

the STAR

March 2026
Issue 481

Are
you
mad
for March?

INSIDE:

All your local
news – don't be late!



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The Knowledge

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Good Times

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March is notoriously indecisive. Which way are things going to go? - *page 38*

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.



Have you spotted our front cover this month? To celebrate the turning of the seasons, we've gone a little bit Alice in Wonderland, featuring a wonderful illustration of the Mad March Hare!

It feels rather fitting, as March always brings a bustling, slightly frantic energy to our villages as everyone shakes off the winter hibernation and gets busy outdoors again.

Amidst that mad dash of spring cleaning, this month brings a lovely moment to pause for Mothering Sunday.

We hope you have a truly special weekend celebrating the wonderful maternal figures who do so much for our community.

Speaking of dashing around, we have a question to ask people on their travels this month: did your dog win a cup or shield at the Torworth Festival and Fun Dog Show in June 2024?

If so, you are now requested to return it so it is available for the next winner! Please return trophies to Paula Hadley at Cornerstones, Low St, Torworth.

Finally, The Star is still on the lookout for fresh faces to join our volunteer team. You don't need to tumble down a rabbit hole to get involved, just a little spare time!

Please keep your stories coming to copy4star@yahoo.co.uk.

Have a vibrant March, and don't be late for those very important dates!

George

the knowledge

Wildlife trust group to explore the secrets of ancient woodlands

Another of Nottinghamshire's woodlands is the subject of the upcoming March talk hosted by the North Nottinghamshire Local Group of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

This time, the focus is on Ploughman's Wood, an ancient woodland on the edge of the parish of Lowdham that is owned and managed by the trust.

The guest speaker for the evening is Michael Walker, who has been interested in woods for a very long time and has spent years researching Ploughman's Wood, which dates back to at least the twelfth century. He has used old maps, written accounts of the wood, and the physical evidence on the ground to uncover its history.

As Michael says: "All woodlands can tell a story if you look deeply enough."

He will talk attendees through the methods he

used to uncover the secrets of Ploughman's Wood, sharing techniques that residents can use themselves to 'read' a wood and enhance their appreciation of all the woodlands they visit.

This meeting will be held at the Idle Valley Centre on Thursday 12th March, starting at 7.15pm. Entry is £3.00, which includes tea and biscuits, and everyone is welcome with no need to book in advance.

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 janwilliamson133@gmail.com.

Scrooby Garden Club plants for the future

The Scrooby Garden Club has enjoyed a busy start to the year, kicking things off with a hellebore appreciation afternoon hosted by Penny Cawley.

The event was attended by over a dozen members who also appreciated the opportunity to share tea and cake. The group recently held their AGM, during which member Ann suggested planting Scots pines on Mill Lane to ensure a copse remains there for future generations.

Three trees have since been planted, and residents are warmly encouraged to take a walk and check them out. During their February gathering, members rolled up their sleeves to tidy the Dry Garden by the village hall, as well as the Pinfold.

The team also spent time "snowdropping"—spreading snowdrops around the village verges to bring a touch of early spring colour to the area.

Looking ahead to March, a springtime trip has been arranged for the 25th to visit the Hooton Roberts Nursery, which will be followed by a pub lunch at the Earl of Stafford.

Scrooby Garden Club is an informal gathering of garden lovers who meet regularly for plant swaps, community garden work, visits, and social events.

Membership is open to all for a nominal subscription of £10. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact Stephen on 07341 386050.

Wednesday (Memory) Group plans fresh spring activities

In the few hours that they are together each week, members of the Wednesday (Memory) Group like to keep to an established timetable.

This routine helps to minimise confusion and ensure everything runs smoothly, but the group is also careful to avoid becoming boringly predictable.

Thanks to their caring and innovative volunteers, the team regularly holds planning meetings to rethink their sessions and ensure they do not lose members to a predictable routine.

Recent discussions have focused on linking upcoming activities with calendar events like Valentine's Day and Easter, helping to keep people connected to the real world. While these planning meetings do not happen often, they generate a huge amount of creative energy and enthusiasm, which ultimately results in lots of fun and enjoyment for the members.

If you care for someone with dementia, have a diagnosis yourself, or simply want to know more about how the Wednesday Group might be helpful, 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-
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Christine Coldwell
01909 730629

Ranskill & Torworth After-
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Carol Head
01777 705077

Ranskill Top Shop:
01777 818864

Mattersey (with Ranskill)
Wraparound and Holiday
Club:
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wraparound@mattersey.notts.sch.uk

Ranskill Bowls Club:
Simon Wallis
07876 285593

Ranskill Investment Club:
David Smith
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Ranskill Nursery Pre-
school:
Rachel Clayton
01777 816066

Ranskill Primary School,
Mrs R Beesley : Head of
school[Mr A Steadman
Executive Head 01777
818468

Ranskill Reading Room:
Peter Parkin
01777 818852

Ranskill & Torworth W.I:
Pat Blatchford
01777 818519

Neighbourhood Watch
Representatives In Ran-
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Scrooby: Alyson Gold-
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Scrooby Parish Council:
Tony Smith
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Torworth Parish Council:
Claire Challener
07557 104323

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Ranskill & Torworth:
David Bamford
Scrooby: Jack Bowker
County Councillors:
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07525 226893
PCSO Lucy Campion
07525 989445

HELLO SCROOBY, TORWORTH AND RANSKILL



THINKING OF MOVING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

Hi, I'm Adam – a local independent estate agent living in Ranskill and covering the surrounding villages. If you're considering selling, I offer straightforward advice, proper communication and a hands-on approach from start to finish.



No being passed around, no chasing for updates – just one point of contact who genuinely cares about getting you the best result. If you're even just curious what your home might be worth, give me a call or scan the QR code for a chat.



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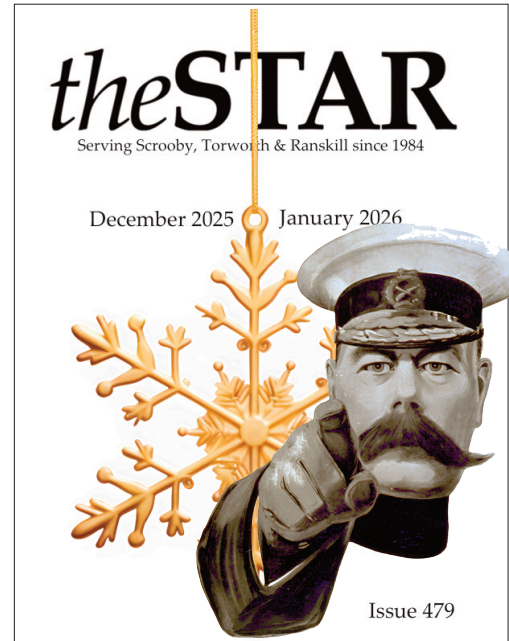
New bereavement support group to start at St Barnabas' church

A new support group designed to help people explore the journey of bereavement through information and friendship is set to launch this spring at St Barnabas' Church.

Led by the Reverend Louise Bearder, the group will hold its first meeting on Wednesday 15th April from 2pm to 4pm. Moving forward, the sessions will take place every two weeks.

During the meetings, attendees will watch a series of short videos that gently explore the journey of bereavement. Following the videos, there will be dedicated time to enjoy tea, coffee, and biscuits, offering everyone the chance to talk and connect in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.

The group is open to anyone who feels they might benefit from some extra support, and a warm "all welcome" message has been extended to the wider community.



Penny Trail raises £2,685

The Mile of Pennies at Saint Barnabas Church in Ranskill has raised £2,685 and now stretches 3 miles and 835 yards and climbing!

"I am happy to keep counting what you are so willing to give, a pat on the back to you all," said organiser Joy Tudberry. "Love from all of us at St Barnabas!"

Vintage bakery treats on the menu for local W.I. meeting

The Ranskill and Torworth W.I. is preparing for a delicious afternoon at their upcoming March meeting. The group will gather on Tuesday 24th March at 2pm in St. Barnabas Church on the Great North Road, Ranskill. The guest speaker for the event will be Mr. Peter Whitham, who runs a business on Bridge Gate in Retford.

He will be presenting a talk entitled "Vintage Bakery" and, much to the delight of members, is understood to be bringing along samples of his products to share.

For further information about the meeting or the group itself, please ring 01777 818519.

The STAR wants you!

That's right, 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 us with the content, could that be you?

While unpaid, volunteers say the rewards come from being part of the village conversation and seeing their community work appreciated.

Contact us by email at copy4star@yahoo.co.uk to find out more. No experience necessary – just enthusiasm for keeping our villages connected!

Ranskill Scouts tackle night walks and cooking challenges

The past few weeks have been packed with excitement, learning, and adventure for the 2nd Ranskill Scouts. Across all sections, the group marked Scouts Founder's Day on 22nd February to learn about the life and legacy of Baden-Powell.

The young people explored how the movement began and why its core values of kindness, resilience, service, and teamwork remain just as important today.

The Beavers recently embraced the great outdoors with a night walk, bravely tackling the rain and darkness along the way.

They demonstrated fantastic resilience and teamwork, proving that wet weather cannot dampen the Scouting spirit, and ended the evening with a well-earned portion of chips. The Squirrels and Beavers also have plenty to look forward to, as they are very excitedly preparing to head to the circus.

Meanwhile, the Scouts have been busy developing practical life skills. They participated in rifle shooting sessions to help build focus,

discipline, and responsibility, and also put their culinary skills to the test with a dinner party-style cooking challenge.

The cooking challenge required planning, preparation, and teamwork, and yielded impressive and delicious results.

The Cubs have been focusing on essential everyday knowledge by learning valuable money skills, exploring budgeting, saving, and making thoughtful choices.

As Mother's Day approaches, the group wishes a very happy Mother's Day to all mums, carers, and those who support their young people. The leaders extend a big thank you for all the support that makes these opportunities possible.

Family of Bob Blatchford shares thanks

Following the sad announcement last month regarding the passing of Robert 'Bob' Blatchford, his family has reached out to thank the local community for their support.

In a heartfelt message, his wife Pat Blatchford shared: "I would like to say 'Thank You' for the cards of condolence sent to our family recently. They were very much appreciated by myself and our daughters Jo and Kate."

Bob, who passed away in January aged 90, was a highly respected local figure. He is warmly remembered across the community for his extensive public service as a magistrate, his dedication to the Worksop Sea Cadets, and his active involvement in local education and social clubs.

Cafe Hub raises £150

At their recent February meeting, the Cafe Hub successfully raised £150 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). The funds were collected in memory of the late Bob Blatchford, who was a great supporter of the group.

Following this successful morning, the team is now looking forward to their next gathering. The March Cafe Hub will take place on 14th March, running from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Cafe Hub meetings are held at St Barnabas Church in Ranskill. Everyone is warmly invited to pop in for a hot drink, a chat, and a catch-up.



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or **07906075648**

goodtimes

Wednesday 4th March

Chris McCausland: Yonks!, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. He's been called an "overnight success" - Even though he's been doing this for bloody yonks! You might have seen him on Strictly Come Dancing, Would I Lie to You, Have I Got News for You, The Royal Variety, QI, Blankety Blank, The Last Leg, and tons more. Chris McCausland is hitting the road again with another masterclass in stand-up comedy that has literally been yonks in the making. The last tour was a sell-out, so get your tickets now! From £32.



Chris McCausland: Yonks!,
Cast Theatre

Barry Steele's Roy Orbison Story, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. When it comes to authenticity and true musical mastery, there's only one name you need to know: Barry Steele! Experience the unforgettable sound of a generation with Barry Steele alongside an extraordinary ensemble of talented musicians and singers. From £22.

Friday 6th March

Sweet Caroline, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Direct from the West End - the ultimate tribute to Neil Diamond. Direct from London's Adelphi Theatre, starring the renowned tribute artist Gary Ryan, as seen on Stars in Their Eyes. A musical journey celebrating 50 years of some of the greatest songs ever written. Enjoy all the hits! From £24.

Thursday 5th March

Crime and Punishment, Cast Theatre, 2:00pm & 7:15pm. Murder. A cat-and-mouse chase. In the heart of a bustling city, a penniless student murders in cold blood. He is caught in a spiral of paranoia and delusion as a cunning detective circles. Only the chance of love offers a way out. Runs through 7th March. From £22.

Journey's End, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:00pm. A Doncaster Little Theatre Production. Powerful play set in the British trenches during World War I, focusing on the experiences of a group of officers as they face a German offensive. The story unfolds over four days leading up to a major German attack. Thur & Fri 7pm (Doors 6pm), Sat 5pm (Doors 4pm). Runs through 7th March. From £12.

Saturday 7th March

A Vivaldi & Mozart Candlelight Experience, Doncaster Minster of St George, 5:00pm. Lumos brings you enchanting concert experiences paying homage to world famous artists. 2 Sittings: 1st Sitting 5-6pm, 2nd Sitting 7-8pm. Entry: 1st sitting doors open at 4:15pm, 2nd sitting doors open at 6:30pm. Seating is first come first serve to your allocated tiered zones. Wheelchair accessible. From £20.

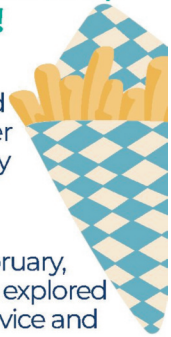
Scouts

2nd Ranskill



The past few weeks have been packed with excitement, learning and adventure across all sections!

Our **Beavers** embraced the great outdoors with a **night walk**, bravely tackling the rain and darkness along the way. They showed fantastic resilience and teamwork, proving that a bit of wet weather doesn't dampen the **Scouting** spirit. The evening ended in the very best way possible — with a well-earned **portion of chips!**



Across all sections, we marked Scouts **Founder's Day** on 22nd February, learning about the life and legacy of **Baden-Powell**. Young people explored how **Scouting** began and why its values of kindness, resilience, service and teamwork remain just as **important today**.



Our **Squirrels** and **Beavers** are also very excited as they head to the **circus!** We can't wait to see the wonder and excitement this special outing will bring.

Our **Scouts** have been busy developing practical life skills. **Rifle shooting** sessions helped build focus, discipline and responsibility, while a dinner party-style **cooking challenge** put their culinary skills to the test — from planning to preparation and teamwork. The results were impressive (and delicious!).

Our **Cubs** have been learning valuable **money skills**, exploring budgeting, saving and making thoughtful choices — **essential** skills for everyday life.



Finally, as we approach **Mother's Day**, we'd like to wish all mums, carers and those who support our young people a very **happy Mother's Day**. **Thank you** for everything you do, your support helps make all these opportunities possible.



Punk Off - The Sounds of Punk & New Wave, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. It's raw. It's rebellious. And it's alive. 50 years since punk and new wave kicked the door in, Punk Off storms the stage - louder, bolder, and messier than ever. Music from Blondie, The Ramones, Sex Pistols, The Clash and more. This isn't a tribute - it's a riot. Full-throttle celebration of the era that tore up the rulebook and made being loud a lifestyle. From £17.50.

Tuesday 10th March

Teachers, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. New year... same problems! Godber's hilarious comedy masterpiece has been reset for our post-Covid times. Bristling with teenage swagger and outlandish imagination, Salty, Gail and Hobby use their B.Tech Performance exam to showcase their work. . Runs through 14th March. From £15.

Wednesday 11th March

"History Beneath Our Feet", Chapelgate Hall, Wednesday 11th March, 7.30pm. Discover the hidden past right under your toes! Join the Retford and District Historical and Archaeological Society for a fascinating talk by guest speaker Stephen Flinders. Held in the hall situated behind Grove Street Methodist Chapel, this evening promises to unearth the local history we walk over every day. For more information, contact Joy Tudberry on 01777 818419 or Colin Witham on 01777 702475.

Thursday 12th March

Meet Fred 10th Anniversary Tour, Cast Theatre, 7:15pm. A decade ago, a two-foot-tall puppet took on the world - and he's still fighting. After touring 20+ countries and delighting thousands of audiences, Meet Fred returns to the UK for its 10th anniversary tour. Darkly hilarious, critically acclaimed production follows Fred, a cloth puppet just trying to live an ordinary life. From £18.

A Tribute to Peter Kay starring Lee Lard, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. Now in his 22nd year and with over 4000 performances under his belt, Lee Lard is still being voted the most popular comedy tribute act in the UK! From £18.

Friday 13th March

Gold Cup Irish Raceday, Doncaster Racecourse, 11:30am. Irish Raceday Returns to Doncaster Racecourse! Get ready for an unforgettable day at Doncaster Racecourse as Irish Raceday returns. From £45.

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.

Too Young To Stay In, Too Old To Go Out!, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. Raul breaks his hip and finds his soul mate. Gerald's date night begins in the gutter. Rosie relaxes with her knitting needles on a luxury cruise when things take a very dark turn. Written and performed by the tremendously talented Nigel Osner. From £15.

Saturday 14th March

Caged Steel 42, Doncaster Dome, 5:00pm. Live at Doncaster Dome - An unforgettable night of high-energy MMA action! Caged Steel brings its next major live combat sports showcase featuring Professional MMA, Amateur MMA, Caged Boxing, and K1. From £40.

George! The Concert, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:30pm. The Ultimate tribute to George Harrison. Heartfelt tribute capturing the spirit and musical genius of the iconic Beatles guitarist and solo artist. Journey through Harrison's prolific career, from his early days with The Beatles to his ground breaking solo work. From £22.



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Tuesday 17th March

Sherlock Holmes: The Hunt for Moriarty, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Adapted by Nick Lane from the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. London, 1901. As the British Empire wages war in the name of a Queen whose health is failing, a series of mysterious events reveals a crack in the high corridors of power. Drawn into the game and unsure who to trust, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson find themselves confronting figures from their past in a desperate race against time. A thrilling adventure combining powerful performances, a haunting soundscape and innovative design. Runs through 18th March. From £17.50.

Biff to the Future, Cast Theatre, 7:45pm. Fresh from an acclaimed, award-winning Edinburgh Festival Fringe premiere! The iconic villain of Back to the Future takes centre stage in this comedic reimagination of Marty's time-traveling escapades, turning the celebrated cinematic trilogy on its head from the perspective of Biff, the bully audiences love to hate. New, heartfelt and unauthorised parody explores the highs and lows of a life chasing power, fame and fortune. Edinburgh Fringe Theatre Award 2025 winner! From £24.

Thursday 19th March

Celtic Illusion, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Prepare to be spellbound by one of the world's most unique and exhilarating stage productions. The Irish dance and grand illusion phenomenon that has dazzled audiences across Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Canada, and the USA is finally making its premiere United Kingdom tour in 2026. Fusing the thunderous rhythm of Irish dance with mind-blowing magic. Created by Anthony Street, acclaimed illusionist and former lead of Lord of the Dance. Stars world-class dancers from productions like Riverdance and Lord of the Dance. From £22.

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 [wegotickets.com/BAWTRYPHOENIXTHEATRE](https://www.wegotickets.com/BAWTRYPHOENIXTHEATRE) or at the theatre box office on Monday mornings.

Friday 20th March

Sam Carter's "The Oakham Poacher Tour - Spring 2026, Doncaster Brewery, 7:30pm. Sam Carter's spring tour celebrates the release of The Oakham Poacher, his first solo collection of traditional songs. At Roots Music Club at Doncaster Brewery, 7 Young St. £16.50.

The Shoop Shoop Show - The Cher Collection, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Get ready to experience a Cher show like no other! 'Turn Back Time' with The Shoop Shoop Show led by international powerhouse vocalist Rachael Hawnt, the winner of ITV's Starstruck. Spans every decade of Cher's incredible career. From £19.50.

Whitesnake UK, Doncaster Little Theatre, 8:00pm. Whitesnake UK play tribute to the very best of David Coverdale's multi platinum selling band. From the very beginnings of the Moody / Marsden line up to the current US led incarnation faithfully reproducing classics such as 'Fool For Your Loving', 'Don't Break My Heart Again', 'Is This Love', 'Here I Go Again' and many others. Formed in 2005, one of the hottest tribute acts currently working the UK circuit. From £15.



Saturday 21st March

The Shoop Shoop Show - The Cher Collection, Cast Theatre.

Run the Runway, Doncaster Sheffield Airport, 11:00am. A brand new race set on the Doncaster Sheffield Airport runway before the airport officially opens for flights in 2027. Two different distances: 3.5k (ages 7 & above) or 5.8k (ages 12 & above) both chip timed. All finishers receive a bespoke Run the Runway Medal. Both races start in the same place and finish next to the Vulcan Bomber. From £14.

With performances featuring a line-up full of fresh Northern talent, expect drag, dance, comedy, burlesque and song. Dress to impress - all friends of Dorothy, witches wicked or good, are welcome. Dressing up is encouraged but never required. BSL interpretation will be provided. From £13.50.

Rob Lamberti presents Perfectly George 2026, Doncaster Dome, 6:45pm. Featuring the incredible voice of Rob Lamberti, this show has wowed audiences around the country and Europe. From Wham! all the way through to the diverse eras of George's hugely successful solo career, including timeless hits like 'Careless Whisper', 'Faith', 'I'm Your Man', 'Club Tropicana', and so many more. Rob Lamberti is a star in his own right after featuring on the BBC's 'Even Better Than the Real Thing' in 2017. From £35.75.

An Evening of Burlesque Cabaret, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. A glorious night of glamour, laughter and feel-good fun! The UK's longest-running burlesque show is back touring the nation with a thrilling new twist! Dazzling celebration of cabaret, burlesque, and world-class entertainment. Featuring dazzling showgirls, specialty cabaret artists, and stars of the stage and screen. Expect fun, feathers, and fabulous costumes. It's cocktails and cabaret o'clock - a night to remember awaits! From £24.

A Reyt Queer Do, Cast Theatre, 7:15pm. Follow the yellow brick road into a world of colour! Join Andro & Eve somewhere over the rainbow for their queer cabaret hosted by award-winning drag king Crip Ladywood.

Saturday 28th March

The Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster Racecourse. Traditional season opener for flat racing. One of the oldest and most prestigious flat races on the calendar. From £29.50.

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Scrooby - Tuesday March 24th

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downtime

Your Star signs for March



Aries: A surge of "get up and go" might see you attacking the brambles at the bottom of the garden with slightly too much vigour. Pace yourself; the local physiotherapist doesn't need the extra business just because you felt a sudden, dangerous affinity with a heavy-duty strimmer.

Taurus: Mothering Sunday is a high-stakes event this year. Whether you're receiving the flowers or sending them, you'll have a very firm opinion on the acceptable ratio of carnations to roses. Hint: more roses and definitely nothing bought at the last minute from a petrol station.

Gemini: Spring cleaning provides a magnificent opportunity for "skip-watching." You'll be remarkably well-informed about exactly which neighbours are finally getting rid of that avocado bathroom suite or those 1970s curtains. Knowledge is power.

Cancer: The first real sunshine of the year rouses your nesting instincts. You might find yourself polishing things that haven't seen a cloth since the Diamond Jubilee. A sudden, inexplicable urge to bake a rhubarb crumble is the universe's way of saying hello to the new season.

Leo: You'll be the first to declare it "officially spring" by wearing a strikingly bright scarf to the parish meeting. If the sun dares to hide behind a cloud, your personal radiance and a robustly told anecdote will be more than enough to keep the room hopeful.

Virgo: Your seed packets are likely already alphabetised and filed by height. While others are wandering around aimlessly in the mud, you have a 14-point plan for the vegetable patch. Your reward is the deep, spiritual peace that comes from a perfectly straight lawn edge.

Libra: Mothering Sunday diplomacy requires your finest skills. Balancing the expectations of various generations without causing a family feud is a task only you can handle. Remember: a generic card with a nice picture of a kitten is the ultimate neutral territory in any domestic dispute.

Scorpio: You'll be watching the local "experts" at the allotment with a discerning and slightly cynical eye. You know exactly who is planting their spuds too early for the local frosts. Use this foresight to your advantage, or simply enjoy the inevitable consequences from afar.

Sagittarius: The longer days spark a yearning for a proper expedition. You'll be the one suggesting a five-mile hike through the muddiest fields, convinced it's "invigorating." Just ensure your wellies are actually waterproof before you lead the charge into the unknown.

Capricorn: Practicality remains your watchword. You'll be the one reminding everyone that just because there's a bit of sun, it doesn't mean you can turn the immersion heater off yet. A thorough inspection of the garden shed brings a sense of profound, winter-clearing order.

Aquarius: Your "innovative" approach to spring cleaning might involve a leaf blower and a questionable theory about air circulation. While the cat may disagree with your methods, your neighbours will certainly be talking about your avant-garde approach to housework for weeks.

Pisces: You'll likely be found lost in a reverie by a stream or just staring at a particularly nice clump of primroses. The "Big Spring Clean" can wait; the universe is currently offering much more interesting things to daydream about than the state of the skirting boards.

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Christian perspective: Using your voice

We all have a voice and it makes a great deal of difference how we use it. If God gives us a voice in any sphere of life, we should use it on behalf of others. We are not meant to shout for ourselves.

The unregenerate human voice shouts, "Hey! What about me! What about my rights! But Jesus speaks in Matthew 6 saying that your heavenly Father knows what you need, so you do not need to worry about shouting out for your own needs, but rather, "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and the things you need will be given to you." Walk in the faith that this gives and then you will be free to care about others.

For believers there are some things to understand about having a voice. The first place we have a voice is before the throne of God. We read in Hebrews 10:19-20: *...we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain ...* So you can come with worship, praise and thanks-giving. You can lift up your head because of all that Jesus has accomplished for you.

You can trust him with your life, yourself. He already knows your needs and will take care of you. Love him for that and move on into the purpose of your calling.



Stop worrying about your own brokenness and start to pray into the brokenness of others. God has allowed you to be broken for a purpose. Jesus is our role model, our champion. He was the 'top one' in heaven and he laid it all down for us, to rescue us. (See Philippians chapter 2).

So what has God called you to? Where are you and in what sphere or arena of life do you have a voice? Use it for others. Ask God to give you the words and to show you the setting.

The contrast is stark! Of ourselves we have nothing to give, to speak, to contribute into the lives of others of any lasting value. But in Christ we have every single thing we need to live a victorious, God-centred life, to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

** Brenda Critchley*

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

Your March 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 38.

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Your March STAR pop-up pub quiz

1. Which tennis player has the nickname 'King of Clay'?
2. How many players are there in a hockey team?
3. Which snooker player was nicknamed 'Dracula'?
4. Who was the first person to run a mile in under 4 minutes?
5. In which sport do amateurs compete for the Walker Cup?
6. What two sports have been played on the surface of the moon?
7. Which country has played in every single soccer World Cup?
8. Which modern sport did 'Baggataway' become?
9. In motor racing which flag signals the end of the race?
10. Which boxer's catchphrase was "know what I mean 'Arry"?
11. How many clubs is a player allowed to carry in their bag during a round of golf?
12. Which country won the first women's FIFA world cup?
13. In which sport might you do a Flip Turn?
14. Which sport is played on the largest pitch?
15. What was the original name for table tennis or ping pong?
16. What do the rings in the Olympics represent?



17. What is the record for red cards given in a single soccer game?
18. Which snooker player has the nickname 'The Rocket'?
19. How old was Tiger Woods when he first won the Masters?
20. What does the T stand for when a boxing ref calls TKO for safety?

Answers on page 38.

Church notices for March

Church Notices for March 2026 (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 – Mothering Sunday
Ranskill – 9.30am Parade Service
Sunday 22nd
Blyth – 9.30 CW HC

Sunday 29th
Ranskill – 9.30am CW HC
 If you would like to arrange a baptism, wedding, funeral or other function, please contact one of the churchwardens:
 Churchwarden - Ranskill:
 David Stacey 07865 887280,
 Church Warden – Scrooby:
 Gordon Ashworth
 01777 818322



A Burning Question

Mad March winds and icy blasts,
 Arctic freeze that lasts – and lasts!
 Gloves and scarves and clothes abundant
 Render thoughts of Spring redundant.
 All this talk of sunnier weather
 Leaves me speechless altogether.

Is the threat of winters shrinking
 Just a glitch in someone’s thinking?
 Snow and ice and wind and rain,
 Could it be that yet again
 We’re victims of much mis-informing
 Ever to speak of global warming.

Joy T.



The STAR recipe: Cream Cheese, Orange & Ginger Pancakes

Ingredients

- 4oz cream cheese
- 2 pieces stem ginger, chopped
- 1 desertsps raisins
- Sm tin mandarin oranges
- 1 teasp cornflour
- 1 tabbsp water
- ¼ pint pancake batter

Method

Combine cheese, ginger, and raisins in a bowl.

Strain oranges, ensuring you retain the juice for the sauce.

Add a few oranges and a splash of juice to the cheese mix to bind it together.

Blend cornflour and water, add to the remaining juice, and cook until thickened.

Make up the pancakes, spread each with the cheese mix, and roll up.

Serve hot, drizzled with the sauce and topped with the remaining oranges.



- Joy T.




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


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BY ROB URBINATI

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7.30PM - DOORS OPEN 6.45PM

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A COMEDY
WITH MURDER



ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES OF SCROOBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 08 December 2025 in the Scrooby Village Hall

1. **Present** : Chair Stephen Cordery, Elaine Gargett, Jean Ogden, Sandra Withington, Terry Goldsmith, Dan Blount, Tony Smith (Clerk & Treasurer), Parishioners / Public present: None.
2. **Apologies** Lindsey Buxton, County Cllr Mike Robertson, District Councillor Jack Bowker,
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**: Minutes were accepted, No corrections - Proposed by Terry Goldsmith, Seconded by Sandra Withington.
 - 3.1 **Confirmation of last meeting's action points** Completed or ongoing listed, but: Procurement Thresholds updates are carried forward, as are the Parish Key and Equipment Register, New Model Financial Regulations review, Tesco funding application, Stolen Plaques from The Whinze, Websites, Church Clock, Bush removal on the Croft, and replacing the Climbing Ladders posts and frame.
4. **Agenda**
 - 4.1 Confirmation of Agenda Items – None (See below).
 - 4.2 Public Discussion – None
 - 4.3 Parish Councillor Vacancies – Completed and item closed.
5. **Correspondence**: The usual number of notices, e-mails and letters had been received over the last months and were listed before the meeting. Those of note: Local Nature Reserve Strategy, East Midlands Mayor Big Transport conversation.
- 5.1 The clerk reported on offer of a Jazz Evening in the Village Hall. The clerk will follow through.
6. **District and County Councillor's Report**
County Councillor – Was unable to attend due to illness. Walks around the village in 2026 to see what needs to be done and progress on the inspection of the Great North Road Footpath, coupled with support to invite a US dignitary to visit Scrooby.
District Councillor Jack Bowker – Was unable to attend because he too was ill.
7. **Finance Report**
 - 7.1 The Treasurer presented his report, which included Village Hall costs and salaries, Grass/Hedge Cutting, the Purchase of the 'Blue' salt bin. Full details of the report can always be viewed at www.scrooby.net.
 - 7.2 Other activities: The transfer of the (bankrupt) energy provider to a safe provider.
 - 7.2.3 The funding from Tesco's is active at the Worksop Tesco, the result is due.
8. **Police Report**
Local PCSO. Tel: 07525 989445, did not attend. PCSO continues to be requested to attend.
If local parishioners have concerns they can contact their Parish Councillor.
9. **Planning & Neighbourhood Plan**
 - 9.2 Planning issues: New Applications: Name change to Manor Farm cottages. Rosedale new conservatory and patio. (No objection). Existing Applications: Trees at New Farm Bungalow (no Tree preservation order required).
 - 9.3 Others: Our own SNAP plan is to be restarted in the New Year until completed.
10. **Play Area**
The Rope Climbing Frame is unusable and under ongoing repairs.
11. **Village Hall**
 - 11.1 Village Hall Operations: The hall is in good use, operating well.
 - 11.1.001 The village hall lights switch on was well attended and likely to be an

annual affair.

11.1.01 The treasurer reported the Village Hall electricity changeover was nearly complete.

11.1.3 Village Hall Management System, Keys and Equipment – in progress.

12. Village Environment

12.0 Noted a Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course is available.

12.0.3 Salt bags delivered. A BLUE Bin (private bin) has been placed on Low Road.

12.0.4 Village Hedges, Trees, Road Sweeping. Complete but the Great North Road footpath continues.

12.1 Grass Cutting, continues. Costs are sought to remove the “bush” in the

centre of The Croft.

12.2 The development of The Whinze and Gibbet Hill Common – The annual bracken cut continues.

12.6 St Wilfred’s bell repairs – our assistance is ongoing.

14. Items for Information Only / Next Agenda

To re-establish correspondence with CVS (Community Volunteer Service).

All minutes from Scrooby Parish Council meetings are always published after acceptance at www.scrooby.net

Next meeting to be held on Monday, 9th January 2026, 7.30 pm, in the Village Hall.

This will be the first meeting of 2026.

The SCROOBY Parish Council

This Month’s Issues for you to note or muse:

Stay Safe, Stay Well

→ Criminal activity? If life threatening call 999, else 101 If concerned contact your Parish Councillor.

→ SLOW DOWN on Chapel Lane and all the Village Roads. Report incidents of dangerous or inconsiderate driving in Scrooby to the Police.

And please do NOT park on the Croft, Station Road.

→ Can we afford to loose the Scrooby Community Cinema???

→ Look at the Noticeboard / Information Hub (Chapel Lane) / Scrooby.net website for all the latest information and consultations. And for information from Notts CC and Bassetlaw DC Use the “MyNotts” smartphone app !!!!

→ The Village Hall sessions on Tuesdays

continue, as do the Bassetlaw Mobile Community Shop on Mondays.

→ PLEASE follow the procedure for using the Defibrillator, Call 999 first.

→ Dogs and cars are NOT allowed on the Croft or in the Village Hall, unless an organised dog event, PLEASE CLEAR YOUR DOG ‘POO’, including the Whinze !

→ Have you got your Black wheelie bin yet!! It is for glass BUT it will not be emptied until March 2026 and every 6 weeks after that. Can you last that long???

→ But do you know of any vandalism either. Watch out, there’s a thief about !!

→ Contact the Parish Clerk (07974836978) if you need any road salt.

→ We apologise for closing the dangerous Rope Climbing Wall, repairs started.

→ Be warned SNAP is coming back (The Scrooby Neighbourhood Action Plan), to get it over the finish line.

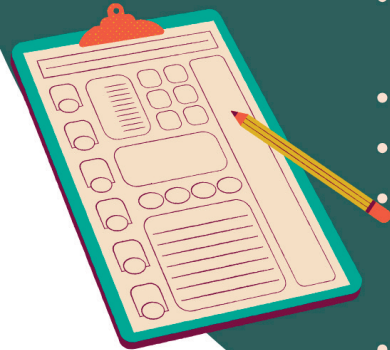


Ranskill and Torworth Festival
Committee

PIE & PEA QUIZ NIGHT

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MARCH**

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- 19.00pm doors open for 19:15pm start
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Ranskill and Torworth Festival Committee


RANSKILL AND TORWORTH FESTIVAL 2026


SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
RANSKILL PARK


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The festival committee is excited to invite you to our community festival at Rankill Park, starting from 1pm! It's shaping up to be a fantastic day filled with local stalls, entertainment, and community spirit.

 **Stallholders Wanted-** Are you a local business looking to showcase your products or services? We have a few extra pitch spaces available — get in touch to reserve yours!

 **Tell Us What You'd Love to See** We're shaping the event for you! Have ideas or activities you'd like included? Let us know.

 **Sponsorship Opportunities**
Want to promote your business at the festival? Ask about our sponsorship packages — great visibility and community engagement guaranteed.

 **Donations Welcome**
We're also looking for raffle prizes and small plant cuttings — every contribution helps make the day special.

 **Get in Touch**
Send us a message if you'd like to get involved!

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CONTACT US -

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MINUTES of the RANSKILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at the BOWLS CLUB, STATION ROAD
WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2025 at 7:30pm

Present:**Chair:** D. Simpson**Councillors:** J. Peel, J. Elliott, P. Brown, A. Garner, M. Pryce, L. Shaw**D. Cllr:** A. McCallum**C. Cllr:** Absent**Clerk:** B. Kinsey**Members of the public:** No resident attended**01/1125: Apologies for absence:** C. Cllr M. Robertson**02/1125: Declaration of member's interest in any item to be discussed**

None

03/1125: To Adjourn to Allow Public Participation

No resident attended

04/1125: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th of October 2025

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th of October 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

05/1125: County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**a. District Councillor**

A discussion was held on playground safety inspection regimes and District Councillor funding remaining available.

b. County Councillor

Absent.

06/1125: Crime and Policing

The latest available figures were 7 crimes being committed in August, 4 in September giving an average of 5.6/month for the year, compared with 9.1 for last year.

07/1125: Highways and Traffic

Parking at the school remains an ongoing issue. The school has been contacted to ask parents to park more reasonably on the website and our local PCSO will visit the site.

08/1125: Finance

a. To approve the bank reconciliation and accounts as at 31st October 2025

Summary accounts and bank reconciliation were approved. Carried.

Expenditure for the month was routine apart from £800 for tree felling on Jubilee Way and the purchase of a water tank to water planters in the village.

A large VAT refund for H1 has been received, mainly as a result of CIL

expenditure. It was noted that further CIL income is expected in the current year.

09/1125: Planning

a. To consider new planning applications received as at 12th November 2025

No new applications have been received.

b. Updates on existing planning applications and other planning issues.

There are concerns about continuing development and excavation works on a track at Deepwater Fisheries.

We are in touch with BDC Planning Enforce-

ment.

10/1125: Amenities and Facilities

a. Consider the playground safety reports
The October sheet showed a seized link on one of the swing bays, which has been repaired by North Notts.

b. Update on the access across PC land at the rear of Station Cottage

The Clerk has provided a copy of the deed to the resident’s solicitor and we await response from their archive search.

c. Update on the path lighting project for Oaks Green Close and Jubilee way
Progress on installation is slow and the Clerk will correspond with North Notts to review.

d. Consider funds for a new community project

Request withdrawn.

e. Consider North Notts Landscapes quotation for the 2026-27 season

Postponed to the next meeting.

11/1125: Co-option of Additional Councillors

Councillor Bing has resigned, we therefore have two vacancies on the Council. The PC requests any resident who is interested to contact the Clerk.

12/1125: Correspondence and Other Items of Interest

Eleven entries have been received to date for the poetry competition. The Chair will judge entries shortly.

13/1125: Information to be Forwarded to the Next Meeting

None.

14/1125: Agree Dates for the Next Parish Council Meetings

A schedule of meetings has been agreed for 2026. The next meeting is the 14th of January 2026.

Signed as a true record: -



RANSKILL BOWLS CLUB (Station Road, DN22 8LE)

We are currently enjoying our indoor short mat bowling, which has been great in these cold months! Our crown green bowling green opens in April.



There will be an open day to give people a chance to play bowls free of charge and to see what we have to offer - keep an eye out for the date.

We are now a flexible club and hope to have more days to suit more people. Our current days are Thursday at 6pm and Saturday at 5pm. Some members arrange amongst themselves to play at other times.

If you don't mind a little friendly competition and a lot of friendly banter this could be the sport for you. The first 3 games are free to see if it is for you. Then it's a £25 annual fee, plus £3 each time you come. Which could be 2 games. Included in the £3 are the refreshments! Also our lovely pavilion is available to hire for meetings etc at £15 per hour. For details phone Simon on 07876 285593.



**We need more volunteers for both of our groups!
Please get in touch if you can help, whether regularly or
on occasion (contact details below).**



Ripples Baby and Toddler Group



Mondays 10am to 11.30am at Ranskill Church (term time).

£2 per child to include drinks and light snacks for child and adult.



Ripples Social Group (Dementia friendly)



2nd and 4th Tuesdays 1.30pm - 3pm at Scrooby Village Hall.

(and on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays run by Scrooby PC)

Come along for a cuppa, cake and a chat,
plus optional games and activities.



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WARM SPACES IN SCROOBY 2026



Ripples and **Warm Spaces** are 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 next few months of Warm Spaces 2026 are:

March 3rd	March 17th	March 31st
April 7th	April 21st	
May 5th	May 19th	
June 2nd	June 16th	June 30th

All are welcome

MINUTES of the RANSKILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at the BOWLS CLUB, STATION ROAD
WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2026 at 7:30pm

Present:

Chair: D. Simpson

Councillors: J. Elliott, P. Brown, M. Pryce, L. Shaw

D. Cllr: A. McCallum

C. Cllr: Absent

Clerk: B. Kinsey

Members of the public: One resident attended.

01/0126: Apologies for absence: D. Cllr A. McCallum, Cllrs J. Peel, A. Garner

02/0126: Declaration of member's interest in any item to be discussed

None

03/0126: To Adjourn to Allow Public Participation

One resident attended, representing the Ranskill & Torworth Festival Committee. A festival is being planned on Saturday 13th June, the PC confirmed that the playing fields will be made available for the event at no charge.

The PC was also requested to provide funds for the toilets and a marquee. As no costings were provided, the PC deferred making a decision until detailed figures are submitted.

04/0126: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th of November 2025

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th of November 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

05/0126: County Councillor and District

Councillor Reports

a. District Councillor

Absent.

b. County Councillor

The next County Council meeting will be held on the 22nd of February where the budget for next year will be decided. No road marking repairs will be carried out until March. A sign is being planned for the Blyth Road/Retford Road junction to advise Blyth Road is unsuitable for HGVs. Folly Nook Road is to be considered for resurfacing, a visit to the site is being organised with VIA area manager.

06/0126: Crime and Policing

The latest available figures were four crimes committed in October and three in November giving an average of 5.2/month for the year, compared with 9.1 for last year.

07/0126: Highways and Traffic

A further accident occurred this month at the crossroads. Parking at the school remains an ongoing issue. The new head at the school will be contacted to ask parents to park more reasonably on their website and our local PCSO will again be asked to attend at the appropriate time.

08/0126: Finance

a. To approve the bank reconciliation and accounts as at 31st December 2025 Summary accounts and bank reconciliation were approved. Carried.

b. To approve the budget and precept amount for the year 2026-27

An increase in the precept of 7% for next

year was proposed, compared to 9% last year and 8% the previous year. It was resolved to accept the budget, proposed by Cllr Shaw and seconded by Cllr Pryce. Carried.

c. To consider adopting a new IT policy to comply with assertion 10 audit rule
A template provided by NALC was used as the basis for the RPC policy. It was resolved to implement the new policy. Carried.

09/0126: Planning

a. To consider new planning applications received as at 14th January 2026

No new applications have been received.

b. Updates on existing planning applications and other planning issues.

There are concerns about continuing development and excavation works on a track at Deepwater Fisheries.

One new enforcement case has been established, breach of refusal of planning.

10/0126: Amenities and Facilities

a. Consider the playground safety reports
The January sheet showed no new issues.

b. Update on the access across PC land at the rear of Station Cottage

We continue to wait for a response from the solicitor's archive search. The Clerk will follow up.

c. Update on the path lighting project for Oaks Green Close and Jubilee way
The columns have been installed, however some components supplied for the luminaires are incorrect, we await replacements from the supplier, expected in February.

d. To consider extending the Christmas light display to a second tree

The Clerk has requested quotations from three local electrical installers to provide a suitable outlet.

e. To consider North Notts Landscapes quotation for the 2026-27 season

It was resolved to accept the prices proposed, Carried.

f. To consider an approach to locate a waste textile bin in the village.

It was decided not to take this matter any further due to the fact that we have nowhere suitable to locate the bin.

11/0126: Co-option of Additional Councillors

The PC requests any resident who is interested to contact the Clerk.

12/0126: Correspondence and Other Items of Interest

The PC has received a letter from a resident outlining issues on grass verge parking on Cherry Tree Walk and

subsequent potential damage to tree roots.

Also noted that the new trees planted on Jubilee Way need the

rubber supporting straps loosened and perhaps the surrounding mature trees be trimmed to improve light.

The PC will forward the Cherry Tree Walk issue to our District Councillor Andrew McCallum, BDC owns the land and green spaces. Cllr Shaw will attend to the young trees on Jubilee Way and some tree trimming has been planned following the installation of new solar lighting columns.

13/0126: Information to be Forwarded to the Next Meeting

None.

14/0126: Agree Dates for the Next Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting is the 11th of February 2026.

Signed as a true record



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Signed..... Tick if receipt required

last words

March is notoriously indecisive. Which way are things going to go? It can be quite maddening.

We're currently caught in that awkward, shivering limbo between cracking out the sunglasses with wildly misplaced optimism and frantically turning the heating back on.

Yet, as we gear up to celebrate Mothering Sunday, it is rather fitting to note that our village has recently displayed a brilliantly maternal instinct for simply getting things sorted out.

If you want proof that our local community occasionally operates like a highly efficient, multi-tasking matriarch, look no further than our local social media pages over the past few weeks.

Rather than descending into the usual debates about parking or bin collections, the village hive mind has been entirely focused on collective domestic problem-solving.

Take, for instance, the urgent plea for curtain alterations. It is one of those deeply frustrating household chores that can stall a room makeover for months, especially when you have inherited hand-me-downs that don't quite fit the windows.

Yet within hours of the post going live, not only were helpful recommendations pouring in, but a local expert had stepped forward to collect, alter, and return the items directly.

Problem identified, solution delivered, zero fuss – an absolute masterclass in efficiency that would make any mother incredibly proud.

Equally impressive was the quest to find a trustworthy holiday home for a Doberman. Finding a reliable dog sitter can be tricky at the best of times, but trying to accommodate a sizeable, highly en-



ergetic breed without resorting to traditional kennels adds a real layer of complexity to holiday planning.

Naturally, the community came through with flying colours. The absolute highlight of the recommendations was undoubtedly the resident who casually noted their everyday experience in managing a 50kg dog with an interesting nickname that might make some blush “and the rest of the menagerie”.

It is exactly that blend of unflappable capability and dry, affectionate humour that makes village life so immensely entertaining.

As we take time to celebrate the mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers this month, it is genuinely wonderful to see that same nurtur-

ing, no-nonsense spirit reflected in how our villages operate.

We might still be waiting for spring to properly make up its mind and deliver some actual sunshine, but knowing there is always someone nearby ready to hem a drape or cheerfully wrestle a 50kg hound provides a lovely, constant warmth all of its own.

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

Quiz answers: 1. Rafael Nadal 2. 11 3. Ray Reardon 4. Roger Bannister 5. Golf 6. Golf and Javelin 7. Brazil 8. Lacrosse 9. Chequered 10. Frank Bruno 11. 14 12. The United States 13. Swimming 14. Polo 15. Wiff-Waff 16. The Continents of the World 17. 36 18. Ronnie O'Sullivan 19. 21 20. Technical

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