine companies or government departments so it is crucial that you realise that none of these organisations will use these communication methods to get you to reply to them with any sort of personal information.



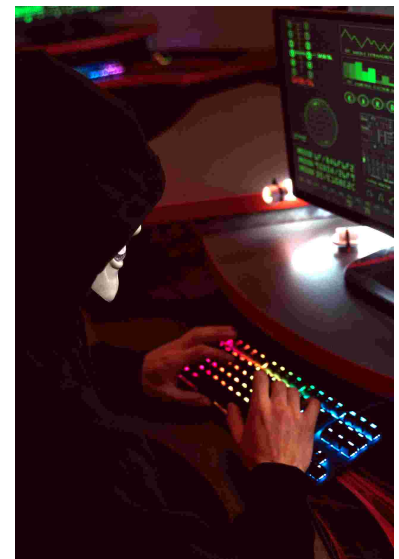
It is also crucial that you never click on any links in such emails which often claim they will sort out what is supposed to have gone wrong. In fact, being very cautious about clicking on any of the blue links in emails is a good 'mind set'

A quick way to see if an email has come from someone other than the supposed author is to right-click over the email in your inbox – this reveals the senders' address which should be something like info@barclaysbank.co.uk - if it is completely different, that almost certainly shouts 'scammer'!

You should know that no legal organisation will, out-of-the-blue, ask you for personal information; anything from your full name and home address right through to bank account details and other personal details.

If you think it might have come from your provider, phone them on the number which is on their paperwork you already have.

A 'classic' scam involves what appears to be your bank or other financial account contacting you to tell you that they have frozen your account because of suspected attempts to access it. Could you give your personal details so they could check this and then create a new account for you. A scam in action!



Editor

Disabled Access Guides



Bassetlaw District Council has partnered with AccessAble; the UK’s leading provider of detailed disabled access information to promote accessible venues within the district.

The Council has worked with AccessAble to create Detailed Access Guides to more than 50 venues across Worksop, Retford, Harworth and Tuxford, which include car parks, cafes, libraries, museums, shopping areas, parks, tourist attractions, and bus stations.

The Guides are now live and can be viewed by visiting www.accessable.co.uk/bassetlaw-district The website features facts, figures and photographs to help residents and visitors plan their journeys to and around the district, covering everything from parking facilities and hearing loops, to walking distances and accessible toilets.

We know everyone’s accessibility needs are different, which is why having detailed, accurate information is so important. It’s why all of the details you’ll find in the Guides have been checked in person, on site, by trained surveyors.

Bassetlaw resident and AccessAble user, Alison Beevers, said: “For my family, having essential information before we leave the house is hugely important to creating a stress free visit. Not just on a practical level, but also emotionally, because you don’t want to get turned away from anywhere or have to change your plans and have your day ruined.

“It’s great that Bassetlaw District Council has invested in this resource and what I like is the wealth of detail for each venue, which is all in one place. I’d like to encourage all Bassetlaw businesses to look at the accessibility of their venues, and tell everyone about it via this website.

“It’s estimated that the spending power of disabled households in the UK is around £274 billion and businesses lose around £2 billion a month by ignoring the needs of disabled people. Whilst approximately three in four disabled people and their families have walked away from a UK business citing poor accessibility. Being involved can be hugely beneficial for everyone.”

The Council commissioned AccessAble in order to help make it’s town centres as accessible as possible, and to improve the lifestyles of disabled people and their families.

Cllr Lynne Schuller, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing at Bassetlaw District Council, said: “As a Council we are fully committed to creating and maintaining

an inclusive society in which nobody is disadvantaged. An important part of delivering on this promise is highlighting the accessibility of our town centres so that we can reduce the number of barriers that may prevent people from visiting.

“We also want to create a place where people feel comfortable and are reassured by the ease of access to facilities that can be used by everyone with dignity and confidence.”

David Livermore, Director of Business Development at AccessAble, said:

“We were delighted to work in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council to create Access Guides to venues in the district. The AccessAble website and App will enhance the experience for everyone, giving people access to crucial detail on the go. We hope that other organisations will look to follow the council’s example and partner with us in our mission to enable disabled people to have greater freedom in exploring local venues.”

The Council commissioned AccessAble to produce these guides as part of the Government’s Welcome Back Funding programme. You can view **Bassetlaw District’s Accessibility Guide** here:

www.accessable.co.uk/bassetlaw-district

It’s also available via the AccessAble App which is free to download from the App Store and Google Play, and provides accessibility information on the go. Bassetlaw joins over 70,000 places already covered across the UK, making www.AccessAble.co.uk a great tool for planning a day out or trip away.

Pictured, from left to right, is: David Livermore; Cllr Lynne Schuller, Alison Beevers and Cllr Sue Shaw (former Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing).

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Phone; **01427 880 341**
or www.goforgoachers.co.uk

Family History – getting started for now!

Firstly, a word of caution! There are lots of financial traps in the genealogy (posh word for family history) research area and also in online published family trees. In your editor's experience extreme caution should be exercised in believing what you may download from the likes of Ancestry.com – unless you have checked the primary resources yourself – there is a lot of badly, or even not, researched information out there!

So, what are these **primary sources**? For research in England and Wales (things are a bit different in Scotland and Northern Ireland), we are referring to Birth, Marriage and Death certificates – BMD to genealogists - which are official Government resources managed by the General Register Office (GRO).

The GRO was set up on 1st July, 1837 and its records are in the public domain but copies cost £11.00 (postage included) although recently PDF versions have been available online for £7.00.

General advice for starting your family tree research is to start with yourself and your parents; do you have copies of their birth and marriage certificates? If not, start your research with them using the free website www.freebmd.org.uk since many totally fictitious family trees have been based on the wrong starting names! This can be an error or intended misinformation due to attempts to hide uncomfortable family facts! So if no, certificate, get a copy of the original from the GRO.

When you launch the **freebmd** site above you will see five, red, headings – click on the left-most one labelled **Search** which opens a page like...

Select the appropriate Type (All, Births, Deaths, Marriages) at top left and then enter Names below. It is worth noting that First Name(s) needs to be chosen with care. Some of our ancestors (even parents!) had forenames registered at birth which they didn't use later – or if they had two forenames registered they later used their second forename only! Also, what about those with forenames Anne or Ann? This is where the so-called wildcard (*)

becomes useful; if you enter **ann*** in the First name(s) box your results will include both Ann and Anne results. This wildcard symbol can be used anywhere in the search boxes, so entering * alone will yield all of the known forenames for the given surname so even just using the first letter of the desired name followed by the * symbol will yield all known versions of forenames starting with that letter.

This could form the basis of one or more classes at Clarborough & Welham IT Group so why not come along to the last class before Christmas to express an interest in this as a topic? See page 6.

Editor

Parish Pasture



Footpath Re-Construction & Closure

As those who use the footpath across the **Parish Pasture** (Clarborough Footpath No. 1) will know, the surface of the path has, over the last year, deteriorated to a narrow 30 cm wide track.

This is not what was originally constructed back in 2018. However, despite numerous appeals in posters on the **Parish Pasture** and in this Village Newsletter, there have been no volunteers willing to come forward and help to maintain the path with wood chippings even from any of the people who regularly use the footpath.

The Parish Council has, therefore, taken the decision to have the footpath completely reconstructed with a hard surface installed. This will provide a footpath which is fully accessible to **all** for 365 days per year and in all weathers – other than deep snow! When the housing development takes place the section of the footpath to the south is likely to be under a new road. For this reason, the construction of this section will be hard surfaced but temporary.

Construction vehicles will require access to the **Parish Pasture** from the south end of Broad Gores (ie via Big Lane) on an irregular basis during construction. Other heavy machinery will be in use during construction. For the safety of the public, therefore, during the 5 to 7 day construction period **the whole of the Parish Pasture, including the footpath, will be closed.**

This will include the unofficial footpath running between the two ends of Broad Gores.

It is not yet known when this re-construction will be able to take place but it is hoped that it will be during November 2023.

Dates, when known, and alternative routes will be well sign-posted.

For further information please contact: The Parish Clerk: clarandwelpc@yahoo.com

Paul Willcock
Parish Councillor
Clarborough and Welham Parish Council



**Bassetlaw District Council's
Flooding Advice latest**

During October, Bassetlaw and Retford in particular made nation headlines due to the floods that were caused by Storm Babet. Thankfully, Clarbrough and Hayton were not adversely affected, but many surrounding areas have seen the worst flooding for many years as a result of record river levels, with many homes, properties and businesses flooded.

As soon as the floodwater began to recede, Bassetlaw District Council has been working hard to help communities to recover. This includes our Environment Services Teams clearing streets of debris and detritus; helping to remove flood-damaged items from properties after insurance companies have assessed the damage; and providing business support where it is need.

The Council has also placed a number of families in temporary accommodation, and they continue to look at a range of ongoing support options for impacted families.

The lead flood authority is Nottinghamshire County Council, which means that they are responsible, along with the Environment Agency and Emergency Services, for leading any response to flooding in the district. This includes maintaining drainage and gullies on highways, and distributing sandbags to affected areas, which, on this occasion, included the whole county and stretched limited resources.

Nottinghamshire County Council has created a Floods Hardship Fund for residents and businesses whose properties were flooded. This offers a one-off payment of £120 for residents. For Small or micro businesses with up to 49 employees, eligible businesses can apply for an emergency payment of up to £300 to help them cope with the immediate, short-term loss of income. To apply for support through the Hardship Fund, please call 0300 500 8080.

The Government has also announced a package of support for people who have suffered internal flood damage to their homes and businesses. Bassetlaw District Council will distribute this and at the time of writing, they are yet to receive the full details of how this will operate and when the funds will be made available. As soon as the information and funds are available, the Council will move quickly to ensure that affected residents and business can access funding. Keep up to date with the latest developments by visiting Bassetlaw District Council's website.

Moving forward, the Council recognises that more work needs to be done to prevent flooding. In 2021, the Government and the Environment Agency earmarked £11.7m of investment. This funding is yet to be allocated for flood alleviation projects in Bassetlaw. However, Councillors continue to lobby for substantial flood protection investment in Retford and Worksop. For more advice and information on how to prepare for a flood, and the actions to take during or after a flood, in addition to funding that is available, please visit www.bassetlaw.gov.uk or call 01909 533 533 during normal working hours.

Residents are also advised to check the MetOffice weather warnings and flood alerts and warnings from the Environment Agency for their areas.

This article should be read in combination with Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council's report that is on page 9 of this issue.

A flash of Lightning research!

I thought I knew quite a bit about lightning and what causes it and how it exhibits itself but a recent piece of research from Switzerland opened up a whole new strand to this phenomenon.

I think most of us probably know lightning as a flash that jumps from a cloud down to earth or at least a building or other 'tall' structure. However, this latest piece of research based on the 124 metre tall Säntis Tower in the Appenzell Alps in Switzerland almost literally turned the lightning involved 'on its head'. This is because what was seen was the lightning's journey up from the tip of the mast into the cloud above rather than our more usual experience of the flash striking down from the clouds.

Not only was this unknown prviously but measurements of electric currents running through the metallic tower's structure together with magnetic field measuremenss coupled with high speed cameras showed that these lightning strikes emitted X-rays at the beginning of their flights!

Editor

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See page 9 for application information and contacts.

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- ✓ Housing
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- ✓ Food & Shopping
- ✓ Domestic Abuse

Cost of Living Support in Bassetlaw
Local Support for Local People
2023/2024

BCVS50 Bassetlaw DISTRICT COUNCIL

BCVS, alongside Bassetlaw District Council and key partners across the health and voluntary sector in our area, are pleased to announce the launch of the 2023 Cost of Living Booklet.

All the information, alongside the digital booklet, can be found on www.bcvs.org.uk/colbassetlaw

The information on the web page can also be translated into any language.



If you are aged 50+ and would you like to be warmer and wiser about energy, we are here to help.



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*subject to availability

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t: **0115 8599 209**
e: warmandwise@ageuknotts.org.uk

Driving stopping distances

All drivers are sometimes guilty of driving too fast for the conditions and too close to other cars. What drivers need to keep in mind is that so-called *stopping distance* which is, as its name implies, the distance that it takes to bring your vehicle to a complete halt. This can obviously depend on road conditions which is mainly a weather factor – wet or icy roads mean much longer stopping distances.

However, when calculating stopping distances we need to be aware that this is made up of two parts: thinking distance and braking distance.

Thinking distance is the distance travelled while the driver is realising that braking is required. This can depend on a number of factors and explains why using a mobile phone while driving is illegal or why posters warn drivers to rest if they are feeling tired – any form of distraction can be dangerous, even fatal. See note about tailgating below.*

Once the driver realises that stopping is needed we enter *braking distance* calculations which, as mentioned above, can also depend on road conditions. However, as a very rough guide, the figures that appear in the UK Driving Test Theory paper provide a solid foundation:

Speed (mph)	Overall stopping distance (metres/feet)	Car lengths to vehicle ahead
20	12/40	3
30	23/75	6
40	36.5/120	9
50	53/175	13
60	73/240	18
70	96/315	24

Something to think about next time you are following other vehicles! Recent (25th October) news of a massive 158 vehicle pile up near New Orleans, Louisiana, is probably the most dramatic example of multiple 'too close' driving.

*Driving too close to the vehicle in front is known as tailgating and falls within the careless driving offence which at its simplest level can result in a £100 fine and three penalty points on a driver's licence. In a worse case this can result in a driving ban or even a prison sentence if a serious collision results.

Editor

Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

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Forthcoming events

- 18th - 19th November Babworth Arts Festival.
- 21st November Friends of Bassetlaw Museum AGM 19:00.
- 26th November Retford Christman Market and Lights Switch-on.
- 1st December: Clarbrough Christmas Tree Lighting.
- 8th December: Clarbrough School Christmas Fair
- 10th December Retford Rotary Santa Fun Run.
- 11th December: Retford Library's Cafes Christmas get together.
- 18th December National Holocaust Centre's Remembering The Kindertransport.
- 4th January, 2024: First day of Nottinghamshire School's Spring Term.

The world's largest offshore wind farm powers up

The first wind turbine at Dogger Bank Wind Farm has begun sending power to the UK's national grid network. This is the first of a planned 277 turbines that will form the currently planned global offshore plans.

Bassetlaw Action Centre's latest Awards



See page 8 for details.



[Above] Health & Care Award 2023.



[Above] Parish sandbag store is now restocked. Note: several helpers behind the camera!

Newsletter 2024 editorial deadlines

15th January (Spring issue)
22nd April (Summer issue)

Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council Meetings

27th November
8th January, 2024

Meetings open 19:00 in Clarbrough Village Hall

Agendas are always posted at least a week in advance on notice boards and on our community website where you will also find approved Minutes and meeting dates through to January, 2024. **Note:** one of the two meetings shown above will set meeting dates through 2024-January 2025.

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