

*the*STAR



February 2026

Issue 480

All we
need is
love!

INSIDE: Memory Group marks a great year and Café Hub raises £200 for hospices



**We need more volunteers for both of our groups!
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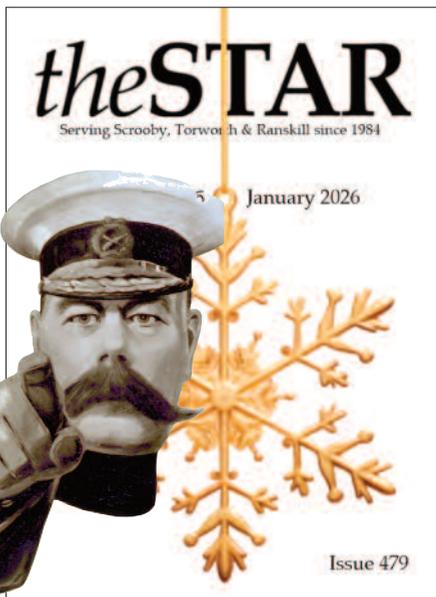
The Knowledge

The North Notts Wildlife Trust group wishes a happy new year to all its members and supporters. **Plus:** 2nd Ranskill Scouts return - *page 7*

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theteam

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The Minutes

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Have your say

Do you have something you feel passionate about and would like to share with our community? We welcome contributions from readers who want to tell their story or express their views. If you'd like to contribute, please email your article to us at copy4star@yahoo.co.uk, or give your written piece to your village representative. Please keep submissions to around 350 words and ensure we receive your copy in good time for the following month's publication.

firstwords



Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed the festive break and have settled into the new year.

It feels good to be back in print after our combined December and January hiatus, ready to bring you all the latest news from Scrooby, Torworth and Ranskill.

As we kick off our reporting for 2026, The STAR is still looking for wonderful people to join our volunteer team. If you have a little spare time and have ever fancied getting involved in your local community magazine, there is no better time to reach out.

We need reliable distributors for monthly walks around Scrooby, Ranskill, and Torworth – perfect for staying fit while meeting neighbours. Most routes take about an hour and can be done at your own pace. We're also seeking editorial helpers to assist

On a practical note, there have been some changes to waste collection locally. If you are curious about the new glass recycling bins you may have seen appearing, you might like to turn to the Last Words column at the back of this issue for more info.

As always, please keep sending your stories, photos and updates to copy4star@yahoo.co.uk.

Here's to a bright start to the rest of the year!

George

Kevin Fletcher

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Email:

steve.mccroakam@virgin.net

or **07906075648**

WARM SPACES IN SCROOBY 2026



Ripples and **Warm Spaces** have again started in Scrooby Village Hall. *Ripples* happens on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month and Warm Spaces on the first, third and fifth.

If you would like a little time out, in pleasant company with a cup of tea and cake, please join us. **Both are open to everyone.**

The venue is Scrooby Village Hall.

The day is Tuesday

The time is 1.30pm to 3.00pm

There is no charge but a small donation towards costs will help.

Dates for the first few months of Warm Spaces 2026 are:

February 3rd

February 17th

March 3rd

March 17th

March 31st

All are welcome

Scrooby Cinema

It is with great regret we announce the closure of the Scrooby Community Cinema. This comes as a result of the steady decline in the numbers attending and the understanding that the cinema club is unable to compete with the many other forms of video entertainment so widely available to people today.

the knowledge

Wildlife trust group to discuss nature recovery

The North Nottinghamshire Local Group of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust wishes a happy new year to all its members and supporters.

Reflecting on the festive season, the group noted how impressive it was to see so many people choosing to make charitable donations instead of giving presents this year—a gesture that saves scarce resources and supports vital causes, whether that be ancient woodlands, bumblebees, or young carers.

In early 2026, the local group turns from festive jollies back to its programme of talks, which will run through to the AGM in April.

The first talk will be hosted by representatives of Notts County Council, who will present on "Nottinghamshire's Nature Recovery Programme."

This promises to be a fascinating discussion, particularly regarding how the strategy interacts with the house-building programmes currently in full swing across the region.

The group encourages residents to search online for the "Nottinghamshire's Nature Recovery Strategy" to get a background on the topic, and then come along to the meeting to hear directly from the experts and ask questions.

If you have not already done so, you are invited to sign up for email updates to receive news on the group's talks and activities directly to your inbox. You do not need to be a member to sign up. For more information, or to register for email updates, please phone Jan on 01777 709974 or 07969 180067, or email jan-williamson133@gmail.com.

2nd Ranskill Scouts return with space travel and hikes

It is good to be back scouting for the 2nd Ranskill group. The sections have returned from their Christmas break full of energy, enthusiasm, and only minimal confusion about what day of the week it is. During the holidays, the younger sections enjoyed a fantastic trip to a pantomime. It was a big highlight for the group, complete with plenty of laughter, audience participation, and the timeless joy of shouting at the stage.

The group is already excited about next year's panto trip. Looking ahead, there are plenty of fun things happening. The Squirrels and Beavers have an upcoming sleepover



planned at the National Space Centre, where they will be exploring planets, rockets, and all things out of this world.

Leaders are expecting lots of big questions, space facts, and possibly a few future astronauts in the making.

Meanwhile, the Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers have already been busy stretching their legs with a night hike. Armed with torches, teamwork, and impressive navigation skills, they embraced the challenge brilliantly and showed real confidence out on the trail. It was a fantastic achievement and proof that scouting doesn't stop when the sun goes down.

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Wednesday (Memory) Group reflects on a great year

The Wednesday (Memory) Group wishes a happy new year to all its members, friends and supporters.

It has been a very good year for the group; most long-term members are still attending, and several new ones have joined and seem to appreciate the sessions.

The group is also pleased that most of their fabulous volunteers remain with them, and they have recently been joined by a new recruit.

The focus is still very much on enjoyment and friendship, so there is always plenty of time for cups of tea, biscuits and a natter.

Almost all sessions include live music, and the group is fortunate to have a wide range of musicians prepared to entertain; the members love to get up and dance or sit and sing along.

Following the Christmas break — the only time the group closes — they reopened on Wednesday 7th January.

Sessions include a friendly welcome, music, a nice lunch and plenty of conversation. If you care for someone with dementia, have a diagnosis yourself, or simply want to know more, please get in touch.

There is a short waiting list at present, but the team is looking into ways of accommodating more people.

The cost is £10 per session which includes lunch, and your first visit is free.

For the latest on availability, please contact Jan on 01777 709974 or 07969 180067, or email janwilliamson133@gmail.com.

Useful contacts



Guides: Sandra McIvor
07876 787959

Brownies & Rainbows:
Janet Symonds
01777 818713

Scouts: Mark Mounde
01427 849130

Cubs: Mark Mounde
01427 849130

Beavers: Ieuan
07778 702914

Methodist Church:
Circuit Office:
01777 702786
(Mon, Tues, Thurs. 9.30 -
3.00)

Bawtry Amateur Dramatic
Society: Louella Chester-
man:
07754 547652

Scrooby Village Hall:
Izzi Marshall
01302 719190

Torworth & Ranskill &
Scrooby Allotment Ass'n
Stephen Cole:
01777 818779

Bassetlaw Cardiac Sup-
port Group:
Christine Coldwell
01909 730629

Ranskill & Torworth After-
noon Fellowship Club:
Carol Head
01777 705077

Ranskill Top Shop:
01777 818864

Mattersey (with Ranskill)
Wraparound and Holiday
Club:
01777 817265 / 07973
870299
office28@mattersey.notts.sch.uk
wraparound@mattersey.notts.sch.uk

Ranskill Bowls Club:
Simon Wallis
07876 285593

Ranskill Investment Club:
David Smith
01777 818400

Ranskill Nursery Pre-
school:
Rachel Clayton
01777 816066

Ranskill Primary School,
Head Teacher, Mrs J
Throssell,
01777 818468

Ranskill Reading Room:
Peter Parkin
01777 818852

Ranskill & Torworth W.I:
Pat Blatchford
01777 818519

Neighbourhood Watch
Representatives In Ran-
skill: Barry Bown
01777 816325

Scrooby: Alyson Gold-
smith
07507 493430

Ranskill Parish Council:
Bryn Kinsey
07305 129849

Scrooby Parish Council:
Tony Smith
07974 836978

Torworth Parish Council:
Claire Challener
07557 104323

District Councillors:
Ranskill & Torworth:
David Bamford
Scrooby: Jack Bowker
County Councillors:
Ranskill & Torworth:
Tracy Taylor
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07770 847086

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Café Hub raises £200 for local hospices

The Café Hub team would like to wish everyone a happy new year for 2026.

They have issued a huge thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas session in December.

It was very well attended, with special thanks going to Kay and Chris for their stalls of gifts, cards and plants, and to the ukulele duo, Lynne and Paul, for providing the seasonal music.

Thanks to the generous donations for refreshments and the raffle, the morning raised £200.

This total has been split between two local charities, Bassetlaw Hospice and Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, who were both delighted to receive the donations.

It was also great to see so many residents

turn out on a very cold and frosty morning for the January gathering, creating a warm atmosphere inside despite the weather.

The next Café hub will be held on Saturday 14th February – Valentine's Day – from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Penny Trail raises £2,675

The Mile of Pennies at Saint Barnabas Church in Ranskill has started the year with a bump, having raised £2,675 and now stretching 3 miles and 812 yards and climbing!

"Over the months I have found £10 worth of 5p coins in your bags of pennies," said organiser Joy Tudberry. "Added to our total, that's an extra 22.7 yards nearer Bawtry! Happy New Year to all of us, from all of us!"

Ranskill and Torworth W.I. to host women's aid speaker

Ranskill and Torworth W.I. will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday 24th February 2026.

The group meets at St. Barnabas church on the Great North road in Ranskill, and proceedings will commence at 2pm.

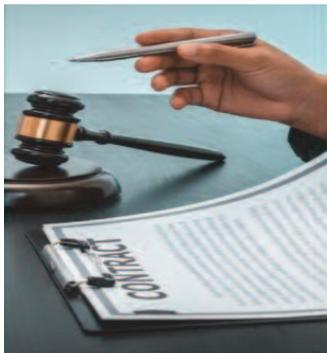
The guest speaker for the afternoon is Benita Nelson from Nottinghamshire Women's Aid, who will be giving a talk on the subject of abuse. For further information about the meeting, please ring Pat Blatchford on 01777 818519.



The STAR wants you!

The STAR is still looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help keep our three villages connected through local journalism.

We need reliable distributors for monthly walks around Scrooby, Ranskill, and Torworth – perfect for staying fit while meeting neighbours. Most routes take about an hour and can be done at your own pace. We're also seeking editorial helpers to assist. While unpaid, volunteers say the rewards come from being part of the village conversation and seeing their work appreciated across the community. Contact us copy4star@yahoo.co.uk to find out more. No experience necessary – just enthusiasm for keeping our villages connected!



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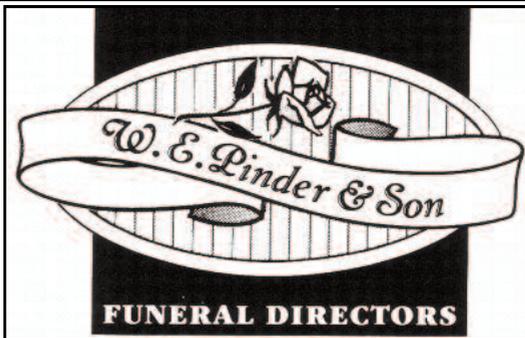
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Opinion: Does Scrooby need Warm Spaces?

For three years, Scrooby Village Hall has opened its doors on Tuesday afternoons for 'Ripples' and 'Warm Spaces', alternating each week.

Starting post-Covid, the two organisers originally had different motivations, with Warm Spaces being there to encourage people to venture out and join in.

I think it is safe to say that both organisations have achieved their aims, albeit with small and changing attendees.

So, why am I asking the question: "Does Scrooby need Warm Spaces?" The Village Hall is opened every other week for a small group of people; is this a sensible use of the hall?

Could they not meet more conveniently in someone's house? If you ask those coming regularly, I feel sure that the answer would be: "Keep Warm Spaces."

They say that getting out and meeting others is what is important. So, I shall ask another, more relevant question: "How do we encourage more people to join us?" Do people know or understand why we exist? Does the name put people off? Should we "re-brand"? Would "The Scrooby Café" or some similar name be more attractive? Would having activities such as games, quizzes or films be of interest?

I do not have the answer to these questions but, in talking with others — especially those who do come each Tuesday — I am sure there are more people who would enjoy an hour or so with others, a cup of tea, cake and a chat.

So to answer my original question: Yes, I believe Scrooby needs Warm Spaces.

While this article appears to be addressed to Scrooby, many of those attending over the past three years have come from Ranskill, Torworth, Bawtry and further afield.

Warm Spaces, or whatever it might be known as in the future, is open to all. There is no charge, although donations help with running costs.

- *Stephen Lincoln*



Obituary: Robert 'Bob' Blatchford

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Robert Blatchford, known to many as Bob, who passed away on Sunday 11th January aged 90 years.

Bob was well known in the community, having lived an incredible life. His maritime service included working as a radio officer in the Merchant Navy and holding a commission in the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) as a

Lieutenant Commander. He was also the commanding officer of the Worksop Sea Cadets. Locally, Bob was the managing director of Norseman Yacht Fittings in Retford.

He served the community for many years as a magistrate at both Worksop and Retford courthouses. He also dedicated his time to education at Retford Oaks School, serving as both a school governor and an exam invigilator.

In his later years, he was a past president of Retford Probus Club and a member of the Retford U3A.

He was a family man who lived life to the full. There will be a private family funeral. However, if anyone wishes to make a donation in his memory, please forward cheques made payable to the RNLI via W.E. Pinder and Son, Bawtry.



Happy New Year 2026 from The Café Hub

A huge 'Thank you' to all who came to the
Christmas Café Hub in December.

It was very well attended and a good time was had by all.
Thank you to Kay and Chris for their stalls of lovely gifts, cards
and plants.

Our friends The Ukulele Duo, Lynne and Paul, provided us
again with some very enjoyable seasonal music.

With the kind and generous donations for the Tea Coffee and
Cakes, together with the Raffle, we raised £200 and have split
this between the local charities -Bassetlaw Hospice and
Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.

Both Charities were delighted and thankful to receive the
donations.

It was great to see so many turn out on a very cold and frosty
morning for the January Café Hub. It may have been cold
outside but there was a lovely, warm atmosphere inside.

**Our next Café Hub will be on
Saturday February 14th 10.30 -12.30.**

*Thank you again for continuing to support us
from The Café Hub Team xx*

goodtimes

Thursday 5th February

Thursday Afternoon - February Jump Racing, Doncaster Racecourse, 11:00am. Catch some thrilling turf jump racing this Thursday afternoon at Doncaster. From £19.50.

Splish Splash, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. All Bruce wants is a few minutes' peace to enjoy a quiet, relaxing bath, but events conspire against him in this wild, fast-moving romp in the best farcical tradition. Runs until 7th February. From £12.

War of the Worlds, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. H.G. Wells's classic novel retold by imitating the dog. Four performers enter the stage with cameras and construct an epic road movie before our eyes. Runs until 7th February. From £17.50.

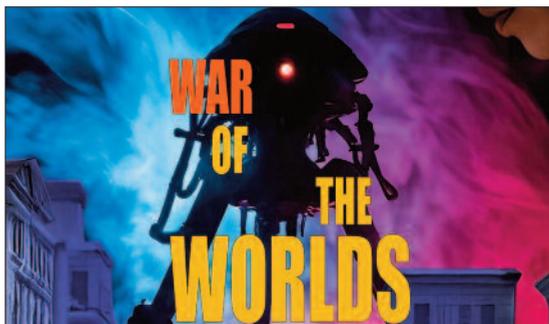
Friday 6th February

Frankie, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. Frankie The Concert is a Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons Theatre Show with a difference. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 14+.

Grossbusters, Acorn Theatre, Worksop, 1:30pm & 6:00pm. St. Luke's Primary School proudly presents 'GROSSBUSTERS: The Monster Musical!' £6. Duration about 1.5 hours.

Saturday 7th February

The Festival of British Railway Modelling, Doncaster Racecourse, 9:30am. The UK's premier celebration of model railways. Advance booking allows early entry at 9:30am, 30 minutes before general admission. Runs through 8th February. From £16.



War of the Worlds, Cast Theatre

Guided Tour of DGLAM, Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, 2:00pm. Free, booking required. Donations welcome.

Sunday 8th February

Ballads by Candlelight, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. Presented by Majestic Productions in aid of the Majestic Theatre. Every penny raised goes straight back into the Majestic Theatre. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 14+.

Tuesday 10th February

That'll Be the Day, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. 40th Year Anniversary Tour - Don't miss this unforgettable performance celebrating the 40th Anniversary of That'll Be the Day and Trevor's farewell tour. From £22.

Wednesday 11th February

Tiny Tim's Stand Up Adventures, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. 8 years ago Tiny Tim decided to go on his own adventure through adult life. Runs until 12th February. From £25.

Friday 13th February

Afternoon Cabaret, Doncaster Little Theatre, 2:00pm. An Afternoon of Live Entertainment! Compiled by Robert Craig. Bands, Comedians, Magicians, Vocalists and ventriloquists. £9.



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The Name of the Dame, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. Dames, detectives, stylish hats, "car chases"... this parody of the film noir genre has got a gag rate that fires faster than a Tommy-gun. From £12.

The Magic of The Beatles, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Come together, right now - it's time to shake it up baby with the concert show of the year. From £24.

Saturday 14th February

If You Can't Give Me Suzi Quatro, Doncaster Little Theatre, 8:00pm. Presented by Sami Q & The 48 Crashers. From £15.

Talon - The Best of Eagles, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. BUSY BEING FABULOUS '25/26. World class seven-piece band. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 12+.

Sunday 15th February

Jack off the Beanstalk - Adult Panto, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. HAPPY ENDING PANTOMIMES Award Winning ADULT PANTOMIME! Doors open 7pm.

Tuesday 17th February

Tales From The Lighthouse, Cast Theatre, 11:00am & 1:00pm. Perfect voyage for children aged 5+ and their families. From £12.

Magical Mayhem Show, Acorn Theatre, Worksop, 11:00am & 2:00pm. Andy & Lewis presents another great new show. £6. Duration about 1 hour 30 mins.

Wednesday 18th February

The Three Little Pigs - The Musical, Cast Theatre, 3:00pm. Get ready for a heart-warming adventure in this fresh, lively, family-friendly musical! From £13.50.

Retford library hosts love-themed poetry café

Retford Library is inviting locals to join staff for a relaxing afternoon of verse next month at their Poetry Café.

The session will take place on Monday 23rd February from 2pm to 3.30pm, exploring the theme: "Love makes the world go round."

Attendees are invited to bring along a poem on the theme, as well as a favourite choice of their own to share with the group.

Alternatively, residents are welcome to just come along, sit back, and listen to others. Tickets cost £1, which includes refreshments.

Booking is advised to guarantee a spot. For more information or to book your place, please contact Retford Library on 01777 708724 or email retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk.

Thursday 19th February

The Take That Experience, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. As Take That celebrate over 30 years as the UK's number one boy band, The Take That Experience mark over a decade together as their most popular and recognised tribute act. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 14+ accompanied with an adult.

A Whole New World, Acorn Theatre, Worksop, 2:00pm & 7:00pm. S&D School of Dance present their fourth main show - an enchanting dance spectacular inspired by the timeless tale of Aladdin. Runs until 21st February. £15. Duration about 2.5 hours.

Friday 20th February

Mo Gilligan 2026, Doncaster Dome, 7:00pm. Off the back of his acclaimed In The Moment world tour, triple BAFTA winning stand-up sensation Mo Gilligan returns with a brand new tour, The Mo You Know. From £28.25.

Ranskill & Torworth Festival Committee

RANSKILL & TORWORTH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY

13TH OF JUNE 2026

PIE & PEA QUIZ NIGHT

- Friday the 27th of March
- 7pm for 7.15pm start
- Pie & peas served at 7.45PM
- St Barnabas Church, Ranskill.
- BYOB
- Raffle prizes & more

EVERYONE WELCOME

NEXT MEETING – EVERYONE WELCOME

**Tuesday 10th of February –
7.30pm Blue Bell pub**

CONTACT US –



ranskillandtorworthfestival@gmail.com



ranskillandtorworthfestivalnews



ranskillandtorworthfestival



Fastlove - The Tribute to George Michael, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Direct from London's West End, the world's favourite George Michael celebration. From £24.

Saturday 21st February

The Chicago Blues Brothers, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. The Chicago Blues Brothers are back - tearing the roof off the Country Bunker! From £19.50.

Made in Motor City, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:45pm. The beat of a nation and the sound of a generation. From £18.

Rave On - The Ultimate 50s & 60s Experience, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. The 50s and 60s musical sensation sweeping the nation. Charting the meteoric rise of Rock and Roll, a thrilling tour through music's most revolutionary decades. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 7+.

Sunday 22nd February

Circus Spectacular, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 3:00pm. The Circus Is Coming To Town! Featuring International Circus Acts, Amazing Magic & Lots Of Laughs. Doors open 2:30pm. Suitable for all ages.

Tuesday 24th February

Ross Noble: Cranium of Curiosities, Cast Theatre, 8:00pm. Roll up, roll up! The Wizard of Waffle, The Rambler Royale, The Noodlers' Noodler is back live on stage to tour a tornado of tangents. Recommended 15+. From £32.50.

Wednesday 25th February

Glitch - The True Story of the Post Office Scandal, Cast Theatre, 7:15pm. Inspirational true story created with sub-postmistresses and masters affected by the events. From £18.

Comedy and murder at Bawtry Phoenix theatre

'Death by Design', a "comedy with murder" by Rob Urbinati, is coming to Bawtry Phoenix theatre from 5th to 12th March at 7.30pm.

Described as a mash-up of Noël Coward's wit and Agatha Christie's intricate plotting, the play is set in a 1932 English country manor.

Playwright Edward Bennett and his wife Sorel flee London for a quiet weekend, only to be interrupted by unexpected guests, secrets, and a murder mystery.

Tickets are £11 and are on sale now via wegottickets.com/BAWTRYPHOENIXTHEATRE or at the theatre box office on Monday mornings.

Carmen, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. The most powerful, enjoyable, and tuneful opera. Music by Georges Bizet. Sung in French with English surtitles. From £24.50.

Thursday 26th February

Business Showcase, Doncaster Racecourse, 10:00am. The Doncaster Business Showcase 2026 is the perfect place to make new contacts, network and browse. Taking place 10am-4pm. Free to attend as a visitor.

Celine Dion meets Elvis Presley, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. Lisa Press presents From £18.

Friday 27th February

Mansion House Open Day, Mansion House, 10:30am. Friends of the Mansion House leading tours around the building. Open until 2pm. No booking required. Free.

Afternoon Cabaret, Doncaster Little Theatre, 2:00pm. An Afternoon of Live Entertainment! Compered by Robert Craig along with two different guest acts! Bands, Comedians, Magicians, Vocalists and ventriloquists. £9.

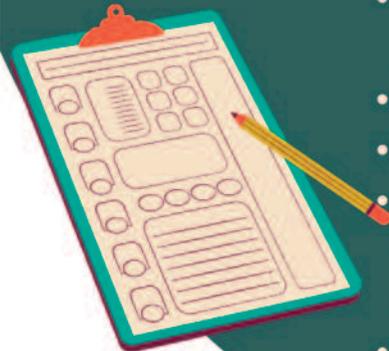
Ranskill and Torworth Festival
Committee



PIE & PEA QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY THE 27TH OF
MARCH

- Friday 27th of March
- 19.00pm doors open for 19:15pm start
- St Barnabas Church, Ranskill.
- £10.00 per ticket
- Come along and join us for an evening of fun, delicious food and great company!
- Contact us on the details below to book your place, tickets selling fast.



EVENT ADDRESS-

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH,
RANSKILL, RETFORD DN22
8NN**

CONTACT US -

**EMAIL:
RANSKILLANDTORWORTHFESTIVAL@GMAIL.COM**

PHONE: 07882 938 114



Tom Meighan RAW, Askern Miner's Welfare Club, 7:00pm. Tom Meighan brings his RAW tour to the Askern Miners Welfare Club, offering fans an intimate night with the former Kasabian frontman. £25 plus booking fee.

In The Mood For Love, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:00pm. Revered across the world as one of the greatest films of all time, Wong Kar-wai's timeless masterpiece. From £7.

The Dazzling Diamonds - Comedy Drag Show, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Prepare to be dazzled! Smash hit comedy variety drag show. From £22.50.

Tap Factory, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. Eight extraordinary male performers deliver a sensational blend of dance, acrobatics, music, and comedy. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 7+.

Saturday 28th February

The Death of the Great Detective, Cast Theatre, 2:00pm. The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes is dead! Or is he? Fun, frivolity and fatalities guaranteed! From £17.

Fleetwood Mac Legacy - Go Your Own Way, Doncaster Dome, 6:45pm. Brand new spell-

Fleetwood Mac Legacy - Go Your Own Way, Doncaster Dome.

binding show featuring the music from the legendary multiple Grammy Award Winning Fleetwood Mac. Paying tribute to their "Rumours" line up of Stevie, Mick, John, Christine & Lindsey. From £31.25.

Guns N Jovi, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. An evening of the most popular hit songs from Bon Jovi and Guns N Roses. Get ready to party like it's 1989! From £18.

Love's Deadly Affair Murder Mystery Night!, Highfield Coffee Social, 7:30pm. A Valentine's Murder Mystery Dinner. When the charismatic and mysterious Victor Valentine is found dead at his own extravagant Valentine's Day dinner, an evening meant for love quickly descends into chaos. Includes welcome drink on arrival, delicious 2-course meal, and full immersive murder mystery experience. From £55.

The Big Pants Party, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. The ultimate ladies night out, celebrating the iconic soundtrack of a lifetime of fun, love and friendship. Nostalgic journey as you relive the amazing music that helped create bonds that will last a lifetime. Doors open 7pm.



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Your Star signs for February



Aries: A burst of romantic or creative ambition hits you mid-month. Whether it's booking a table at the local bistro or finally fixing that leaky tap as a "gift," ensure your enthusiasm doesn't outpace your actual stamina. The universe suggests pace, not race.

Taurus: Valentine's Day is merely an excuse for a particularly good cheese board. You'll likely ignore the overpriced, wilting roses in favour of something sensible, like a new pair of thermal socks or a very sturdy bird feeder. Comfort is your true love.

Gemini: You will be the primary source of intelligence regarding who received an anonymous card in the parish. Your investigative skills are sharp, but remember that some secrets are best kept under your hat—or at least shared only over a quiet gin.

Cancer: Emotionally, you're tuned into the sentimental side of the month. You might find yourself re-reading old letters or keeping a card from 1984 "just because." Ensure the heating is up; nostalgia is best served warm and with a sturdy biscuit.

Leo: Expect to be the centre of attention, even if you're only wearing your finest winter coat to the post office. If a grand romantic gesture isn't forthcoming from others, you're perfectly capable of treating yourself to something suitably magnificent.

Virgo: You see right through the commercialism of February. While others fret over overpriced lilies, you'll be focused on the practical emerging signs of spring. Spotting the first snowdrop is far more rewarding than any mass-produced card with a glittery heart.

Libra: The quest for the perfect Valentine's message could consume hours. Is "Warmest wishes" too cold? Is "With love" too bold? Eventually, the cosmos suggests that a simple, legible signature and a first-class stamp will suffice. Don't overthink the ink.

Scorpio: Your intuition about people's true feelings is heightened. You'll likely spot a burgeoning romance at the village hall before the participants even know it themselves. Use this knowledge with your usual, slightly terrifying discretion and a knowing wink.

Sagittarius: A yearning for the Great Outdoors strikes, regardless of the drizzle. You'd far rather be on a bracing hilltop than in a crowded restaurant. Pack a thermos and tell anyone who complains that there is simply no such thing as bad weather.

Capricorn: Tradition is your anchor. You'll appreciate the old-fashioned way of doing things, even if it means paying by cheque for a Valentine's meal. You'll also be the one reminding everyone that the days are, mercifully, getting a little longer.

Aquarius: Your approach to romance remains, as ever, entirely unique. An 'innovative' gift involving a repurposed household item or a very specific gardening tool might not land as intended, but your heart is clearly in the right, slightly eccentric place.

Pisces: You may find yourself lost in a dreamy reverie about past loves or fictional heroes. Don't let the grey February sky dampen your spirits; a bit of harmless daydreaming is much cheaper than a weekend in Venice and requires fewer vaccinations.



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

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Promote independence from a young age to make sure that your children are school ready.

Develop good relationships with each child and parent based on open communication and mutual respect.

Develop a positive outlook towards school, a better appreciation of the world around them and acquire a lifelong love for learning.

For further information please call the school office on 01777 818468
or email administration@ranskill.notts.sch.uk

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Will visit the villages on the following dates:

Ranskill and Torworth—Friday, 13th February

Ranskill -

Grange Cottage-Blyth Road	10.25 - 10.35	Station Road No 7	12.20 - 12.30
Whitton Close	10.40 - 10.55	Station Avenue No 57	13.40 - 14.00
Arundel Drive / Oaks Close	11.00 - 11.40	Torworth Holds Lane	14.10 - 14.25
Arundel Drive No 38	11.45 - 12.15	Torworth Underwood Ave	14.30 - 14.50

Scrooby - Tuesday 24th February

Station Road / Low Road 14.45 - 15.15

For information about requested titles or particular items of stock, please contact: 01909 535353. email: worksop.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Christian perspective: Family

My family is very important to me—my children, grandchildren, sisters, nephews and nieces.

Even when I don't see them for some time, when we do meet up we just pick up where we left off and enjoy being together. I may not see or talk to my sister for several months, if we are both busy and as we don't live close too each other, but it doesn't make any difference. Because we are related we are connected by being in the same family.

Something I have discovered over the years is that it is the same in the family of God. The Bible tells us that when we put our trust in Jesus Christ and receive him as our Saviour, he gives us the right to become the children of God. I've lived in quite a few places in the UK and in other countries, but I have never lacked 'brothers' and 'sisters' nearby, because wherever there are Christians that's where I've found my 'family'.

In Mark chapter 3, when Jesus was told that his mother and brothers were outside wanting him, he asked "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Then he looked round at those who were seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."



The nearer we draw to God through faith in Jesus, the nearer we will draw to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Even if we don't have any close family of our own, we can all enjoy this closeness of being part of the family of God.

But this is not all. There's a very precious promise that we read in John's first letter. He writes this: *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* 1 John 3:2.

There is something greater coming as we continue in our faith. Paul explains in Romans 8:29: *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.* This is our Father God's ultimate purpose to make us like his Son.

* Brenda Critchley

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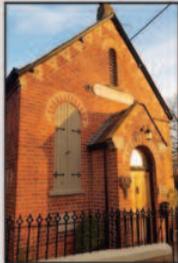
Your February Sudoku puzzle

Sudoku is a number placement puzzle. The aim of Sudoku is to complete the grid by entering numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell of the 9x9 grid which comprises 9 sub-grids each with 9 cells in a 3x3 pattern.

Each row, column and sub-grid must contain only one instance of each number.

Solution on page 34.

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Your February STAR pop-up pub quiz

1. On average, how many marriage proposals are there on Valentine's Day?
2. In what country is Valentine's Day known as "Friend's Day"?
3. Who released the song "Can't Help Falling in Love" in 1961?
- 4 "Where is the Love" is a song by which band?
5. The oldest living love poem was written on what?
6. Which fruit is also known as the love apple?
7. What country has a tradition in which women give men chocolates on Valentine's Day?
8. Who sang the 1966 hit "When a Man Loves a Woman"?
9. In China, Valentine's Day is called lovers festival – True or False?
10. Love Heart sweets are made by which confectionary company?
11. Who abolished Valentine's Day in the 17th Century?
12. "My Valentine" featured Natalie Portman in its video, who sang it?
13. In which country are Saint Valentine keys given?
14. Which actress played Juliet in the film Love Actually?



15. In what year did Hallmark first start selling Valentine's Day cards?
16. What song did Billboard name as the top love song of all time?
17. In Denmark what flowers are gifted instead of roses?
18. What is widely regarded as the most beautiful monument to love ever made?
19. The play Romeo & Juliet is set in which Italian city?
20. "What's Love Got to do With It" was a 1984 hit for which singer?

Answers on page 34.

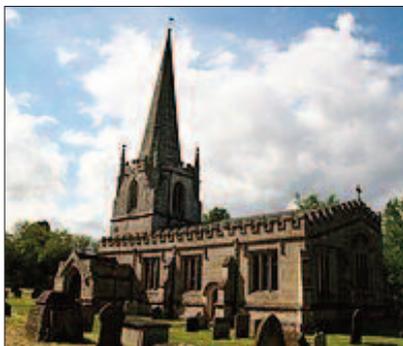
Church notices for February

Church Notices for November 2025
(CW = Common Worship, HC = Holy Communion, BCP = Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 1st
Ranskill – 9.30am CW HC
Sunday 8th
Blyth – 9.30am CWHC
Sunday 15th
Ranskill – 9.30am CW HC
Sunday 22nd
Blyth – 9.30 CW HC

Churches are open, and all are welcome to services, please wear a mask if you feel safer.

If you would like to arrange a baptism, wedding, funeral or other function, please contact one of the churchwardens:
Ranskill, David Stacey 01777 818303; Scrooby, Gordon Ashworth 01777 818322.



New Year's Revolution

January comes to fill the street
With ice and snow that chill the
feet.

Come the start of each New Year, it
Takes away all Christmas spirit.
Every year it feels the same
And two-faced Janus takes the
blame.

Overcoming every measure
Tried, to keep the Seasons pleasure.

Any wonder Resolution
Soon submits to Dissolution.

How do we cope with that which pleases
When the very life-blood freezes?
All new-found determination
Quickly sees extermination.
Not to worry, not to fear
More resolute we'll be -- next year!



Scene In Perspective

Will you be my Valentine?
Will you let our hearts entwine?
Regardless of what comes to pass? –
Wig on bedknob, teeth in glass?
Wooden leg, glass eye benign? --
Won't you be my Valentine?

Joy T

Joy T

The STAR recipe: Chocolate Cinnamon Biscuits

Ingredients

-8oz butter
-4oz caster sugar
-8oz self-raising flour
-2oz cocoa
-½ teasp cinnamon
-1 teasp vanilla essence

Method

Cream fat and sugar then add
flour, cinnamon and cocoa.

Blend together and stir in
vanilla.

Roll 1 teasp at a time into a ball
and place on greased sheet 2
inches apart.

Press flat with a fork dipped in
cold water.

Bake at 350°F for 12 mins.

Allow to cool slightly before
removing from tray.



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Scouts

2nd Ranskill



Happy New Year from 2nd Ranskill Scout Group!

All our sections have returned with **enthusiasm** for a busy 2026. We ended last year with **scuba diving**, but our **Scouts** and **Explorers** have now swapped flippers for compasses. They are continuously mastering advanced map-reading in preparation for the upcoming **NESST Walk** and an **expedition to Scotland** in **May**.

Squirrels

BEAVERS

We **believe** in **learning** at every age. Leaders **Steve Taulks** and **'Skip'** recently attended a **rigorous navigation course** in the **Lake District** to prepare for these challenges. While Steve picked up the new techniques **instantly**, Skip noted it was a **humbling** reminder that leading young people up hills over 500m requires constant practice and skill updates!

Elsewhere in the group, our **Squirrels** and **Beavers** are excited for a **sleepover** at the **National Space Centre** next month, while **Cubs** are tackling **practical outdoor skills**. We will all come together for our Annual Group Camp in July.

Cubs

Scouts

Thank you to our local community for your continued support.

It is your backing that allows us to provide these adventures safely.

EXPLORERS





**MINUTES OF THE TORWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT SCROOBY VILLAGE HALL -
Monday October 27th, 2025 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT

Chair: C. Willis

Vice-Chair: J Helliwell

Councillors: R. Willis, D Lacey

County Councillor: M Robertson

District Councillor: A McCallum

Members of the public: 2

OPEN FORUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident raises the issue of a tree on the Danehill Road verge requiring trimming, the pothole on Holds Lane, and the changing in speed zones throughout the area.

01/1125 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chair opens the meeting welcoming everyone.

02/1125 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

03/1125 CRIME REPORT

- x0 Crime reported for August 2025

04/1125 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Andrew McCallum updates on district matters.

County Councillor Mike Robertson introduces himself, and updates on County matters.

Please contact your District or County councillor direct for further information on the issues reported or to raise issues direct with them.

05/1125 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as accurate and as a true record of proceedings.

06/1125 COUNCILLOR RAISED ITEMS, MATTERS ARISING DURING THE MONTH & ONGOING MATTERS

The appointment of the Village Warden in noted.

It is agreed for Cllr R Willis to replant the self-set ash tree in the playing field hedging as appropriate.

It is agreed for Cllr Helliwell to cut the playing field hedge.

07/1125 FINANCE

The Bank Reconciliation is passed for review.

Payments presented and approved for the period:

Expenditure:

Royal Property Services	£(37.50)
Jrs Tree Services	£(1,980.00)
Card CLS 58, Ww Podiatry	£(50.00)
Hugo Fox Domains - August	£(11.99)
Argos	£(70.40)

Timpsons	£(33.00)
Wm Morrisons Store	£(16.49)
Napa Auto Parts	£(8.82)
Defib Batteries	£(33.49)
Ranskill And Torworth Burial Board	£(210.00)
Playing Field - Strimmer Thread	£(19.99)
Hugo Fox	£(11.99)
Yu Energy	£4.63)
Stationery	£(11.99)
Poppies	£(50.00)
Donation-NorthNottsCfr,	£(50.00)

Receipts

Precepts £8,739.50

8/1125 AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

The playground Inspection reported is noted as received and actions addressed.

9/1125 PLANNING ISSUES DECLARED BEFORE OR AT THE MEETING

Planning Applications on consultation:
None.

Determinations from previous Applications:

DETERMINED: 24/01376/FUL
Retrospective Consent for the

Change of Use of Land for the Siting of 3 Portacabins Timber Framed Sheds/Cabins for Operations within Use Class E: **GRANT**

10/1125 CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

NALC Newsletter
BDC Call for development sites
BDC Consultation on Unitary Council

11/1125 UPDATES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

None

12/1125 INFORMATION TO BE FORWARDED TO THE NEXT MEETING & ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

FCC Grant application - January.

13/1125: DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

7.30pm – in Scrooby Village Hall
5th January 2025
2nd March 2025
4th May 2025

[For more information, or queries please contact the clerk on the below or a Parish Councillor direct.](#)

Parish Clerk: clerk@torworth-pc.gov.uk



We also have a digital edition at the-star.org.uk

Looking for village information, lots more to see in the village websites:

<https://www.ranskillparishcouncil.gov.uk>

<https://www.torworth-pc.gov.uk>

<https://www.scrooby.net/parish-council>

<https://www.scrooby.org/>



ADVERTISE WITH THE STAR

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last words

February arrives with its promise of Valentine's hearts and the first whispers of spring, though let's be honest, it's still not warm, is it? Yet there's something rather fitting about love being the theme this month, because frankly, the world seems to be in desperate need of a hug right now. And if we can't fix everything globally, we can at least show a bit of neighbourly affection locally.

Speaking of which, our community continues to demonstrate the small kindnesses that make village life worth celebrating. The social media has been relatively peaceful this month – a welcome change from the fireworks wars of autumn. Though Evri continues its mission to prove that parcel delivery is more art than science, with packages allegedly delivered at improbable times, left to soak on doorsteps, or mysteriously arriving at entirely wrong addresses. Station Road seems particularly afflicted, with parcels for Willow Close turning up there and vice versa. The regular driver apparently knows what he's doing, but the extras brought in for busy periods seem to view house numbers as mere suggestions.

Still, there's a certain village solidarity in how people track down misdelivered parcels and reunite them with their rightful owners. It's love, of a sort; the practical, unglamorous kind that keeps communities ticking along.

The real romance this month, though, is of the environmental variety. Bassetlaw Council is distributing shiny new black glass recycling bins, rolling them out across the district through February. You may have already seen them, smaller than the usual green and blue bins, dedicated entirely to wine bottles, beer bottles, sauce jars, and all manner of glass containers.



Collections begin at the end of March on a six-weekly cycle, which might require some organisation for those of us who enjoy our wine. One suspects some households will need multiple bins. The initiative is part of the government's "Simpler Recycling" scheme, which aims to standardise waste collection across the country and reduce what goes to landfill. We'll drink to that, pleased the bins will be able to cope with the celebrations.

There's something genuinely hopeful about this, isn't there? In a world that often feels chaotic and overwhelming, here's a small, practical thing we can all do. It won't solve everything, but caring for our corner of the planet is its own form of love; for our villages, our environment, and the future we're leaving behind.

After all, if love means anything, it's showing up consistently and doing the boring, necessary work. Whether that's tracking down a neighbour's wayward parcel or remembering which bin is which, these small acts of care add up.

Happy Valentine's, everyone. May your parcels arrive at the correct address and your glass recycling bin never overflow.

5	4	7	1	3	2	9	6	8
9	8	2	7	6	4	3	1	5
6	3	1	5	8	9	2	4	7
4	7	6	2	1	8	5	9	3
3	5	9	6	4	7	8	2	1
2	1	8	9	5	3	6	7	4
7	2	4	3	9	5	1	8	6
1	9	5	8	7	6	4	3	2
8	6	3	4	2	1	7	5	9

Quiz answers: 1. 220,000 2. Finland 3. Elvis Presley 4. Black Eyed Peas 5. Clay Tablet 6. Tomato 7. Japan 8. Percy Sledge 9. True 10. Swizzles 11. Oliver Cromwell 12. Paul McCartney 13. Italy 14. Keira Knightley 15. 1913 16. Endless Love by Diana Ross & Lionel Richie 17. Snowdrops 18. The Taj Mahal 19. Verona 20. Tina Turner

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