

*the*STAR



April 2026

Issue 482

**Eye, eye
It's Easter!**

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**Local artists
open their
doors**

**Busy term for
Brownies and
Rainbows**

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Florence on the drums.

theteam

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Good Times

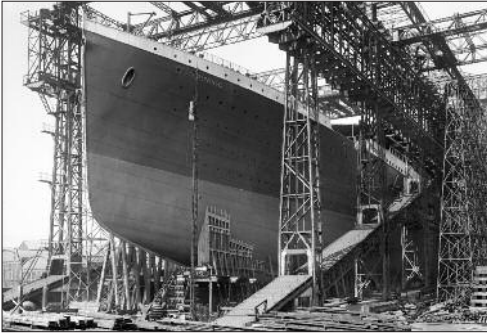
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Including passionate opinions about litter bins and flower preservation. - *page 34*

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



Once again, we're delighted by the wonderful response from readers across the three villages. The letters, emails and friendly chats continue to remind us why community journalism makes a difference.

How is April treating us? Is it really, actually spring now, or is winter just having a laugh? Either way, lighter evenings are a gift; there's something special about those first dog walks without the need for a head torch and three layers of thermal underwear.

The villages are looking particularly lovely at this time of year – or at least they would be if certain people would stop treating our public spaces like their personal rubbish tips and leaving daffodils where they're planted. But more on that later in Last Words.

On a brighter note, it's always lovely to hear from new families considering making these villages their home. The responses from long-term residents singing our collective praises reminded us all why we're lucky to live here – the school, the community spirit, the chippy, and those glorious walks right on our doorstep.

Whether you're a decades-long resident or someone just discovering our corner of the world, we want to hear from you. From community events to local achievements, from new businesses to neighbourhood news, every story matters. Keep those emails coming to copy4star@yahoo.co.uk

George

the knowledge

Ranskill Brownies and Rainbows celebrate a busy term

The local Girlguiding units have enjoyed an action-packed term filled with awards, community service, and creative celebrations.

The 1st Ranskill Brownies successfully earned their "Expressing Myself" Theme Award along with their Celebration Interest Badge. The unit also grew in numbers as Anna, Ivy, Rose, and Violet officially made their Brownie Promise.

In February, the girls marked Thinking Day by joining other units from the Retford Division at Elkesley Village Hall for "Beat Feet," a high-energy two-hour session of drumming and dancing. This was followed by a day of activities focused on global guiding, concluding with a traditional candle lighting ceremony. Community involvement continued on Mothering Sunday at St Barnabas Church, Ranskill, where Lottie carried the unit flag, escorted by Ella and Thea. Special thanks were given to Aria, Thea, and Sophie, who wrote and read their own original prayers during the service. The term ended on a high note with an Easter Hunt held around Scrooby Village Green.

The 1st Ranskill Rainbows, who meet on Tues-



Charlotte and Lucy enjoying a drumbeat.

days at Scrooby Village Hall, have been equally busy. This term, Elsie, Lucy, and Cora made their Rainbow Promise, and the entire unit earned their Rainbow Sparkle Badge. The Rainbows also participated in the "Beat Feet" event at Elkesley and took part in the Mothering Sunday church parade, with Poppy and Emma carrying the Rainbow flag. Their term concluded with an Easter Hunt and a parade where they showed off their brightly decorated Easter bonnets.

Rainbows are for girls aged four to six. While there is currently a waiting list, interested parents can register their interest through the official Girlguiding UK website.

A warm welcome awaits at the Wednesday (Memory) Group

The Wednesday (Memory) Group has recently had the pleasure of welcoming several new members to its sessions. While many are keen to join, it is common for new arrivals to feel nervous, often requiring extra encouragement just to step through the door.

The group is particularly grateful for its former carers, who have chosen to stay with the circle after their partners no longer required their care.

Letter to the editor



What a delightful choice of illustration on the cover of the March edition of The STAR.

I'd like you to know how much it lifted my spirits and brightened my day.

- Jennifer Clark

These members are described as real assets, bringing humor, wisdom, and experience to the group. They make a point of greeting every newcomer, sitting with them for a chat to help the tension ebb away and bring out a smile.

If you care for someone with dementia, have a diagnosis yourself, or simply want to learn more about how the group might be helpful, you are encouraged to get in touch.

For the latest on current activities and availability, 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: Catherine Minnis
07808 657681

Scrooby Village Hall:
Izzi Marshall
01302 719190

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

Bassetlaw Cardiac Support Group:
Christine Coldwell
01909 730629

Ranskill & Torworth Afternoon 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 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

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01777 816325

Scrooby: Alyson Goldsmith
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 Councillor Andrew McCallum
07725 768 490

Police: 101
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PCSO Lucy Campion
07525 989445



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Local artists open their doors for Nottingham Open Studios 2026

Creativity is set to take center stage across the county this May as Nottingham Open Studios (OSNotts) returns for the first four weekends of the month.

This celebration of local artistry allows the public to meet craftspeople, visit their private studios, and gain unique insight into their creative processes. As part of the event, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries will also host exhibitions featuring selected works and photography in Arnold, Hucknall, and Worksop libraries.

Several talented artists in our local area are participating, offering a chance to view or purchase original work and build community connections:

Chris Campbell (Mattersey): Open on 2nd–3rd May, Chris will be demonstrating a range of new laser cutting and engraving tools.

Cath Ray Gallery and Studios (Retford): Open 2nd–3rd May and 23rd–24th May, this hub features five permanent artists specializing in textiles, ceramics, bookbinding, painting, and cyanotypes, alongside an exhibition by Alan Hazard.

Judy Stevenson & Ann Robbins (Misson/Scrooby): Ceramicist Judy Stevenson will be joined by Ann Robbins of Scrooby on 16th–17th May to showcase their latest pots.

Mark Gittins (Ranskill): Local potter Mark Gittins will open his studio at 10 High Gables from 10am to 5pm on 2nd–3rd May and 23rd–

24th May. Visitors are welcome to meet Mark and view his functional pottery, including pieces woodfired with the Sherwood Forest Woodfiring Society.

Printed brochures will be distributed soon to local libraries and the Blue Bell pub. For full details on artist locations and opening times, visit the official website at www.osnotts.co.uk.

The STAR wants *you* to join us for a cuppa

The STAR is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help keep our three villages connected. The team is seeking reliable distributors for monthly walks around Scrooby, Ranskill, and Torworth, which offers a perfect opportunity to stay fit while meeting neighbours.

Most routes take approximately one hour and can be completed at your own pace. In addition to distributors, the magazine is searching for editorial helpers to assist with content.

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

No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm for keeping the villages connected. Those interested should contact the team via email at copy4star@yahoo.co.uk.

In recognition of those who already freely give up their time, The STAR is hosting a special thank-you event.

All current distributors are invited to an afternoon tea at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 30 May 2026 from 2pm to 4pm.

The team very much hopes you will join us and asks that you please save the date in your diary.



Penny Trail raises £2,692

The Mile of Pennies at Saint Barnabas Church in Ranskill has raised £2,692 and now stretches 3 miles and 851 yards and climbing!

“That half mile is very close,” said organiser Joy Tudberry. “Thank you all, and with our wishes for a Happy Easter.”

River Trent's secrets revealed in Wildlife Trust season finale

The North Nottinghamshire Local Group of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is set to conclude its current season with an immersive exploration of our regional landscape.

On Thursday, 9th April, well-known historian Adrian Gray will present the second installment of his River Trent trilogy, titled "The Meandering

Trent from Dunham to Stockwith". Following the river's path from Dunham Bridge, past Gainsborough, and as far as Stockwith Ferry, the talk delves into a fascinating and ever-changing section of the waterway.

Gray's latest research examines the river's historical shifts, including vanishing islands and catastrophic floods, alongside the various human efforts to control its flow. Attendees will discover the stories of Viking settlers and a famous local pottery, while also uncovering the meaning behind curious local terms such as 'warping' and 'gyme holes'. This presenta-



tion comes at a vital time for the river, which is finally receiving significant restoration attention and investment after decades of neglect.

The event will be held at the Idle Valley Centre, with a brief AGM for members starting at 7:00 pm. The main presentation begins at 7:15 pm, and the £3.00 entry fee includes tea and biscuits. All are welcome to attend, and there is no need to book in advance. For further information or to sign up for email updates regarding future group activities, you can contact Jan at 01777 709974 or 07969 180067, or via email at janwilliamson133@gmail.com.

Women's Institute to hear tales from the road

The Ranskill and Torworth Women's Institute will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday 28 April, with proceedings commencing at 2:00 pm. The guest speaker for the afternoon is Mr Steve Brown, who will present a talk light-heartedly entitled "It's Hell on Wheels".


Mr Brown will be sharing a variety of stories

and insights gained from his professional experiences as a driving instructor. The meeting is to be held at St Barnabas Church on the Great North Road in Ranskill.

Local residents interested in attending or seeking further information are encouraged to contact Pat Blatchford on 01777 818519.



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Growing season begins for Torworth, Ranskill, and Scrooby allotments

As March marked the start of a new growing season, the gardeners at the Torworth allotments are now looking ahead with their trademark optimism. Following a particularly wet winter, the community is hoping for better weather and a productive year, despite the significant challenges faced last season.

These hurdles included a hot, dry summer and an unusual explosion in the mouse population – attributed to a decrease in local raptors – which saw pests consuming vegetables, fruit, and anything else they could find.

Beyond the personal satisfaction of the harvest, the allotments offer a way for households to save money while ensuring their produce is free from pesticides and glyphosate. These chemicals are commonly used on commercial



crops to dry them before harvest, but allotment gardeners can enjoy a cleaner, healthier alternative. The site provides a peaceful and relaxing environment that serves as a significant boost for both health and wellbeing.

For those looking to start their own growing journey, there is currently one plot available to rent starting April 1st. The site is private, leased from a landowner by Torworth Parish Council, and is open to residents of Torworth, Ranskill, and Scrooby. The cost for the plot is £35 per year, plus an additional £3.50 for insurance per person.

If you are interested in renting this plot, you can arrange a viewing by contacting the secretary via email at jandp2@icloud.com.

Plant donations wanted for Summer Festival

Organisers are appealing for plant donations to stock a dedicated stall at the Ranskill and Torworth Festival on Saturday 13 June.

If you have any spare plants, seedlings, or divided perennials to contribute, you can call Tim Cotton on 07903 706815 to arrange a collection. Alternatively, donations can be dropped off at Long Eden, Mattersey Road, Ranskill, DN22 8NF.

Scrooby Garden Club prepares for Spring Plant Swap and Brunch

The tireless efforts of Scrooby Garden Club members and local residents have once again transformed the village with a spectacular display of daffodils. While the blooms are currently a highlight of the local scenery, the club notes that there are still spaces available for further planting in the future.

To celebrate the season, the club's next meeting will be the Spring Plant Swap and Brunch, held on April 18th at the Village Hall. Attendees are encouraged to bring along any plants they no longer want or have room for to trade with others. The event offers a social atmosphere where visitors can enjoy brunch alongside tea and coffee while



browsing the available greenery.

The Scrooby Garden Club is an informal group of garden enthusiasts who meet regularly for community garden work, organized visits, plant swaps, and various social events. All current and aspiring members are welcome to attend the upcoming brunch. Membership is open to everyone for a nominal annual subscription of £10.

If you are interested in joining the club or learning more about their activities, please contact Stephen at 07341 386050.





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goodtimes

Wednesday 1st April

The Wind In The Willows, Doncaster Little Theatre, 7:00pm. A Little Theatre Easter Production. Classic play of the infamous Toad of Toad Hall with friends Ratty, Mole and Badger. The troublesome Chief Weasel and Stoats give them fear and dread, but Toad's adventurous escapades make this show a fun, light-hearted family extravaganza. Wed-Fri 7pm (Doors 6pm), Sat 3pm (Doors 2pm). Runs until 4th April. From £12.

Thursday 2nd April

Game of Crones, Cast Theatre, 7:15pm. Sharpen your swords and fill your goblets – the dragons have returned! A&E Comedy first embarked on a mighty quest with Enter the Dragons in 2018. Now, destiny calls them once more to the battlefield in their epic sequel: Game of Crones. Our dauntless fools must don the armour of absurdity and march into the perilous lands of the "third age". From £15.50.



Game of Crones, Cast Theatre

Saturday 4th April

Exciting Science, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 11:30am. WARNING....WARNING.....EXTREME FUN ALERT! This Brand New, Exciting & Educational show will amaze &

astound all ages from 4 years & upwards. With Fun & Fact-filled experiments, watch in amazement as they recreate a volcanic eruption, turn a vacuum cleaner into a missile launcher or take aim at you with our smoke blaster! Doors open 11am. Recommended age 4+.

England U19s vs France U19s, Castle Park, 2:00pm. Rugby fans are invited to join us for an exciting international youth fixture as England U19s take on France U19s. The match takes place at the home of Doncaster Knights with turnstiles opening at 12:00pm. Onsite parking is available for a £5.00 fee per vehicle. From £14.

Wednesday 8th April

Talegate Theatre presents Rapunzel, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 2:00pm. "Rapunzel, Rapunzel let down your hair!" From TaleGate Theatre Productions – the team that brought you 'The Frog Prince' and 'Alice in Wonderland'. Join Rapunzel as she escapes the tower from the evil Witch Gothel and has the most amazing day ever! A tangled tale featuring pop songs, magic and puppets. Doors open 1:30pm. Recommended age 5+.



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Saturday 11th April

A Beautiful Noise, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. It's A Beautiful Noise with Fisher Stevens – The definitive Neil Diamond tribute direct from London's West End . Revisit over 130 million albums' worth of classic hits. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 14+.

Charity Ploughing Match, near Boston Park Farm, 10:00am. A traditional event featuring horse ploughing alongside modern and vintage tractor ploughing . Includes trailer rides with food and drinks available . Located in fields near Boston Park Farm (DN7 6BW on Saturday, DN7 6DS on Sunday) . Runs until 12th April. Free entry.

Sunday 12th April

SDA Presents Encore, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 2:00pm. ENCORE! The incredibly talented SDA students are back and ready to light up the stage with an exciting showcase of dancing and singing! Doors open 1:30pm. Recommended age 2+.

Charity Ploughing Match, near Boston Park Farm

Mother Goose – A Cracking Easter Panto, Cast Theatre, 3:00pm. Anton Benson Productions return to Doncaster with another EGGcellent Easter panto full of song, dance, splendid sets and colourful costumes. Runs until 9th April. From £17.50.

Friday 10th April (Good Friday)

Little Red Riding Hood, Cast Theatre, 2:00pm & 4:00pm. A playful retelling of the classic fairy tale by Northern Ballet. Join Little Red on an enchanting adventure as she discovers the importance of kindness and makes some unexpected friends. Show times 2pm & 4pm. From £10.50.

Scandal and secrets: Historical Society uncover disasters

The Retford & District Historical & Archaeological Society is set to reveal the messy private lives of Nottinghamshire's former elite. On Wednesday, 8th April 2026, guest speaker Adrian Gray will present "Scandal and Adultery," a deep dive into the marital disasters of the Sherwood Forest nobility. The talk begins at 7:30 pm at Chapelgate Hall (located behind Grove Street Methodist Chapel). All are welcome to attend this look at the broken vows and public outrages of the region's stately homes. For further information, contact Joy Tudberry (01777 818419) or Colin Witham (01777 702475).

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Literature and laughs are on the cards in April at Retford Library

Retford Library has unveiled a packed calendar of events for April and May 2026. The season kicks off on Tuesday, 14th April, with the Crime Café from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. For just £1, which includes refreshments, local mystery fans can gather to chat about favorite Whodunnits and get fresh recommendations from library staff.

Two days later, on Thursday, 16th April at 6:00 pm, the atmosphere shifts from mystery to history with "Cakes and Ale – Dining with Shakespeare". This illustrated talk by Judith Hedley celebrates the Bard's birthday by exploring what people actually ate and drank in the 16th century. Tickets are £3 and include refreshments, but be sure to book early as spaces are essential for this light-hearted look at culinary history.

For those who find the modern world a bit too noisy, the Quiet Reading Café returns on Monday, 20th April at 6:00 pm. This unique event gives you "permission to read with no distractions" in the library's beautiful Heritage Room. Entry is £3 and includes refreshments to enjoy while you soak up the silence.

Poetry enthusiasts should take note of a date correction for the next Poetry Café. While some local listings may have the wrong day, the library has confirmed the correct date is Monday, 27th April from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

The theme for the afternoon is "Travel, Transport and Journeys", and attendees are invited to bring a themed poem to share or simply sit back and listen. Entry is £1 including refreshments.

Looking ahead to May, the library welcomes back a familiar face. On Thursday, 7th May at 6:00 pm, Rob White returns by popular request to deliver a talk on Thomas Hardy's classic, *Far From the Madding Crowd*. He will provide a fascinating look at how the novel was written and the impact it made upon its release. Tickets are £3 and include refreshments.

Booking is advised for all café events and essential for the evening talks. To secure your place, you can visit the Help Desk at 17 Churchgate, call 01777 708724, or email retford.library@inspireculture.org.uk.

Tuesday 14th April

Macbeth, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. A tightknit ensemble perform a dark and visceral manifestation of *Macbeth*. Flabbergast's production fuses a rigorous approach to text with exhilarating live music to create a powerful live soundscape. An instinctive interpretation drawing out parallels with modern society. From £17.50.



Macbeth, Cast Theatre

Thursday 16th April

Soho Cinders, Cast Theatre, 7:15pm. A modern musical fairytale with a wicked twist. Packed with infectious songs by Stiles and Drewe, this version turns tradition on its head, blending romance and politics into musical theatre magic. Runs until 18th April. From £24.50.

The Makings of a Murderer, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Join Peter Bleksley, a founding member of Scotland Yard's undercover unit, as he lifts the lid on the most dangerous aspects of



Chris Addison's *Incomplete Guide to Chamber Music*, Cast Theatre

murder investigations. From the realities of infiltrating gangs to his own experience as a target, Peter shares untold stories of high-stakes cases. From £24.

Friday 17th April

Thank You for the Music, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. The ultimate tribute to ABBA. This international smash-hit show, now in its 21st year, brings number one hits like Waterloo, Dancing Queen and Mamma Mia to the stage. From £24.

Saturday 18th April

Bawtry Record Fair, Bawtry Town Hall, 12:00pm. Our first record fair in the historic beautiful town of Bawtry! A well-lit venue with a great little cafe serving food and drinks while you browse. Open 12pm–4pm. Free entry.

Sing the Musicals, Doncaster Dome, 6:00pm. The Live Band Sing-Along Spectacular. A high-energy experience where you can sing along to hits from *Mamma Mia!*, *Frozen*, *The Greatest Showman* and many more. Presented by Lillis Live & Massaoke. From £27.50.

Northern Live – Do I Love You, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. Keeping the Faith to the original sounds of the underground movement. Features an 11-piece band with 4 lead vocalists performing over 30 original hits. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 7+.

Sunday 19th April

Craft & Makers Market, Cusworth Hall, 10:00am. A brand-new event in the historic parkland of Cusworth Hall. Open 10am–4pm. Free entry.

Monday 20th April

Chris Addison's *Incomplete Guide to Chamber Music*, Cast Theatre, 7:30pm. Comedian Chris Addison joins Music in the Round to take us on a journey through the vibrant and sometimes bizarre history of classical chamber music. From £22.50.



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Create a safe, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment which fosters individual needs.

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

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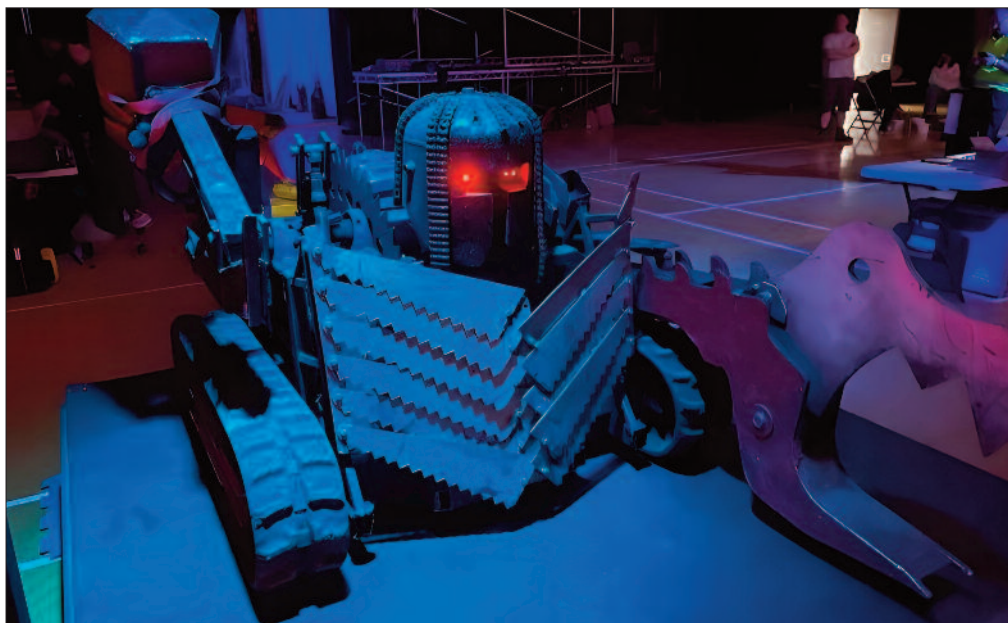
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Extreme Robots, Doncaster Dome

Saturday 25th April

The Artisan Street Fayre, Doncaster Markets, 9:00am. Coming to Doncaster Market for a full day of independent shopping, amazing food and one-of-a-kind finds.. Starts 9am. Free entry.

Doncaster Day of Dance, City Centre, 10:00am. A multi-genre day of dance taking place across various City Centre locations including performances and 'Give it a go' opportunities. Open 10am-4pm. Free entry.

Family Concert: The Storm Whale, Cast Theatre, 11:00am. A storybook concert based on the modern classic by Benji Davies. Heart-warming tales brought to life through music. Perfect for ages 3 to 7. Tickets £6.

Extreme Robots, Doncaster Dome, 12:00pm & 4:00pm. Over 30 heavyweight robots battle in the only touring Combat Robot show in the world where you can see spinning robots like

Galactus smashing into each other! Saturday shows at 12pm and 4pm; Sunday show at 12pm . Runs until 26th April. From £26.75.

Elvis Legacy, Doncaster Corn Exchange, 7:00pm. Get ready to shake, rattle, and roll! An unforgettable evening celebrating the King of Rock 'n' Roll with the magic, music and moves of Elvis Presley . From £22.38.

The Lark Ascending, Cast Theatre, 7:15pm. Music in the Round presents an evening of English music. Enjoy friendly classical music concerts with world-class musicians sitting just metres away. Features works by Holst, Britten and Vaughan Williams . Tickets £13.

That'll Be The Day, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. That'll Be The Day – 40th Year Anniversary Tour. A unique blend of rock 'n' roll, pop and comedy featuring hits from the 50s through to the 80s. Say goodbye to Trevor on his farewell tour. Doors open 7pm. Age guidance 12+.

Sunday 26th April

Curly's Athletes Run for Wildlife 10k, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, 8:30am. The Spring 10k running safari where you can run alongside animals. Entry includes park access for the rest of the day. Starts 8:30am. From £25.

Tom Gates Live on Stage, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 12:30pm. Based on the bestselling books by Liz Pichon. Doors open 12pm. Recommended age 3+.

May Sneak Preview – Thursday 7th May

RMTC – We Will Rock You, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 7:30pm. A high-octane musical featuring more than 20 iconic Queen hits. Doors open 7pm. Recommended age 12+.

Friday 8th May

Afternoon Cabaret, Doncaster Little Theatre. Doors open 1pm. Tickets £9.

Saturday 9th May

Doncaster Steampunk Spectacular, City Centre, 10:00am. The annual celebration returns. Activities at the Mansion House, Sir Nigel Gresley Square and Frenchgate. Free entry.

Taste of Thailand Festival, Elmfield Park, 10:00am. A brand-new event for 2026 featuring Thai food, drinks, on-stage entertainment and live music. Includes Thai boxing demonstrations and ladyboy shows. Runs until 10th May. Tickets £8.

Doncaster Fake Festival, Sandall Park, 11:45am. Kick off the 2026 tour with six incredible Fake Bands® inside a giant marquee. Tributes include Elton John, Pulp, Muse, The Rolling Stones, Foo Fighters and The Killers. Starts 11:45am. From £25.



Doncaster Fake Festival, Sandall Park

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Your Star signs for April



Aries: A sudden conviction to re-gravel the entire drive before the first bank holiday will hit you. Your lower back suggests a much more moderate approach; perhaps just pointing at the gravel from a comfortable chair with a gin is the safer path to glory.

Taurus: A spiritual connection with a hollow chocolate egg is likely. Prioritise shell thickness over the "luxury" marketing flimflam. Simply eat the evidence and enjoy the quiet satisfaction that only a decent praline can provide on a Tuesday afternoon.

Gemini: You're the local expert on garden centre compost offers this month. Share this vital intelligence over tea, but avoid the peat-free debate at the checkout; life is far too short for horticultural politics when there are scones to be eaten.

Cancer: Hosting the Easter roast remains a major military operation. If you find yourself counting the sprouts at 3 AM and worrying about the lumpiness of the gravy, have a restorative sherry. The family won't notice, and the dog will be grateful.

Leo: If the local blackbird seems to be singing specifically for your benefit, don't correct him. Accept the garden's adoration with your usual, understated majesty and a flamboyant pair of gardening gloves. It's only right that the wildlife recognises your natural authority.

Virgo: Armed with silver nail scissors, you'll be found meticulously deadheading the daffodils. While others see a garden, you see a series of errors to be corrected. Remember, a single wonky tulip isn't a personal failure, though you will almost certainly disagree.

Libra: The "sandals or heavy-duty vest" dilemma dominates your mornings. Settle for a sensible cardigan and stout shoes to maintain your sartorial balance and the village peace. You don't want to be the talk of the pub for all the wrong reasons.

Scorpio: You're quietly scouting the plant sales for genuine bargains. You already know which "home-grown" seedlings were actually raised in a supermarket. Use this sharp insight to secure the prize begonias before the competitive types arrive.

Sagittarius: A bracing walk through the countryside sounds idyllic until the wet socks set in. You'll insist it's "character-building" to anyone who'll listen, even if you're shivering by the time you reach the pub. At least the pint will taste better for the struggle.

Capricorn: The ritual of the summer duvet switch is a solemn, administrative task. Your commitment to domestic logistics and specific Tog-ratings remains the envy of the village. Just ensure you've actually got room in the airing cupboard before you start the grand transition.

Aquarius: An ingenious contraption involving old gutters and a bicycle pump might emerge from your garage this week. The neighbours will undoubtedly stare, but you'll have the most efficient rose-watering system in the county, even if it does hum quite loudly during The Archers.

Pisces: Cherry blossoms send you into a poetic trance mid-way through a trip to the chemist. Mundane errands can wait while you commune with the breeze and watch the clouds. If you forget why you went out in the first place, consider it a cosmic holiday.



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Christian perspective: The gate and road

As we come into April, along with longer days the bursting out of buds on the trees and spring flowers, we approach the celebration of Easter, the first thought that comes is that of Good Friday, and of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. But he did not stay in the grave, there was his glorious rising again. So, we come with great thankfulness to him that he went the way of the cross for us. It is the only way we can come into the presence of a holy God.

But the call is not just to believe in Jesus and what he did for us, but also to follow on after him in the way of the cross. I am reminded of Jesus saying to his disciples in Mark 8:34-35 *'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.'* It's not enough to us to enter in and enjoy the fruits of the work of Jesus, but his call is for us to walk the same way he walked. This means not putting ourselves first, not going our own way, but being obedient to his commands to us. If we find life is difficult and often a struggle, we need to remember the way Jesus went for us and look to him.

God has a purpose for our lives in his great eternal plan, just as he had a great purpose for Jesus.



Matthew records for us, in Mat 7:13-14, these words of Jesus: *'Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.'* So how do we find this small gate to set off on the narrow road?

We need to come humbly confessing and repenting of our sin and our sinfulness, asking him to make us clean, to wash us with his blood; asking him to come in and take charge of our lives.

Let's be found among the few who find the small gate and walk the narrow road to life. It will mean choosing to obey the Lord instead of going with the crowd.

Sometimes this can be a lonely, uphill struggle, but the Lord has promised that he will never leave us and never forsake us.

He has also promised to seal us with his Holy Spirit, who pours his love into our lives, and gives us the power to serve him. So, it becomes a way of joy, peace and great satisfaction in walking with Jesus.

God bless you this Easter time.

** Brenda Critchley*

Your April 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.

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

HELLO SCROOBY, TORWORTH AND RANSKILL

Happi 






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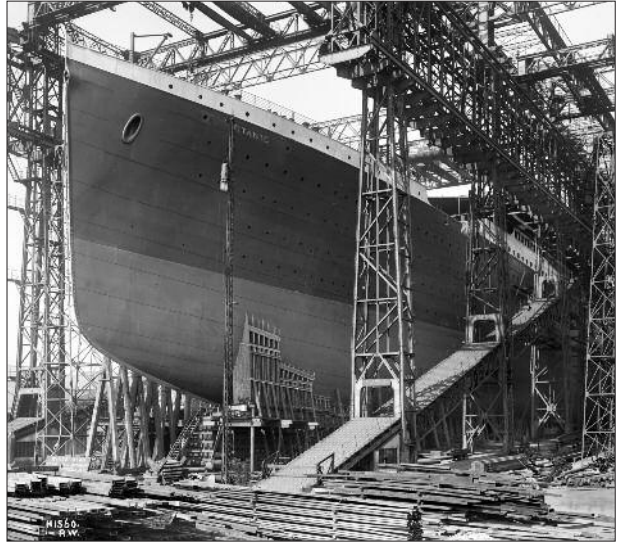
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Your April STAR pop-up pub quiz

1. On what day in April is St George's Day?
2. 'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen' is a quote from which book?
3. What is April's birthstone?
4. What are the April Lyrids?
5. The arrival of which bird in mid April is said to signal the start of Spring?
6. April Windsor is a character in which TV soap?
7. Which two star signs are in April?
8. Which major sporting event will take place in London on 26th April?
9. April's birth flower is often listed as *Bellis Perennis* which is the Latin name of which flower?
10. VAT was introduced to the UK on April Fools Day – True or False?
11. Which novelist, famed for his Fairy Tales, was born in April 1805?
12. Which war commenced on 2nd April 1981?
13. In April 1969 which vessel took her maiden flight?
14. 'April She Will Come' is a 1966 song by which duo?
15. On which day in April is Earth Day celebrated annually?



16. Queen Elizabeth II was born in April – True or False?
17. HMS Titanic struck an iceberg and sank on 12th April in which year?
18. An explosion at which nuclear plant in Ukraine occurred on 26th April 1986?
19. On which date in April is National Beer Day observed in the UK?
20. Which US First Lady was born on 17th April 1964? ref calls TKO for safety?

Answers on page 34.

Church notices for April

Church Notices for March 2026
(CW = Common Worship, HC = Holy Communion, BCP = Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 3rd: Scrooby – 9.30am CW HC. Sunday 10th: Blyth – 9.30am CWH. Sunday 17th: Ranskill – 9.30am. Sunday 24th: Scrooby – 9.30 CW HC. Blyth – 10.30am Family Service. Sunday 30th: Blyth – 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 Probing Matter

Though noses do come in some queer shapes and sizes,
We don't have much say in what Nature devises.
Some are quite bulbous, some long and some fat,
Some are quite sharp, some are notably flat.
Some are turned up, giving instant renown,
Some, given choice, we would always turn
down.

Cyrano de Bergerac, everyone knows,
Saw the best way ahead was to win by a nose.
Whatever the moral, it led to his fame
And whatever we're blessed with, they all smell
the same.
So take Nature's pill for her nasal prognosis.
Just think!
We might have been stuck with an elephant's
proboscis.

Joy T.



The STAR recipe: Wholemeal Banana Scones

Ingredients

- 6oz plain flour
- 8oz wholemeal flour
- 4 teasp baking powder
- 2oz caster sugar
- 3oz butter
- 8oz bananas (approx. 2 large or 3 small)
- ¼ pint water
- Milk and demerara sugar (for topping)

Method

Rub butter into the flours, baking powder, and sugar until the mixture resembles fine crumbs.

Mash the bananas and add to the mixture along with the water. Knead slightly, then divide and shape the dough into 16 scones. Place on a baking tray, brush with milk, and sprinkle with a little demerara sugar. Bake at 200°C (400°F / Gas Mark 6) for 15-20 minutes until golden.



- Joy T.

TUESDAY DROP IN

Ripples and Warm Spaces are excited to announce that we are joining forces to invite you to our new Tuesday Drop In, every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome!

WHAT TO EXPECT

Cake

Every week we have lots of delicious baked treats to tempt you. Can't choose? Have a bit of everything!

Cuppas

We have a range of drinks on offer, from regular tea and coffee, to herbal teas or squash if you prefer a cold drink.

Company

Enjoy time with others, whether you want to play dominoes, cards, do a wordsearch or just have a good chat.

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Ranskill and Torworth—Friday, 10th April

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 21st April

Station Road / Low Road 14.45 - 15.15

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MINUTES OF THE TORWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT SCROOBY VILLAGE HALL - Monday January 5th, 2026 at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chair: C. Willis

Vice-Chair: J Helliwell

Councillors: R. Willis,

Members of the public: 0

OPEN FORUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

01/0126 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chair opens the meeting welcoming everyone.

Apologies

Dawn Lacey – noted

County Councillor: M Robertson

District Councillor: A McCallum

02/0126 Co-Option of Councillors

None

03/0126 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

04/0126 CRIME REPORT

3 crimes reported for September 2025 on 1x Burglary on Blacksmith Lane, 1 x Antisocial and 1x other Crime on Daneshill Road.

1 crime reported for October 2025 on Daneshill Road of Burglary.

05/0126 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None

Please contact your District or County

councillor direct for further information on the issues reported or to raise issues direct with them.

Noted: the lack of attendance at Parish Council meetings by both the County and District Councillors.

06/0126 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

07/0126 COUNCILLOR RAISED ITEMS, MATTERS ARISING DURING THE MONTH & ONGOING MATTERS

Noted: A broad planting and works scheme in the playing field is discussed, bulb planting suggested to commence in September in line with the Budget. Motion to be added to the next meeting agenda.

08/0126 FINANCE

Resolved: That the budget for the financial year 2026/2027 be approved in the sum of **£18,542** projected expenditure and **£18,380** projected income.

Resolved: That the precept for 2026/2027 be set at **£18,343**, representing an increase of 5% on the previous financial year, equivalent to £0.79 per month on a Band D property.

Payments presented and approved for the period:

Expenditure:

Hugo Fox Website	£(11.99)
YU Energy	£(14.63)
Hugo Fox Emails	£(11.99)
North Notts Landscape Administration	£(324.00)
	£(105.99)

Scooby Parish Council - Hall Hire	£(24.00)
Scooby Parish Council - Hall Hire	£(24.00)
Hugo Fox Website	£(11.99)
Playing Field – Maintenance	£(8.49)
Playing Field – Maintenance	£(55.92)
Independent Playground Inspection	£(138.00)
Warden Supplies	£(42.84)
Hugo Fox Emails	£(11.99)
YU Energy	£(14.23)
North Notts Landscape	£(324.00)
Stamps	£(54.90)

Receipts

Cashback	£0.84
R Willis	£50.00

8/0126 AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

Resolved: to form a working party to identify grant options for playground equipment.

9/0126 PLANNING ISSUES DECLARED BEFORE OR AT THE MEETING

Planning Applications on consultation:
None.

Determinations from previous Applications:

None

10/0126 CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

NALC Newsletter

An email from a resident in respect to Litter on Baulk Lane/Blyth Road.

11/0126 UPDATES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

None

12/0126 INFORMATION TO BE FORWARDED TO THE NEXT MEETING & ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Playing Field Grants/ Equipment

13/0126: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm

– in Scrooby Village Hall

2nd March 2025

4th May 2025

For more information or queries, please contact the clerk 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, see the village websites:

<https://ranskillparishcouncil.gov.uk>

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

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

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



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last words

April brings daffodils, lighter evenings, and April Fools' Day – which feels rather appropriate given that we're all foolish enough to believe spring has finally, definitely arrived, right up until it snows on Easter Monday. But if social media is anything to go by, the season of renewal has brought out both the best and worst of human nature in equal measure, with varying degrees of foolishness throughout.

Let's start with the good news, because frankly, we could all use some. Someone considering buying their first home asked the community what Ranskill is like to live in, and the response was overwhelmingly heartwarming. Twenty-six years of residency. Thirty-six years. A decade. Families who moved here for better schools and quieter lives. The consistent praise for the chippy, the shop, the school, the walks, and the community spirit – all of this painted a picture of a village genuinely proud of itself.

"It's absolutely lovely," said one; "gorgeous," suggested another; "beautiful village," came a third contribution. And these weren't estate agent platitudes, of course, but genuine testimonials from people who've stayed put for years, sometimes decades.

One person even joked that the village got better when they moved there, which is the sort of self-deprecating humour that somehow makes a place feel more welcoming, not less. Our potential new neighbour signed off, promising to see everyone shortly, which feels like a small victory for the community.

But then we get to the daffodils. Oh, the daffodils.

Ranskill Park's spring flowers, planted and tended by volunteers, were, according to social media correspondents, ripped up by children making "flower rings" while parents stood by chatting.



Social media response was swift and furious. "Moron," "mindless," "little twits" (someone's patience had clearly worn thin; they were in such a hurry they misspelt "twits"). The ecological argument was particularly pointed: emerging bees need that nectar after a long winter, and those daffodils would have flowered for another six weeks.

It's worth noting that not everyone blamed it all on the kids. Some rightly pointed out that adults behave badly, too. But the incident crystallised something that frustrates people deeply: the disconnect between what we say we value (green spaces, community efforts, environmental responsibility) and what we actually do.

The litter situation hasn't helped moods either, with overflowing public bins and dog poo left on pavements. Station Road appears to be particularly afflicted, with one "massive poo" deposited right in the middle of the path. Theories abound about household waste being dumped in public bins, though whether that excuses anything is debatable.

Still, spring soldiers on regardless of our behaviour. The surviving daffodils will bloom defiantly, someone's out on their morning dog walk armed with a sense of civic duty, and probably some poo bags, and somewhere a first-time buyer is about to discover that village life means passionate opinions about both litter bins and flower preservation.

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

Quiz answers: 1. 23rd 2. 1984 3. Diamond 4. Meteor Shower 5. Cuckoo 6. Emmerdale 7. Aries and Taurus 8. London Marathon 9. Daisy 10. True 11. Hans Christian Anderson 12. Falklands 13. Concorde 14. Simon & Garfunkel 15. 22nd 16. True 17. 1912 18. Chernobyl 19. 6th 20. Michelle Obama

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