

Clarbrough & Welham

Bassetlaw Community Newsletter

Quarterly: Spring 2024

Nottingham Festival of Science & Curiosity
Muddy Fork is even muddier!
East Midlands Mayor Election
Bassetlaw Apprenticeship Fair
Fixing Pot-holes
Local Flooding Support
Covid & Children's Brains
Clarbrough path grant
Colourful Trucks
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 Material submitted without full contact details will not be published.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.clarbrough-welham.org.uk for much, much more!

The Allegra Voice Choir

Here we are, a month into 2024 which I'm sure will be another exciting and fulfilling year.

The highlight of our 2023 season was supporting renowned tenor, Sean Ruane at his annual Pie & Peas Performance in St Saviour's Church, Retford. A new experience for us to work with a soloist, a duet and the fabulous musicians of 3 Piece Suite and friends.

As always, the year ended with our Family & Friends soiree where we thanked them for their support throughout the year with food, mulled wine and, of course, singing, always a load of fun. Friendship and song is core to our ethos.

We are currently working on new material for our up-and-coming concerts so now would be a great time to consider joining us. We are a fun choir who sing in 3-part harmony, led by our extremely talented Musical Director James Fox. We meet each Tuesday in term time, 19:00 till 20:30 in St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane, Clarborough, DN22 9NQ.

If you fancy coming along or would like to find out more, please contact our Secretary Fran Smith either by email allegravoicechoir@outlook.com or give her a call on 07747 488 454.

Clarborough Post Office



Opening hours:

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

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

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SUNSHINE ON LEITH

FEATURING SONGS OF THE PROCLAIMERS

9TH- 11TH MAY 2024
MAJESTIC THEATRE

TICKETS FROM £17.50

Bookings: www.majesticretford.org
Tel. 01777 706866

WWW.RETFORDMUSICALTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG

SUNSHINE ON LEITH by Stephen Greenhorn
Featuring songs of The Proclaimers. Created and produced by Dundee Rep Theatre, Scotland's leading production theatre.
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI



Clarborough & District Women's Institute

A Happy and Peaceful New Year from the members of Clarborough & District WI!

We ended 2023 with a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the West Retford Hotel and the programme for 2024 has been arranged as follows:

- 8th January "The Laycocks" - Mr R Evans
- 12th February "The Lighter side of Veterinary Nursing" Chris Abbott
- 11th March "Hats and how to wear them" Yvonne Henson
- 8th April "The story of Afternoon Tea" Baroness Bolsover
- 13th May Annual Meeting and Resolutions
- 10th June Birthday Meeting
- 8th July Visit to Hook WI
- August No Meeting
- 9th September "Western Canada including the Rockies National Park" - Kevin Lennox
- 14th October Harvest Supper, Social plus bring-and-buy
- 11th November "Tunnel 57" - Ralf Schweinem
- 9th December Christmas Lunch

Our meetings are held in the Halford Room of the Village Hall and start at 14:00. We welcome guests and new members and would be happy to see you.

We look forward with hope and optimism and wish you all a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Lucy Richardson
Secretary (07966 452 249)



Retford Badminton Club

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

Our group plays from 19:00 to 21:00 on Wednesday evenings between September and May at Barnby Memorial Hall, High Street, Blyth, S81 8EW.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact...
Alan on **01777 703 991** or aghirst@googlemail.com
or
Greg on **01777 700 918** or greg2know@gmail.com

Clarborough Parish Pasture



Massive Grant for Footpath

The re-surfacing of the footpath across the Parish Pasture (officially Clarborough Footpath No: 1) has become a real issue. Between 2018 and early 2022 volunteers had, about every 5 months, re-laid a new surface of wood chippings. This was a very environmentally friendly solution to a good surface. However, since 2022 there has been a lack of volunteers to carry out the work, even from amongst those who use the footpath regularly.

The Parish Council has been 'saving-up' a Project Fund over several years to have a hard surfaced footpath laid. This would remove the need to constantly re-lay the surface. More importantly, a hard surface would make the footpath accessible for all – walkers, those with walking difficulties, those using push chairs and those using motability scooters or similar equipment. It would become accessible 24/7 – as the saying goes!

In July 2023 the Parish Council was notified of a new grant funding initiative which was part of the 'Levelling Up' agenda of the Government. Administered by Bassetlaw District Council, this fund was offering grants of up to £50,000 for a wide range of different projects which would benefit a local community. It is called the **Rural England Prosperity Fund** or **REPF**. On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Paul Willcock completed the Registration of Interest Form in July and was notified in early August that this stage was successful. There followed 5 weeks of hard work in putting together a detailed bid of costings and obtaining quotations from contractors for the work. A 32 page document was submitted, a form plus evidence of need. On 4th October the result of that bidding process was published.

The Clarborough Parish Pasture Footpath bid has received £14,050 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This was, apparently, against many other groups applying from across Bassetlaw. The Parish Council had, as part of the bid process, guaranteed just over £1,500 as Match Funding. This is to be taken from the small 'saved-up' Project Fund. This is the largest Grant the Parish Council has ever received!

The very long period of very wet weather during November and December 2023 made the ground too wet to work but it is hoped that by the time you read this article the work will have been completed. The Parish Council is, of course, delighted that the new footpath can be constructed in order to enable all residents and visitors to have all year access along the footpath. There will also be new signage erected, paid for from the same fund.

Phil Gibson
Parish Council Chairman
Clarborough & Welham Parish Council





Flood-hit communities impacted by Storm Henk (2nd Jan – 8th Jan) can now apply for thousands of pounds from the government to help them recover.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A FLOOD?

FLOOD ALERT	FLOOD WARNING	SEVERE FLOOD WARNING
PREPARE	ACT	SURVIVE
Pack medicines & insurance docs. Visit the flood warning information service	Move family, pets & belongings to safety. Turn off gas, water & electricity	Immediate danger? Call 999. Follow emergency services' advice

For a comprehensive overview of preparing for flooding, go to Nottinghamshire County Council's dedicated page at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding-help-and-advice/preparing>

Alternatively (to cut the typing!) go to our community website's home page and follow the ***Flooding is back in Nottinghamshire again! Get the latest advice and news here...***

We should always remember that Nottinghamshire County Council are our local Lead Flood Authority.

If you have been affected by flooding and need mental health support, these local services that can help...

Support for your mental health

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Mental health crisis
Crisis Line: 0808 196 3779 Crisis Sanctuaries: 0115 844 1846 Text NOTTS to 85258
Depression, anxiety, stress
Talking Therapies: 0333 188 1060
Looking after yourself
Every Mind Matters website: nhs.uk/every-mind-matters

Looking after others in our community

Flooding affects whole communities not just individual properties and so at times like this, it's important to look out for others.

If possible, check on elderly or vulnerable relatives, friends and neighbours and help out where possible to ensure they are safe and well.

The financial support announced today, 6th January 2024, will be available to eligible areas in England that have experienced exceptional localised flooding. Help will be available for:

1. Flooded households in eligible affected areas, who can apply for up to £500 cash to help with immediate costs.
2. Households and businesses significantly affected, who will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least 3 months.
3. Small-to-medium sized businesses in eligible affected areas, who can apply for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.
4. Eligible flood-hit property owners, who can apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.
5. Farmers who have suffered uninsurable damage to their land will be able to apply for grants of up to £25,000 through the Farming Recovery Fund towards repair and reinstatement costs for farmers adversely affected by exceptional flooding.

This support will be made available through a scheme called the Flood Recovery Framework, which is used in exceptional circumstances to support councils and communities following severe flooding. The measures were announced by the Communities Secretary Michael Gove and Environment Secretary Steve Barclay.

45,000 properties have already been protected from the worst impact of Storm Henk thanks to flood defences put in place through previous government funding and quick Environment Agency action on the ground. Environment Agency teams and first responders have been working around the clock to manage the risk of flooding and protect communities by operating flood defences, clearing watercourses and putting up temporary barriers where needed.

I know how difficult flooding is for those affected and we will do all we can do support households, farmers and other businesses as they repair and rebuild. We must pay tribute to the work of Environment Agency teams, first responders, and others.

For those who have sadly been affected, Nottinghamshire's ***Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme*** will soon be open to help residents protect their property in the future, while our Farming Recovery Fund will support farmers who have suffered damage as they work to put food on our tables.

Support will be available through local councils who will announce further details on eligibility and how to apply.

One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.
Bob Marley (1945-1981)



Bassetlaw District Council and the Environment Agency met in mid-December 2023 to discuss the devastating floods that hit Bassetlaw in October and the need for the funding of future flood mitigation schemes to change.

Editor's note: the following report was published by BDC on 15th December, 2023.

Data provided by the Environment Agency showed that Storm Babet was the wettest three-day period on record in the Midlands, which also led to record river levels across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire.

Bassetlaw District Council and its Leader, Cllr James Naish, had previously called on the Environment Agency to meet with members and officers to discuss scrapped flood alleviation schemes, funding challenges and the mitigation measures that need to be put in place to limit future flooding across the district.

This week, senior regional and national officials from the Environment Agency visited some of the most flood-hit areas of Worksop and Retford to see first-hand the impact of localised flooding. This was followed-up by a meeting between the Council and the Environment Agency's Chief Executive to discuss removing blockers to meaningful investment.

Cllr James Naish said: "We had two productive meetings where we were able to discuss our experiences of historic flooding and visit the areas of Bassetlaw that are frequently flooded. Bassetlaw residents and businesses need to see urgent action and it was good to hear that Environment Agency colleagues, who have done a great job operationally, still want to see alleviation schemes come forwards. They still believe there are schemes that can make a difference."

A total of £11.7m of potential schemes across Bassetlaw were put forward in 2021/22, to be delivered over a five-year period, and this was increased to £27m in 2022/23. However, HM Treasury rules mean that this money is not available until full business cases have been submitted, which take into account land and property values versus the cost of providing the scheme. In Bassetlaw's case, due to comparatively low land and property values, the value for money threshold is typically missed – despite frequent flooding and considerable damage being caused to personal and business property.

In June 2021, Bassetlaw was set to receive initial funding for the Retford Beck Flood Mitigation Scheme, which has subsequently been withdrawn despite £250,000 being allocated by Bassetlaw District Council and £170,000 being allocated by Nottinghamshire County Council. Land was also purchased by the District Council in anticipation of approval.

Cllr Naish added: "It is clear the funding formulas and approaches need to change to make large investment schemes viable in Bassetlaw. Bassetlaw houses, businesses and land are worth saving just as much as

anywhere else, especially given the frequency with which lives are being disrupted.

"The Environment Agency is ultimately responsible for flood protection schemes on main watercourses like the River Ryton and the River Idle, but the broken funding system means its interventions are currently limited to routine maintenance. We want that to change, and I know Environment Agency staff want to see the same.

"We are increasing our efforts to explain to politicians how the system needs to change to help places like Bassetlaw, and will be working with other councils who are in a similar position to push this up the political agenda. We will also continue to work with Nottinghamshire County Council as the Lead Flood Authority and the Environment Agency to identify short-term measures that can be taken to reduce the known risks and prepare communities as best we can in the event of future flooding.

"I am immensely grateful for the operational response involving the Environment Agency, Councils, Councillors, residents and businesses who have all done a great job, but it is unsustainable, dangerous and unfair for this to remain the only meaningful line of defence for our area."

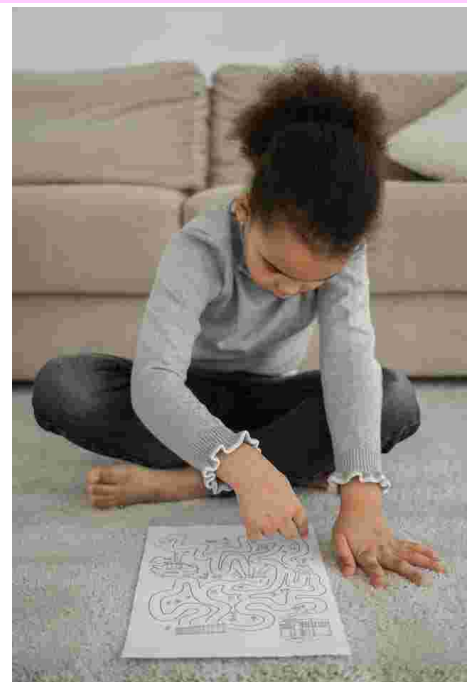
Covid-19 aged children's brains

Recent neuroscience research in the US has given evidence that girls' brains have experienced more pronounced aging than boys after Covid lockdowns.

This research had looked at how the thickness of the cerebral cortex, the outer layer of the brain and its largest region, had changed through the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the human brain develops, this outer layer thins and childhood hardships accelerate this process. To research this trend researchers compared brain scans of children and teens taken before and during the pandemic. Their results showed that teens had accelerated cortical thinning during the pandemic. The results were more dramatic for girls than boys; on average girls had the equivalent of four years of ageing whereas for boys this was just over two years.

Further work remains to be done about this effect, including whether these young people's brains will, in due course, return to normal levels of development.



Editor



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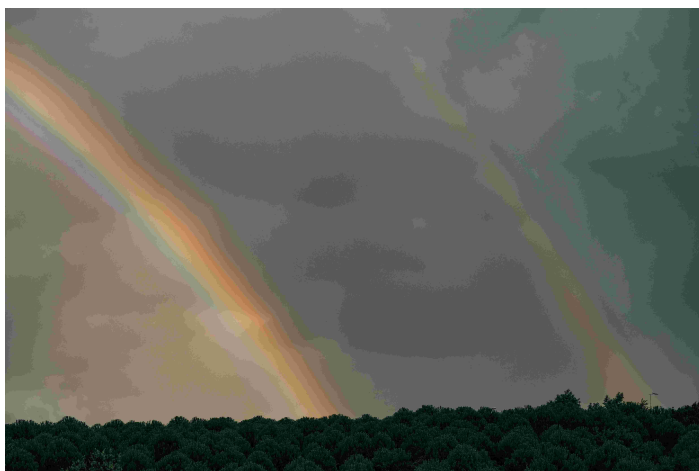
Why is the sky (hopefully!) often blue?

Although light from the Sun looks white to the human eye, this white light is actually made up of a *spectrum* of many different colours. Isaac Newton started to develop ideas about the colours that compose white light in 1665 by passing sunlight through a glass prism (a triangular block of glass) which yielded a rainbow of colours:



Rain drops can do the same as the prism which explains why we see a rainbow when sunlight shines through rain.

You will notice from this diagram above that violet and blue lights are refracted (bent when passing through a transparent material) the most. Human eyes, however, are not very sensitive to violet light so blue is the commonest light that is most refracted.



This *refraction* effect is common to all wave-like effects including sound and water waves but light has much the shortest *wavelength* of these. The *wavelength* any wave is defined as the distance between two successive crests or troughs of the wave and is denoted by the Greek letter lambda (λ).

Visible light colours have wavelenths measured in nanometres (nm) which is a unit of one billionth of a metre (or 10^{-9} metre if you've got a maths-head!). Red light's wavelength is about 700nm and blue light's about 400nm.

So what's all this got to do with blue skies? The atmosphere is made up of many different kinds of molecules which all redirect light that hits them in a process called *scattering*. The amount of scattering increases as the wavelength of the light decreases which means blue light is scattered the most which means it is scattered across much of the sky – hence it looks blue. As noted above, this effect is also enhanced because human eyes are more sensitive to detecting blue light rather than violet which is actually scattered even more than blue.

This effect also explains why the sky takes on a redder colour near sunset. When the Sun is low in the sky light has to travel through a longer distance through the Earth's atmosphere which means more of the blue light is scattered away while the orange and red part of the spectrum are scattered least – hence the sky takes on a redder hue.

Editor

BASSETLAW
Food Hubs



Weekly Food Hubs (Term Time)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Devonshire Rd, Harworth - 2.00pm Ramsden Primary 2.30pm Mattersey Primary 2.45pm	Lime Tree Nursery - 12.45pm St Paul's, Manton - 2.00pm Rampton Primary - 2.30pm Now Church, Langold 9.30am - 2.30pm	Now Church, Langold 9.30am - 2.30pm & 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Kingston Park Academy - 2.45pm (families only) Haggonfields Primary - 3.00pm	Thursday Tuxford Primary - 3.00pm Food Hubs are open to all and there is no eligibility criteria. Each bag of food costs £3.50 - £5.00.	Friday Carr Hill Primary 2.30pm Ordsall Primary 2.45pm Redlands Primary 3.00pm



Bassetlaw Food Insecurity Network - Food Hubs Networks

Now that the schools are back open, the Food Hubs shown above are open.

There is no eligibility criteria to attend, they are open to anyone who needs them.

Please share with your networks and anyone who may benefit from this support.

When we have an update for the February half term provision, we will let you know.

For updates go to <https://www.bcvs.org.uk/foodhubs>



Bassetlaw Food Bank's *Community Shop* is also 'out there' to help with their 'minibus' style travelling service which comes to Clarbrough Village Hall car park from 12:10 on Fridays.

To access this service you need to become a member by completing an application form that is available from the mobile shop itself or online at:

https://bassetlawfoodbank.org/community_shop/

The Food Bank's Community Shop has an extensive suite of destinations through each week as can be seen on the above page of their website.



LINCS & NOTTS
AIR AMBULANCE
SAVING LIVES EVERYDAY

2023 was Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance's busiest year in history

Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance has experienced its busiest year on record, responding to 1,771 missions in the last 12 months.

The charity's crews of pilots, doctors and paramedics responded to 541 missions in Nottinghamshire, 1,044 in Lincolnshire and the remaining 181 in the surrounding counties.

Serious medical injuries accounted for 676 missions, followed by 488 road traffic incidents as well as 158 assaults and 50 sporting or leisure related injuries. The majority of patients were between 40 and 60 years of age. Critically ill and injured patients were taken to hospitals including Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre, Hull Royal Infirmary, Sheffield Northern General and Lincoln County Hospital.

Christmas and New Year was particularly busy for the crews. On average LNAA teams respond to 4 missions per day, but over the nine days of the festive period they received 43 emergency calls to attend patients needing a range of life-saving treatments including blood transfusions, anaesthetics, and life-saving drugs. And between Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, whilst families across Lincs and Notts celebrated at home, crews responded to 17 incidents making 2023 the busiest Christmas ever.

CEO, Karen Jobling said "Each year the number of missions we attend increases. Last year we responded to 151 more missions than in 2022, treating critically ill and injured patients across Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire." Our Nottinghamshire critical care car celebrated its 4th birthday in September and since its launch in 2019 has responded to 1,304 missions. A new car arrived in November and soon became a regular sight in Nottingham, taking our doctor/paramedic team swiftly to the scene of incidents. Last year our Notts critical care car responded to 436 calls in the county. As a result of this increase in demand our Notts crew has expanded its presence and now operates every Thursday and Friday from 7am-7pm and Saturday and Sunday 7pm-7am.

Caring for a patient does not stop when the doctors and paramedics transfer them to hospital. LNAA's Aftercare Team continued to grow from strength to strength and the team reached out to 916 patients and/or their families during 2023. From providing support and arranging 58 visits to HQ to being a listening ear, the team helped many patients come to terms with their injuries and cope with the impact of what happened to them.

Karen summed up by adding: "We start a new year with great optimism. 2024 is the 30th anniversary for Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance and we have ambitious plans for the next 12 months so that we can be by the side of more patients. As a charity, we receive no direct government funding for our operations and we rely on the support of every community in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire for the £10million needed to operate 24 hours of the day,

every day of the year. As demand for our service grows, we know that costs will also increase, and we thank everyone who has supported us in whatever way and enabled us to be by the side of patients, day and night."

Helpful online holiday preparation

Planning your next holidays well in advance can save you money and also provide relaxing preparations!

Two facilities available on Clarbrough & Welham's community website fit this bill superbly:

a. Nottinghamshire or Lincolnshire school holidays – right through to July, 2027 can be accessed by going to our **Education & Training** page from our home page's main menu.

b. Holiday weather forecasts. If you click on the sun symbol on our home page you automatically get today's Met Office forecast for Retford. However, if you move your pointer to the search bar containing 'Retford (Nottinghamshire)' and delete this and then type in your chosen destination from almost anywhere around the world, you will get their forecast instead. This is both useful when researching possible holiday destination as well as packing appropriate things for the expected weather.

Editor

Recycle More In 2024



If your New Year's Resolution is to recycle more of your waste in 2024, Bassetlaw District Council have made it easy for you to keep that promise with their environmentally-friendly and convenient Garden Waste Collection Service.

Collections for 2024 will start from Monday 26th February, so now is the perfect time to sign-up and ensure that you get all of your collections. If you sign-up before the 31st January, you will be able to receive all the collections for the 2024 season.

A subscription to the service costs just £36, and includes fortnightly collections of a 240 litre wheelie bin that can be used for grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, leaves, small branches and twigs, dead plants, weeds and cut flowers. These materials are then recycled, benefitting the environment.

Last year, 13,568 subscriptions were issued, helping the Council to recycle an impressive 4,485 tonnes of garden waste. To put that into perspective, that's around the same weight as four and a half sierra redwoods – some of the largest trees on Earth!

Whether you have used the service before or are a new customer, please sign-up or renew your subscription before 31st January 2024. This is to ensure that you receive your garden waste pack before collections begin and secure the maximum number of collections available for the season.

The quickest and easiest way to renew your subscription or to sign-up as a new customer is by visiting the Garden Waste page at: **www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/gardenwaste**.

Alternatively, you can call 01909 534 524 to speak to a member of the Council's Garden Waste team.



Council Housing Rents Set to Rise

Rents for homes owned and operated by Bassetlaw District Council will rise in line with the Government's National Social Rent Policy from 1st April this year.

At a meeting of Cabinet on Tuesday 9th January 2024, Councillors approved a recommendation for a rent increase of 7.7% for 6,551 Council homes from April 2023. The rent increase comes against a backdrop of increased costs of maintenance, labour and materials experienced by the Council over the last 12 months. In addition, the Council is incurring further costs as we work towards meeting the Government's energy efficiency targets for Social Housing, with all properties requiring an EPC C rating by 2035.

The majority of tenants (70%) will be unaffected by rents going up as this will be covered by benefit increases, including Housing Benefit.

The lowest change in rent will be an increase of £4.19 per week for a small property and the highest an increase of £9.04 per week for a large property. This will mean that the average rent for social general needs housing in Bassetlaw will be £89.97 per week or £397.36 per month in 2024/25. In comparison the average monthly private rent in Bassetlaw is £640.40.*

All rent collected by Bassetlaw District Council is reinvested back into its Housing Service and funds Decent

Homes improvements including new kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, energy-efficient heating systems and maintaining internal and external communal areas. Last year the Council carried out 17,235 repairs and invested £9million in tenants' homes.

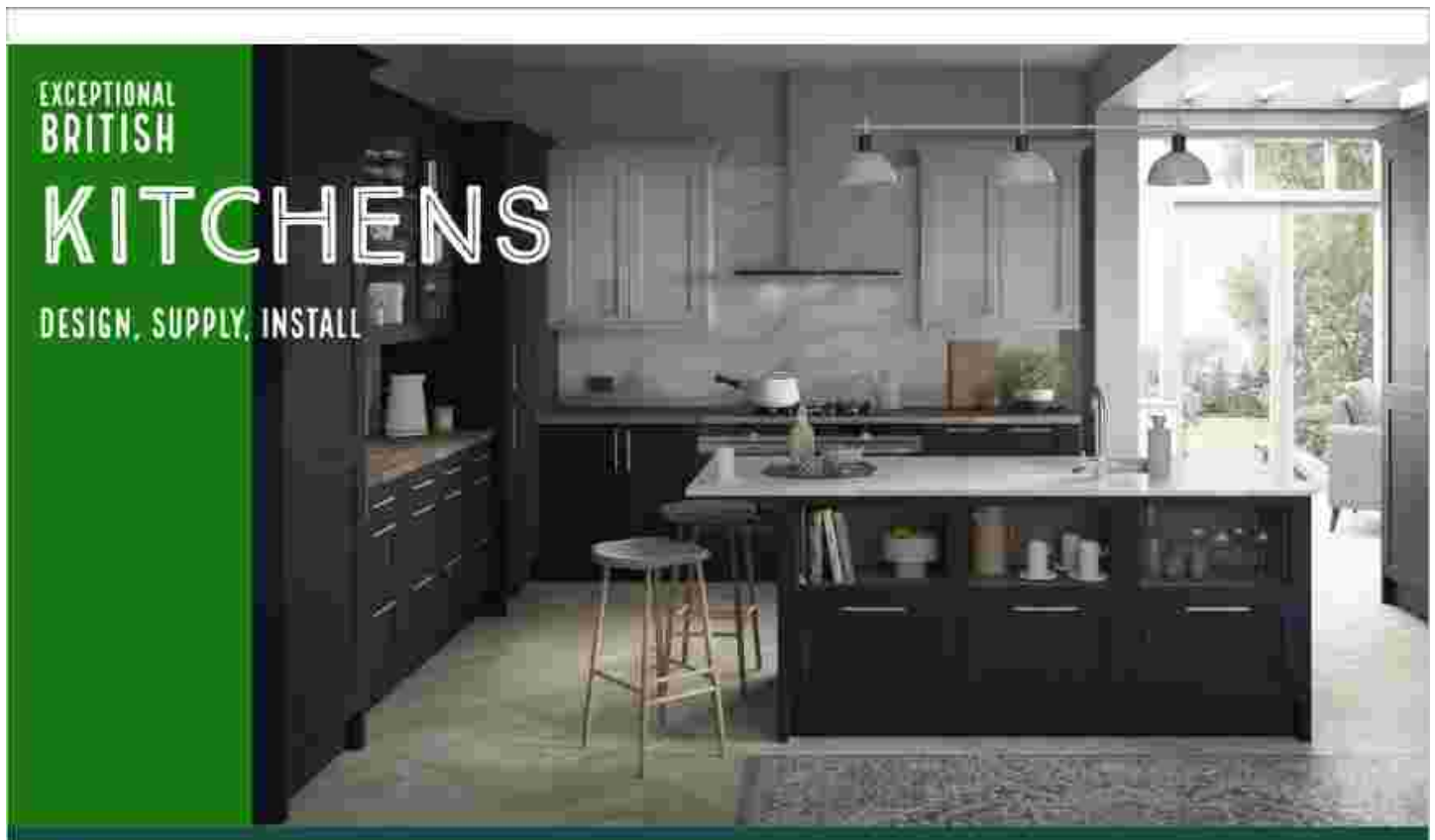
Essential safety measures such as gas and electrical servicing are also funded through rents, whilst meeting the requirements of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and the Building Safety Act have significantly driven up costs in relation to fire safety.

Cllr Jonathan Slater, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "The economic situation over the past two years has continued to mean shortages of labour and materials throughout the country which in turn increased prices, particularly within the construction industry. Unfortunately, the Council is not insulated from inflation and price rises.

Rent increases, in line with the Government's National Social Rent Policy are necessary if we are to continue to invest in and maintain our tenants' homes.

"Our rents continue to represent good value for money compared to the private sector and we will continue to invest in our tenants' homes. We will also continue to provide important support services such as our Money Advisor service, Tenancy Sustainment service and our 24-hour Tenant Support and Wellbeing Service which helps those seeking advice on financial issues, legal related issues, mental ill health and other health concerns."

Tenants with any queries regarding rents or who are experiencing difficulties paying their rent, should telephone our Customer Services team on 0800 590 542.



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

Boeing 737 Max 9 near disaster

Readers may have seen the news item about an Alaskan Airlines January 5th flight, in which a “door plug” – a portion of the plane’s fuselage the manufacturer can put in place instead of an emergency exit door – detached from the plane and was later discovered in an Oregon backyard! The 'door plug' involved was/is attached from the outside of the fuselage and retained by bolts. At the time of writing investigations are continuing as to whether the retaining bolts had suffered failures or whether manufacturing or servicing faults were to blame.



However, a number of senior US officials – including at least one former FAA* safety inspector – have questioned the basic design. They note that the usual arrangement for such door plugs is to mount them from the inside of the fuselage where their larger-than-opening size means that when the aircraft is pressurised during flight, the plug is pushed more firmly against the fuselage.

When Boeing has designed the 737 Max 9's plug to be mounted from the outside of the aircraft is a bit of a mystery, whatever the reasons, the risk is/was that when the aircraft was pressurised during flight, any weakness in the plug's attachment to the fuselage has the potential to blow the plug away – as happened on January 5th. Fortunately if appears from photos shown after the accident, no passenger was sitting immediately next to the hole that the plug left and also passengers were still wearing their seat belts!

The FAA has grounded all Boeing 737 Max 9's in the United States – some 171 aircraft – but the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is following the FAA approach although it doesn't think any European airline uses a Boeing 737 Max 9 of the configuration that the FAA has targeted.

***Editor's note:** FAA is the United States of America's Federal Aviation Administration.

Editor

Reducing food waste by grinding bones

Research in Finland has developed ways of grinding fish or chicken bones into a paste that can be added to meat products. The paste so formed is highly nutritious and trials that started in late 2023 have found that most people can't tell the difference between usual fish or chicken products and those containing the ground bones pastes. In fact a proportion

of those involved in these trials actually preferred those fish sticks or chicken nuggets containing these bones pastes.

Adoption of these procedures on a large scale have been estimated to boost food production from animals by something like 40% which could have a vast impact on animal use. This would mean needing few animals and lower environmental impacts as well as reduced costs.

This technique could also add calcium to our diets as well as a number of other nutrients not found in muscle ('meat').

Editor

Anglian Water Smart Meters

Readers may already be aware that Anglian Water have been round to install Smart Meters in each property's water meter 'hole' outside their property.

A quick check with the installation team confirmed that these Smart Meters are battery powered and, therefore, will need to be serviced at intervals. These meters communicate with 'head office' wirelessly.

How the personal data generated by these Smart Meters is stored by Anglian Water in such a way as to keep it secure is a question your editor has asked but is awaiting a response from them. Clearly, if this data can be hacked by a criminal it can indicate when a property is 'empty' which would help criminals identify homes 'suitable' for burglary. Your Editor has also copied this question to Which? (Consumers' Association) but is, again, awaiting a reply. To read all of Anglian Water's information about having a Smart Meter, go to their website:

<https://faq.anglianwater.co.uk/article/qed1886/smart-meters>

Editor

Goacher's Farm Shop 

Wood Lane, North Wheatley

 The only traditionally grown Wheatley fruit.

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Bassetlaw



Centre

	<p>Making A Difference Throughout Bassetlaw</p> <p>Bassetlaw Action Centre offers a range of services to help people remain healthy and independent.</p>	
	<p>Befriending</p> <p>Befriending is a means to reduce isolation and increase independence. Our befriending scheme can receive referrals from anyone who feels they are suffering from extreme loneliness.</p>	
	<p>Bassetlaw Community Car Scheme</p> <p>A community transport service for the residents of Bassetlaw who are unable to access public transport.</p>	
	<p>Housing Choice</p> <p>A service providing information, advice and support to people in Bassetlaw on housing related issues across all tenure. Aimed at older and vulnerable people, their families and carers, who recognise they are starting to find things difficult in their own homes and want to consider their options.</p>	
	<p>Bassetlaw Community Minibus</p> <p>Bassetlaw Action Centre offers a range of services to help people remain healthy and independent. A wheelchair friendly minibus which is available to local community groups.</p>	
	<p>Volunteering Opportunities</p> <p>Linking individuals and organisations with help and support across Bassetlaw. If you enjoy meeting people and helping the local community this is the ideal scheme, welcoming volunteers from all backgrounds.</p>	
	<p>Home Support Service</p> <p>Need a helping hand? The Home Support Service offers fully insured, DBS checked caring staff to undertake the following: General Housework • Laundry/Ironing • Shopping • Help with correspondence • Medication prompts Sitting service • Light meal preparation • Accompanied shopping • Social visits</p>	
	<p>Staying Well - Expert Patients Programme</p> <p>Free self help course for people living with a long term health condition. Its aims are to help you take control of your health by learning new skills to manage your condition better on a daily basis.</p>	
	<p>Meeting & Training Rooms For Hire</p> <p>Multi-purpose rooms in a local and safe environment to hold meetings, training events and group sessions.</p>	
	<p>Car Scheme Plus</p> <p>Providing wheelchair accessible transport in Bassetlaw. If you want to get out and about in Bassetlaw but have difficulty using public transport, then Car Scheme Plus could be the answer.</p>	
	<p>Keeping Warm & Well</p> <p>A project which aims to help you keep your home warm in the winter through a range of solutions.</p>	

Have you ever thought about Volunteering?

If you enjoy meeting people and helping the local community you are the ideal person to volunteer on any one of our schemes. Any amount of time that you are able to give to a scheme is welcome, please contact Bassetlaw **Action** Centre for more information.



Bassetlaw **Action** Centre is affiliated with the following organisations:



Bassetlaw Action Centre Canal Street, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 6EZ
01777 709650 enquiries@actioncentre.org.uk www.bassetlawactioncentre.org.uk

Bassetlaw Action Centre

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

@BassetlawBAC

NOTTINGHAM FESTIVAL of SCIENCE & CURIOSITY

2024 Events Programme

For the third year Bassetlaw District Council are supporting the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity (FOSAC). The 2024 FOSAC programme is the most ambitious yet with events and activities covering the whole district and multiple events on each day of the half term holidays.

FOSAC celebrates science, technology, engineering and maths with fun, stimulating and engaging "free" family activities for ages 5 to 13, siblings and parents alike. Most are drop-in activities but some may require booking. We encourage parents and carers to engage also to help keep the areas the inquisitive young minds curious. We also have some additional adult events for the curious 14+ amongst us!

All the Nottinghamshire wide events will soon be listed at the FOSAC website please visit the festival website for the full list of county activities and booking links where applicable: <https://nottsfosac.co.uk/>

<p>Mon 12th Feb Free Drop-in activity 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 15:00</p>	<p><i>'Exploring Electricity'</i> Join the University of Sheffield Maker (Futures) team to create, tinker, test and get hands-on with playful activities that explore electricity, power and energy.</p>	<p>Bassetlaw Museum Ancott House, 40 Grove St, Retford DN22 6LD</p>
<p>Tues 13th Feb Free Drop in activity 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 15:00</p>	<p><i>'Veolia recycling and craft'</i> What happens to our waste? Find out about the science of recycling and find out what you can upcycle from things that we throw away every day! Make a recycled craft to take home.</p>	<p>Bassetlaw Museum Ancott House, 40 Grove St, Retford DN22 6LD</p>
<p>Tues 13th Feb Free Bookable activity 11:00, 12:00, 13:30 and 14:30</p>	<p><i>'The Wonder of Space' (family planetarium show)</i> Inside the 'Explorer Dome' inflatable planetarium we explore our planet, moon, sun and solar system – see how they move and what we see in the night sky. Go star-spotting to discover the constellations and the stories behind them through the gods, heroes and monsters from Ancient Greece.</p>	<p>The Bridge Skills Hub 9 Bridge Pl, Worksop, S80 1DT</p>
<p>Tues 13th Feb Free Drop-in activities 11:00, 12:00, 13:30 and 14:30</p>	<p><i>'Exploring Electricity'</i> Join the University of Sheffield Maker (Futures) team to create, tinker, test and get hands-on with playful activities that explore electricity, power and energy.</p>	<p>The Bridge Skills Hub 9 Bridge Pl, Worksop, S80 1DT</p>
<p>Tues 13th Feb Free Drop-in activities 11:00 to 15:00</p>	<p><i>'Bassetlaw Employer STEM Activities'</i> <i>'Have a go' STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) including construction, VR, and engineering. Activities supported by Laing O'Rourke, B&B Group, Duncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital and RNN Group amongst others.</i></p>	<p>The Bridge Skills Hub 9 Bridge Pl, Worksop, S80 1DT</p>

<p>Tues 13th Feb Free Bookable screenings 16:00 to 17:30 and 19:00 to 20:30 Ideal for 14+ Years</p>	<p><i>'Star Makers – The Energy of Tomorrow' and panel Q&A</i> The Bridge Skills Hub 9 Bridge Pl, Worksop, S80 1DT <i>Watch a film and meet the cast of record-breaking fusion energy scientists and engineers aiming to recreate a star here on Earth. 'Star Makers' is a behind-the-scenes documentary by UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) to provide the world with safe, sustainable low carbon energy. A Q&A session will explore the science and the STEP project at West Burton in Bassetlaw.</i></p>
<p>Weds 14th Feb Free Bookable Activities 11:00, 12:30 and 13:30pm.</p>	<p><i>Trelleborg employer STEM Activities</i> Bassetlaw Museum Auncott House, 40 Grove St, Retford DN22 6LD <i>Join local employers and training providers for a series of 'have a go' STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) including construction, food technology and engineering. Activities supported by Trelleborg Retford.</i></p>
<p>Thurs 15th Feb Free Drop-in activity 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 3:00pm</p>	<p><i>'Experiment with Colour'</i> Bassetlaw Museum Auncott House, 40 Grove St, Retford DN22 6LD <i>Find out how colours mix and spread using chromatology and have a go at tie dye.</i></p>
<p>Fri 16th Feb Free Drop-in activity 10:00am to 3:00pm</p>	<p><i>'Lego activity'</i> Bassetlaw Museum Auncott House, 40 Grove St, Retford DN22 6LD <i>Be inspired by engineering challenges or build whatever you fancy!</i></p>

Other Bassetlaw partner activities.

- 9th Feb | 'Science of Liquorice' event | Oasis Community Centre
- 12th Feb | 'Entangled Enigmas' | Harworth and Bircotes Library
- 12th Feb | 'Microscopes Workshop' | Langold Library
- 13th Feb | 'Soccer Science' - Nottingham Trent University | Worksop Town Football Club
- 16th Feb | 'Magnets Workshop' | Worksop Library with UK Atomic Energy Authority
- 16th Feb | 'Antimicrobial Resistance Workshop' | Retford Library with University of Leeds
- TBC | 'Star Soup Show' | Retford Oaks Academy with Ignite and UK Atomic Energy Authority

Further activity details will be on the FOSAC website from 15th Jan <https://nottsfosac.co.uk/>

For any further information please feel free to contact:

Tim Gladman - Skills Officer (Economic Development)

Tim.gladman@Bassetlaw.gov.uk / 07551827248





2024 Bassetlaw Apprenticeship Fair

Bassetlaw District Council in partnership with the North Notts BID, DWP, RNN Group and North Notts College are hosting a ‘pop up’ apprenticeship fair on 8th Feb 2024 for the wider Bassetlaw Community.

We are keen to ensure apprenticeships and vocational training play a key part in the wider education mix and need young people, parents, job seekers and career changers to understand the rapidly changing world of work, along with the future skills, attributes, qualities, and flexibilities employers are looking for. The event will showcase local employers with both live apprenticeship vacancies and upcoming vacancies.

Attendees cover a wide range of business sectors to include, Health and Social Care, Public Service, Food Manufacturing, Agriculture, Construction, Public Services, Education and Civil Service to name but a few. Drop in with careers teams to help guide and support on the day. If an apprenticeship isn’t right for you can still explore other options such as T levels, work experience, Traineeship, or other vocational programmes.

5-11 FEBRUARY 2024 ————— **#NAW2024**



The Bridge Skills Hub, Worksop, S80 1DT
8th Feb 2024 - Open 16:30 - 19:30

The event is open to all – those currently in education, job seekers, career changes and interested parents and siblings. There is no need to book – just call in and explore the amazing opportunities.

This free event is a great opportunity for you to find out more – we look forward to seeing you there!

For an informal chat on this or any other skills related query contact;

Tim Gladman - Skills Officer (Economic Development),
Bassetlaw District Council,
07551 827 248 / tim.gladman@bassetlaw.gov.uk





Welcome to our School!

Here at Clarborough we have designed a creative curriculum that engages and challenges pupils of all ages and abilities. Children are challenged to attain high standards and we encourage this with a wide range of teaching styles that create an environment where children feel safe and valued. We work hard with our pupils to develop their skills of self-motivation, mutual respect, understanding and a love of learning.

We are very fortunate to have an amazing school building at the heart of the village with large classrooms, a wonderful Foundation Stage Unit for children from the age of 3 years and plenty of outside space in which to play and participate in P.E.

It is our mission to create happy, successful and globally aware individuals who have a love of learning and this is taught through our school Golden Rule of 'We look after ourselves, others, our school and our planet'.

Looking forward to meeting you!

Mrs Allison Cowell-Clark
Headteacher

LIFE AT CLARBOROUGH

There's always plenty going on!

- Dedicated staff who understand each child and are passionate about the provisions they provide.
- Considerately planned experiences across the curriculum, that inspire the children's imagination, whilst promoting their independence and developing their resilience.
- 30 hrs childcare for Nursery children (aged 3years+).
- Wraparound care, breakfast clubs and after school clubs for full-time pupils from 7.45am to 5.30pm.
- A specifically designed, spacious Foundation Unit that meets the needs of our youngest pupils.



'Be the best you can be!'



Come and meet us!

We understand the importance of choosing a school for your child so we are offering families the opportunity to safely visit our school to see just how amazing we are!

To arrange a visit call: 01777 708065
or email: office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk

We are on Facebook and Instagram! Search for 'Clarborough Primary' and follow us for regular updates and see what we are getting up to!



Muddy Fork, Retford's Gardening for Wellbeing charity based at the Idle Valley Nature Reserve, has been doing battle with the weather this winter. You might think that once we get into autumn there's not much to do in the garden, and for many of us this is surely true. Not for the Muddy Fork team though. (Apart from the pair of volunteers who have selfishly defected to Brazil for a couple of months!).

The October floods were only the start. With the garden under water and the beehives threatened with drowning, things were bad enough. The bees were rescued and the paths restored, but continuing bad weather since then has meant that efforts to prevent the garden from being completely waterlogged have been ongoing. And not helped at all by a leaking water pipe!

Thankfully our generous wood chip donor has carried on providing us with supplies, which helps hugely. Work on dredging the stream is also in progress, which should help improve drainage through the site. The winter has become one long maintenance project.

Things should look up in the new year. The welcome donation from Retford Rotary Club has not yet been used due to the weather conditions. This will enable the purchase of a new shell for one of the old and very decrepit polytunnels, along with a consignment of topsoil to top up the raised beds. Roll on spring!



Muddy Fork is pleased to hear from anyone who might like to know more. Referrals from agencies or self-referrals are always welcome and work can always be found for additional volunteers! More details of the gardening sessions and on how to get involved can be found on the Muddy Fork website www.muddyfork.org - or email enquiries@muddyfork.org

Rose Thorpe
General Manager

To be or not to be, that is the question.
William Shakespeare (1564 –1616)

Where can I find a church service?

Come to Clarbrough when we have a service, and when we do not have one there are others in the group. Lifts can be arranged. Services in **Clarbrough are in heavy type.**



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

11th February Bole 10:30 HC

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

18th February Clarbrough 10:30 HC

25th February Clarbrough Evening Prayer 16:00

3rd March Bole 10:30 HC Hayton 16:00 HC

10th March Mothering Sunday Sturton 10:30 HC

17th March Clarbrough 18:00 Allegra Voices are with us for sung evensong. (HC Wheatley 10:30)

24th March Palm Sunday, Clarbrough 10:30

31st March Hayton Easter Praise 18:00. (06:00 Service of Light, Sturton)



7th April Wheatley 10:30 HC (Ext.)

14th April Clarbrough Evening prayer, 18:00 J Sykes. (Bole 10:30 HC)

21st April Sturton 10:30 HC

28th April Clarbrough 10:30 HC

5th May United Service at The Grove, Retford, 10:30

12th May Hayton 10:30 HC

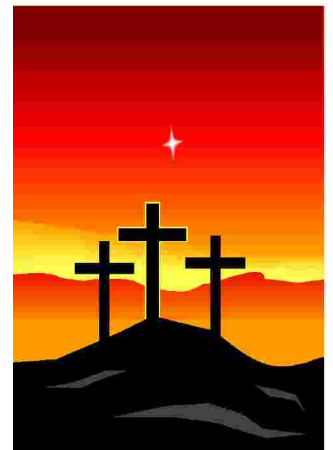
19th May Pentecost Wheatley

15:30 Teatime Praise

26th May Clarbrough Evening Prayer with Revd Mark 18:00

There will be Holy Week Reflections in North Leverton Monday 25th March and Tuesday 26th March 19:00 and March 28th Foot Washing at N. Wheatley 19:00 **as well as 2**

Hours by the Cross at Clarbrough, Good Friday 13:00-15:00.



Do you require any landbased training?

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STARMAKERS
The Energy of Tomorrow

Documentary film and Q&A session
Tuesday 13th February 2024
The Bridge Skills Hub Workop S80 1DT
First showing @ 4.00pm – 5:30pm
Second showing @ 7.00pm – 8:30pm

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THANKS TO EUROFUSION, ITER AND OTHERS

#starmakers #theenergyoftomorrow

Recycling ink cartridges

Have you got empty printer cartridges that you don't know how to dispose of, or even recycle?

Take a look at www.recycle4charity.co.uk website. This has a free postage service that either donates money to your chosen charity if your cartridge is on their 'wanted list' or simple recycles them.

Editor

Rechargeable or disposable batteries - which are best?

It is important to remember that rechargeable batteries often produce slightly different 'full power' voltages than disposables. For example, disposable AA batteries are usually labelled at '1.5V' which is exactly what they do deliver straight from the box, so to speak.

Similar AA rechargeables, however, often produce a maximum of 1.2V which can present a challenge for some devices by not providing enough energy to power the device.

Editor

Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.
Martin Luther King Jnr (1929 –1968)

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT
Supporting independence and building resilience

Nottinghamshire County Council's website *Cost of Living Support* covers a huge range of aspects for households from help with bills, through childcare costs support to mental health and wellbeing support. It also has information about support for community groups plus a direct link to the Government's website addressing even more issues. For easy access go to our community website's homepage and click on the above image.

Editor

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Tony Halford

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To err is human; to forgive, devine.
Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

All that glitters is not gold.
William Shakespeare (1564 –1616)

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.
C.S. Lewis (1898 - 1963)



Councils give green light to £4 billion East Midlands devolution deal

Residents across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham will get the chance to vote for the first-ever East Midlands Mayor next May, after councils gave the go-ahead to devolution for the region.

On Thursday 7th December, Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council each approved plans to create the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), which will come into existence this Spring.

EMCCA is set to bring in around £4 billion of funding for the region, alongside devolved powers for transport, skills and adult education, housing, the environment and economic development.

Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council Leader, said: “Our shared vision is for the 2.2 million people who live and work in the heart of the country to be better connected and more prosperous - addressing years of historically low investment in our region.

“Devolution brings much more control over our own area. Rather than many major decisions being made for us in London, local people would have a say in the region’s priorities. This is just the start and more benefits and funding are already starting to flow – such as the Government’s recent announcement of £1.5 billion local transport funding for the new East Midlands Mayor.

“The creation of a new mayoral combined county authority will unlock the benefits of the East Midlands devolution deal and bring improved public services and a brighter future for our residents.”

Ben Bradley MP, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council said: “I am proud we have taken this final and definitive step to bring the necessary powers and funds needed to improve the lives of the people of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Devolved powers will result in better life outcomes for everyone; more investment in skills and jobs, and more control to deliver improved public transport.

“It will give the East Midlands a platform and powers to bring lasting benefits and change lives for generations.”

Baggy Shanker, Leader of Derby City Council, said: “I welcome this milestone moment for the city of Derby and the wider region. The East Midlands Combined County Authority is set to bring much-needed investment into our area and is the only way to get any additional funding, after years of austerity.

“The ambition is for our region to – rightfully – be on an equal footing with the likes of Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, so I am encouraging the residents of Derby to have their say on how the devolved powers and funding should be used next May.”

David Mellen, Leader of Nottingham City Council, said: “Nottingham has today taken a significant step towards an

East Midlands Combined Authority. The extra funding this deal will bring will make a huge difference to the region. People in Nottingham will see real benefits with more investment in jobs, training and housing. It is vital that we continue to work closely with our neighbouring councils on this.

“For too long, Nottingham has not had the investment it needs and deserves, and this deal will start to address this. It also brings significant powers from the Government into the region, giving us more control and allowing us to make better, more local decisions.”

Plans for East Midlands devolution are similar to those already in place in other mayoral regions, like the West Midlands and Greater Manchester.

The East Midlands devolution deal, agreed with Government ministers last summer, would see Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham benefit from a £1.14 billion investment fund. Other areas with devolution deals have been able to make their funding go even further and have greater impact by leveraging significant private sector investment.

A public consultation on East Midlands devolution, carried out between November 2022 and January 2023, showed strong support for the plans among local residents, businesses and community groups.

In October, the Government announced around £1.5 billion in transport funding for the East Midlands Mayor.

Thanks to devolution plans, the East Midlands has also been invited to establish an ‘Investment Zone’, which will attract £160 million of support over ten years, with tax incentives for businesses that will help boost economic growth right across the region.

It is estimated that the East Midlands Investment Zone will unlock hundreds of millions of pounds in private investment, creating thousands of jobs right across the region.

Government will continue to work with the proposed East Midlands Mayoral County Combined Authority (EMCCA) and other partners to co-develop the plans for the East Midlands Investment Zone, including priority development sites and specific interventions to drive cluster growth, ahead of final confirmation of the plans.

£18 million has already been awarded to the area during devolution negotiations, which is being spent on improving local housing, transport and skills provision.

Further investment for the region would also be provided through annual Whitehall budgets and spending reviews.

All four councils have now agreed to the creation of East Midlands Combined County Authority and the legal regulations around creating this new authority.

The Government will now need take the deal before Parliament, as this is first of a new type of combined authority and it requires new legislation.

If the legislation is passed in the coming weeks it would come into force by March 2024, meaning the EMCCA will officially come into existence.

The inaugural election for East Midlands Mayor will take place on 2nd May 2024.

Is Magma our route to unlimited clean energy?

Recent news of another volcanic eruption in Iceland reminds us that the Earth is remarkably hot below the surface – and not *that* far down either!

Iceland is probably the world's centre for drilling holes into the Earth to extract geothermal energy but now these experts are aiming to go one giant leap further – drilling into one of the Earth's magma chambers.

Magma is a liquid rock that sometimes escapes through cracks in the overlying crust to spew out lava. This most recently happened near the town of Gringavik in southern Iceland just a month or so ago.



Although magma and lava are closely related, they are not the same. A lot of gas is released as magma comes to the surface and the extremely hot rock reacts with the atmosphere which changes its composition very considerably. However, reading these changes back to the properties of magma as it behaves deep underground in so-called magma chambers is currently scientific guesswork.

The Icelandic research project at Kofa, Iceland Deep Drilling Project, is planning to start in 2026. Kofa is a caldera, part of a greater volcanic system of the same name, located north of Lake Mývatn in North Iceland. It is one of the country's most explosive volcanoes, having done so dozens of times since the country was first settled.

Earlier studies by the drilling project team have revealed a magma chamber 'only' some 2,000 metres below the surface and their forthcoming project aims to drill into this chamber to do fundamental scientific research. This will be essential because to date no one knows how magma chambers are composed or behave. Once a borehole into the magma chamber has been made the plan is to lower a range of scientific instruments into the chamber. An earlier attempt in 2009 resulted in the drill entering the magma chamber but it then 'froze' the magma around it into the volcanic rock obsidian. This solidification is expected in the forthcoming project but instruments are planned to be designed to be left in the magma chamber when the drill withdraws and as they heat up, the obsidian will melt away until the instruments can measure as much as possible about magma's properties and behaviour.

Results from the previous investigations showed the magma has temperatures around 900°C and pressures around 500 times that of the atmosphere! This is where the money is – even geothermal powerplants currently in use generate electricity at around one sixth of the cost of electricity in the UK.

Editor

Editor's footnote: Grindavik was again evacuated just as we went to press in mid-January!

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.

Plato (BC 427 - BC 347)

Lifeline Sitter & Befriending Service

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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

Nottinghamshire residents can access a wide range of County Council services through the free, new look, app.

The MyNotts app was launched by Nottinghamshire County Council in January 2020 and allows users to make the most of its services wherever they are by using their smartphone.



Since its launch, the app has had almost 550,000 views with the most frequently visited services being highways, waste and recycling and schools – while residents are also able to use it to report potholes and faulty streetlights as well as apply for school places. Now the new-look app has been given a revamp to ultimately improve accessibility and customer experience, which includes the way people can report highways issues and control how they receive push notifications.

Councillor Richard Jackson, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, said he was delighted with the new-look app and encouraged anybody who has not downloaded it to do so. He said: "The MyNotts app has proved to be a huge success since its launch nearly four years ago, with more and more residents continuing to download it to access vital council services in a quick and efficient way.

"As the app has evolved over time, we have acted on feedback from people who use it to make sure we deliver

the improvements they have asked for. "The new-look app looks fantastic, and I would like to thank those in our customer service centre who have been involved in the development and testing of it, helping to make sure the user experience is better and quicker than ever before.

"Our ultimate aim is to significantly improve the ability to access information and services and provide a better overall customer experience for Nottinghamshire residents who use this method of digital engagement.

"I would encourage anyone who hasn't downloaded the app to do so, so they can see for themselves how useful it is."

The MyNotts app continues to include a vast array of information about other council services, including adult social care, how to register a birth or death, arranging a wedding at a council venue, libraries, recycling centres and fostering and adoption.

Customers can also take advantage of the app's Recyclopaedia feature, which provides information about what residents can and cannot recycle in their household waste, while there are also some links to a number of district and borough council services such as bulky waste removal and missed bins.

There is also a Cost-of-Living section to help people access information and support to help manage financial pressures.

Residents can use the app to find out more about what's on across Robin Hood County, including links to popular tourist attractions Sherwood Forest Country Park and Visitor Centre, Holme Pierrepont and Rufford Abbey.

The app is available to download by visiting the Android and Apple stores or via our webpage.

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Truck Art in Pakistan

Your Editor's recent visit to Pakistan for Muslim Charity's 2023 Rickshaw Challenge (see our Winter 2023 issue) was a real eye-opener in many ways but really in-your-face as far as road transport was concerned!

Many readers will probably not be surprised that our experience of driving styles and road structures was very different to what we were used to at home, but what really came as a surprise was the universally dramatic appearance (and sounds) of heavy goods vehicle and also buses and coaches. The following example is worth thousands of words...



The level of artwork – and structural changes – to this truck are typical, particularly the augmented rooftop above the cab designed to increase space for decorations.

We have been told that the vast majority of these heavy vehicle are owner-driver vehicle and many of them are 'home' for their drivers because of the long distances involved in many deliveries. At no point during our 9-day trip did we see a single truck with typical UK company name or logos!

These trucks are also often known locally as *jingle trucks* – a term that some say was coined by American troops during the Afghanistan war when they were based in Pakistan although others claim the term goes back to the time of British Colonialism. Although the jingling sound many truck make due to their chains and other such ornaments hanging from the bumpers is probably the origin of the term, the most memorable sound we heard from trucks as well as coaches and buses was the sound of their pressure horns – loud and a real mixture of ring tones; quite interesting to listen to unless it comes from right behind your own vehicle!

To get a feel for these sound, go online and search for *Pakistani Truck Pressure Horns* or similar.

Truck art in Pakistan is a key 'vehicle' (no pun intended!) for truck owners to spread a vast range of messages – political, cultural, artistic...and much more. Because every truck is unique, and there are so many of them, the visual messages that they spread through the community is vast.

Truck art holds immense influence on popular culture in the country as it supplies a canvas for phrases to be displayed. This is to create awareness and grab attention for causes such as education, end to slavery, or even as messages to politicians to tackle problems such as poverty in the



country. Through this, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of *Reduced Inequalities* is highlighted as it becomes a way of spreading messages to the common man. It also supplies insight into the goal of Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure as truck art provides a medium for the development of the latest ideas in the sphere of art.



Truck art is now a key influencer of the wider design world – everything from bikers' crash helmets through kitchenware right up to fashion show catwalks.



BCVS NEWS

DO MORE 2024 VOLUNTEER

Whether it's lending a hand at a local food bank, taking part in environmental clean-ups, or supporting arts initiatives, "Do More 2024" aims to support Bassetlaw individuals to be local champions for positive change.

There are a huge variety of charities and groups in Bassetlaw that all need volunteers to ensure they are able to continue supporting local people.

If you would like to find out more about the different volunteering roles available in Bassetlaw please email involve@bcvs.org.uk or call 01909 476 118.

You can also visit www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteer to browse live vacancies.

Do More 2024 Community Grants Cost of Living



Community Grants for Bassetlaw - Round 3 Opening Soon

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



To find out more please mail communitygrants@bcvs.org.uk

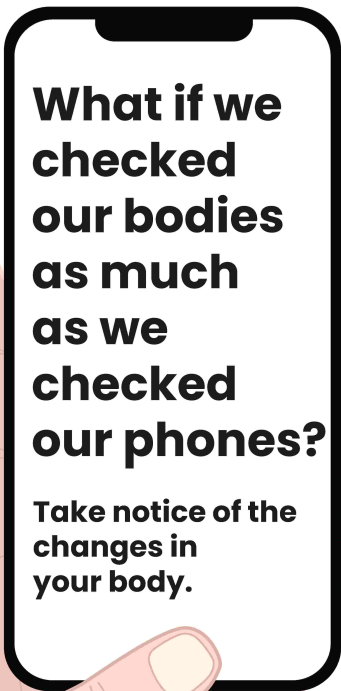


If you need support with the Cost of Living, there is a Bassetlaw support booklet available, full of information and guidance. The booklet has also been produced in braille. If you would like one, or would like some to have available in your venue, please email bcvs@bcvs.org.uk. You can also view the booklet and all the information online here:

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



**Phone screen
VS
Cancer screen**
Only one could save your life

For information and guidance on how to check for symptoms and what to do if you have concerns, visit:

www.aurorawellbeing.org.uk/cancer-info



Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Firstly, an Editor's apology for talking about Christmas when we are well into Spring! However...

Although Christmas now seems an age ago, your Editor can't let yet another great local event, Clarbrough's Christmas Tree Lighting Fair 2023, go without some overdue thanks.

First and foremost our whole community must thank both Amy Johnson and Donna Webster for their fantastic organisation skills that pulled all of the many parts of the event together so effectively and efficiently.

Thanks must also go to Steve Banks and the Clarbrough Scouts Group for their support in decorating our village hall – and clearing up afterwards! Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council also provided support including the selection boxes presented during the evening as well as the outdoor lighting and Clarbrough & District Community Association provided free use of our Hall for the event.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we must also thank Father Christmas for his usual, outstanding, presence – see you again soon!

Looking forward we must also express some anxieties in that without more volunteers stepping forward to take on tasks that have been concentrated with Amy and Donna, it is quite likely that Christmas 2024 will have to do without another Clarbrough Fair. If you would like to become a 'Christmas volunteer', please do get in touch with either your Parish Council or even your editor.



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Editor



Forthcoming Retford events

- 12th-16th February* Festival of Science & Curiosity
- 7th April Retford Healthy Sunday
- 6th May Retford Charter Day
- 8th June Retford Literary Festival
- 21st June Make Music Day
- 21st September Cheese Festival
- 16-17th Nov Babworth Arts Festival
- 24th November Christmas Market 10:00-18:00
- 8th or 15th Dec Retford Rotary's Santa Fun Run
- 12th December Winter Festival of Light/Late night shopping 16:30-19:00

*Nottinghamshire schools half-term.



Clarbrough might welcome careful drivers...

but how careful are you expected to be after negotiating the pot-hole-riddled length of the A620 between Retford and Clarbrough?

The science of patching these potholes seems to have escaped whoever is responsible for managing these road repairs. Have you noticed how the slightly larger, much flatter, patches coming from Retford just past the Hop Pole have remained

essentially undamaged for months while those 'lumps' on the way into Retford, just round 'Welham corner', seem to get worse very quickly?

A bit of science suggests that a vehicle hitting one of these 'lumps' will generate quite a force on the lump, initially hitting it forward and then giving a substantial impact downwards on the surface just beyond the lump as it drops. These forces would initially drive forward and then hit downwards, the whole set tending to break the tarmac around and particularly just beyond the lump. Have you noticed how the damage seems to move forward over time?

It seems to me that development of a more sophisticated small 'patching' device would make patches flat to the adjacent 'good' surfaces even when the patch is pretty small. This ought to lead to longer-lasting small repairs until more extensive resurfacing can be costed.

Just as we were going to press, BBC News had an article about just such research! Read their report here... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-67957584>

To report damaged roads: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/report-a-road-or-pavement-problem> or phone 0300 500 8080

Editor

Retford Big Market Days

- 17th February 16th March 20th April
- 18th May 15th June 20th July
- 17th August 21st September
- 19th October 16th November 21st December

Retford Library's Poetry Café

Magic and Myths

Monday 19th February 2pm-3.30pm

Join Retford Library staff for a relaxing afternoon of poetry.

Bring along a poem on the theme and/or a favourite of your choice to share or just come along and listen to others.

£1 to include refreshments. Booking advised

For more information and to book your place, contact Retford Library on 01777 708724 / retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Clarbrough & Welham Parish Council Meetings

- 19th February, 2024
- 25th March
- 29th April

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, 2025.

Newsletter 2024 editorial deadlines

- 15th April (Summer issue)
- 15th July (Autumn issue)

Newsletter Advertising rates for a whole year of four consecutive issues

Full page	£125.00
Half page	£75.00
Quarter page	£45.00
This size	£25.00

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

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