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August 2026
Issue 486

INSIDE:

Mayflower
descendants
travel to
Scrooby

Garden club
enjoys annual
walkabout

Looking
out for
local
wildlife

Have a
lolly nice
August!



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The Knowledge

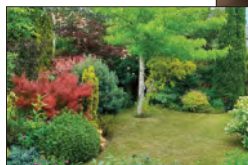
Garden Club takes annual walk around and sweet pea success - **page 4**

Ranskill waste tip under scrutiny **Plus:** Vikings

take the stage **Plus:** Mile of Pennies - **Plus:** Useful contacts - **page 7**

Mayflower descendants travel to Scrooby to mark July 4th - **page 9**

Is it hard work, really, or actually a huge pleasure? **Plus:** Protecting local wildlife through heatwaves - **page 10**



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Good Times

A regular round-up of what's on near Scrooby, Torworth



and Ranskill - *page 13*
Down Time

Your August STAR Signs - *page 23*
Christian perspective.
Plus: Sudoku - *page 25*
The pop-up pub quiz: Literature - *page 27*

Poem: Market Forces **Plus:** Recipe: Coconut Brownies - *page 27*

The Minutes

Round-up of local parish council minutes - *page 31*

Last Words

Between loose livestock, mystery metal, and a spot of bad behaviour, quiet country life hasn't been particularly quiet lately - *page 34*

“Have your say!”

Got something you feel passionate about and would like to share with our community? Please email your article to copy4star@yahoo.co.uk, or give your written piece to your village representative. Keep submissions to around 350 words and ensure we receive your copy in good time for the following month's publication.

Make sure you

have your say!

firstwords



Welcome to August, bringing with it the height of the British summer -- where we alternate wildly between complaining that it's far too hot to function and frantically checking the forecast for the next hint of a rain shower.

It's a bustling month packed with local spirit, neighbourhood updates, and a surprising amount of rural wildlife on the move. Inside this issue, we delve into the talking points that have kept our village social media pages buzzing over the past few weeks, alongside wonderful updates from our community groups.

We have the latest from local volunteers, alongside a look at how our feathered and four-legged friends -- including a rather adventurous Torworth cat -- have been keeping their owners on their toes.

We also celebrate the recent visit of the European Chapter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants to Scrooby Village Hall to mark the 250th USA Independence Day, strengthening our transatlantic ties right where the journey began

Keep your stories, photos, and news coming to copy4star@yahoo.co.uk.

Here's to a shiny, happy August!

George

Garden Club takes annual walk around and sweet pea success

In pleasant sunshine in mid-June, Garden Club members enjoyed an early evening stroll around the village, calling in at several gardens to admire their owners' industry.

Starting on Vicarage Lane, the group called at properties on Chapel Lane, the Pinfold, and the Croft that are the responsibility of the club to maintain, then visited more houses on Low Road before finishing at Mill Close House. Refresh-

ments were provided, and there was much discussion about what had been seen.

The club's annual Sweet Pea Day took place in the Village Hall in late June this year. With the curtains closed against the heat of the day, the



hall was full of the scent of sweet peas. Cream teas were enjoyed by around forty people, and £350 was raised for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), in continued memory of Joe Robbins.

Donations to MSF for 2026 now total £1,062; if

locals would like to add to this total, they can visit the JustGiving page titled 'Sweet Pea Day 2026'.

Here are the competition results:

Class 1 (6 Stems all the same colour): Won by Julie Robbins, second place Hugh, and third Christine Jones.

Class 2 (6 Stems mixed colours): Won by Clare Gittins, second place Alison Evans, and third place Cathy Barclay.





Class 3 (6 Stems for scent): Won by Heidi Robbins, second place Alyson, and third place Jane Lincoln.

Class 4 (Flower arrangement featuring sweet peas): Won by Christine Jones, second place Sue Cameron, and third place Jane Lincoln.

Class 5 (Picture of sweet peas any medium): Won by Clare Gittins, second place Jenny Robbins.



Best in Show: A wonderful big bunch of sweet peas from Hugh.

The club's next event will be their Summer Social at Mill Close House on Saturday 22nd August, starting at 12.30pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club is invited to contact Stephen on 07341 386050.

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Ranskill waste tip under scrutiny

As The STAR was going to press in July, Sky News revealed that scientific testing had found harmful chemicals at the huge illegal waste tip on Common Lane, Ranskill — news that sent shockwaves through the village.

It is reported that the Environment Agency has a criminal investigation ongoing into the site, one of the largest illegal tips in the UK, holding tens of thousands of tonnes of dumped rubbish.

Nottinghamshire County Council has already served enforcement notices requiring the waste to be cleared, reported the Worksop Guardian in May.

The STAR has contacted the Environment Agency for the latest position, and, given this remains an active criminal case, will update readers carefully as more emerges.

Vikings take the stage

The Ranskill and Torworth Women's Institute is preparing for its next meeting, which takes place on Tuesday 25th August. The gathering will be held at St Barnabas Church on the Great North Road in Ranskill, with proceedings commencing at 2.00pm.

This month's guest speaker is Irene Tissington, who will be delivering an engaging talk on the intriguing topic of "Scottish Vikings". Local residents interested in attending or seeking further information are encouraged to contact Pat Blatchford on 01777 818519.

Mile of Pennies update

As of July 6th, the Saint Barnabas Church Mile of Pennies has reached £2,749, which is 3.5 miles and 100 yards — an amazing achievement! And then on July 7th, a personal delivery courier raised the total to £2,751, making it 105 yards. Thank you from all organisers!

Useful contacts



Guides: Sandra McIvor
07876 787959

Brownies & Rainbows:
Janet Symonds
01777 818713

Scouts: Mark Mounde
01427 849130

Cubs & Beavers:
Hannah Bell
07912 442783

Squirrels:
Hannah Kenny
07980 949824

Methodist Church:
Circuit Office: 01777
702786 Mo/Tu/Th 9.30-3

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 Sup-
port Group:
Christine Coldwell
01909 730629

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

Ranskill Top Shop:
01777 818864

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

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

Scrooby: Alyson Goldsmith
07507 493430

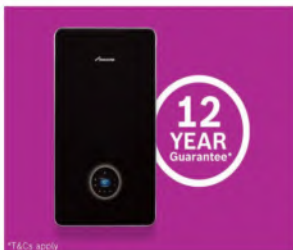
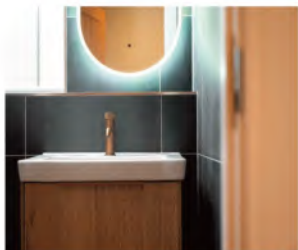
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07305 129849

Scrooby Parish Council:
Tony Smith
07974 836978

Torworth Parish Council:
Claire Challener
07557 104323

District Councillors:
Ranskill
Councillor Andrew
McCallum
07725 768 490

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Mayflower descendants travel to Scrooby to mark July 4th



July 4th was a great day in Scrooby. Not just because it was the 250th USA Independence Day but because Scrooby welcomed the European Chapter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants who came to the Village Hall for their AGM.

Sixteen members from England, Scotland, France, Netherlands and Germany gathered for the Society's third AGM to be held in a place of significance to the Mayflower pilgrims' story. They had opted for a three-day event to celebrate the European Chapter's tenth anniversary since receiving their Charter and to coincide with the US 250th.

The Society places great emphasis on the origins of their story. They see Scrooby, the birthplace of William Brewster - leader of the Mayflower expedition, as the heartland of their pilgrimage. Our village hall was thus an ideal location.



Scroobyites should never forget that the whole notion of the USA began here in our small village.

Present and past members of Scrooby Parish Council and their partners were invited to join the descendants for a convivial and much appreciated lunch.

This was much enriched by the presence of sculptor Michael Johnson, who gave an highly entertaining description of the evolution of the underlying concept and the actual fabrication of the Scrooby Rock.

The Society were further entertained by topical presentations from three prominent Mayflower speakers. They also visited various local villages and churches with Pilgrim connections. They dined at our own local, The Pilgrim Fathers.

They had a great time and they hope to visit us again for an AGM before too long. They will be very welcome visitors. Such a visit goes a long way to repairing the somewhat vulnerable "Special relationship".

Is it hard work, really, or actually a huge pleasure?

One of the things people often say about the Wednesday Group is that the organisers must work extremely hard to keep such a successful group going, and perhaps it does look like hard work from the outside.

There are tables and chairs to put out, tea and biscuits to organise, a quiz to prepare, a hot lunch to cook, not to mention the associated shopping, and goodness knows what else.

There is, however, another way to view the proceedings, and it is the one that the volunteers themselves hold. Every week they turn up smiling and pleased to see one another. Tables and chairs are organised in a flash, plates put in the warming oven, and a huge pot of tea made. The next twenty minutes or so are enormously valuable to the volunteers because that is their catch-up time, always accompanied by plenty of laughter.

Members begin to arrive shortly after, and they too clearly enjoy catching up on everyone's news—quite often bringing surplus garden produce to share with others. And that is all before the official programme even starts.

Hard work? Maybe. But the other side of the coin is that when you find a role you really want, it is pure joy. While the Wednesday Group may not be for everyone, there are plenty of other volunteering opportunities in and around Retford, which can be explored by checking with the Bassetlaw Action Centre.

Currently, there is a short waiting list to join the Wednesday Group, but if your life is affected by dementia and you think the group might be helpful, do get in touch with Jan on 07969 180067 or email janwilliamson133@gmail.com for the latest updates on what the group is doing and current availability.

Protecting local wildlife through heatwaves

Summer has brought some glorious days to North Nottinghamshire, but prolonged heatwaves come with a hidden downside for our local wildlife. As water supplies dry up and the ground turns parched, natural food sources such as slugs and worms disappear. This leaves predators in a desperate struggle to find sustenance.

Fortunately, local residents can easily lend a helping hand. Putting out a large plant pot saucer full of fresh water and scattering a few kitten biscuits around the garden takes very little time. Combined with some bird seed, these simple measures can make a crucial difference in the survival of our garden visitors.

Some creatures are already showing a remarkable knack for finding alternative dining options. A pair of crows was recently spotted

catching and eating small fish in a shallow stretch of the River Idle as it winds through Kings Park -- an astonishing sight for onlookers. While bird watchers are well-used to crows outsmarting squirrels for buried peanuts, fishing certainly marks a new chapter in avian resourcefulness.

Residents are encouraged to keep a close eye on their garden wildlife during the warmer months and to stay vigilant when out and about. You never know when you might spot a local first!

For more information, phone Jan on 07969 180067 or email janwilliamson133@gmail.com.

Those who have not already done so are invited to sign up for email updates to receive all the latest news on the North Notts Local Group's talks and activities to their inbox. Membership is not required to take part.





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Saturday 1st August

Green Pastures Mattersey Hall Graduation Ceremony 2026, Majestic Theatre, Retford, 2:00pm (Doors 1:00pm). Friends, family and supporters are warmly invited to this inspiring afternoon celebrating students graduating in Health and Social Care (Level 3) and receiving their Green Pastures Certificate in Christian Studies from Mattersey Hall Training Centre. Featuring student stories, worship, and special guest speaker Dr John Andrews. Ticketed event - please obtain your ticket and seat location from the theatre website.

The Great Conisbrough Summer Fayre, Church Street, Conisbrough, 10:00am. Marking Yorkshire Day with a community-focused celebration in the heart of Conisbrough. Organised by The Great Conisbrough Events, bringing people together to celebrate local pride. Expect local stalls and traders, community entertainment and live activities, family-friendly attractions, and a celebration of Yorkshire heritage. Free entry.

Rooks Fest, Doncaster Corn Exchange, 10:00am. Welcome to the inaugural Rooksfest! A goth and witchcraft themed festival in the heart of the City of Doncaster. Featuring an Artisan Witches Market, handmade Gothic goods, free talks, live music, and walkaround entertainment. At night, join the official Rooksfest afterparty at Vintage Rockbar, featuring a mix of Synthwave, Darkwave, Industrial and Goth music (18+). 10:00am-4:00pm. All ages welcome. Free entry.

Lakeside Artisan & Craft Fayre, Lakeside Village Shopping Outlet, 10:00am. A monthly showcase of independent, home-based makers, bakers and creators. Colourful stalls offering



Summer in the City, Doncaster.

handmade crafts, bespoke artisan items, and delicious continental and traditional hot food including German bangers from the Bavarian Grill and fresh Portuguese tarts from Three Greedy Pigs. Free children's entertainment throughout. Free entry.

Summer in the City, Sir Nigel Gresley Square, 11:00am. A brand-new, month-long event bringing seaside charm to the heart of Doncaster, launching today on Yorkshire Day! Sir Nigel Gresley Square is transformed into a vibrant seaside-themed destination featuring a giant sandpit, bouncy castle, mini golf, children's rides, treasure hunts, and interactive challenges. Play area open during event hours with two-hour sessions at £5 per child. A large tipi hosts a changing programme of family-friendly entertainment, creative workshops, demonstrations, and performances throughout the month. As the day turns to evening, Summer Nights brings live music from local artists, DJ sets and bands. Open Thursday-Sunday, 11am-5:30pm (children's and family activities), 3pm-8:30pm (evening activities and entertainment). Runs through Bank Holiday Monday 31st August. Free entry to the square.



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Doncaster Pride 2026.

Steve Bracknall Live DJ Set, Doncaster Racecourse, 11:45am. The Meadowhall Summer Saturday Series welcomes viral football manager and broadcasting sensation Steve Bracknall, who will keep the atmosphere buzzing after racing with a DJ set of summer anthems and signature "Bracknall Bangers". Having sold out Sheffield City Hall in 2025 and amassed over 1.5 million social media followers, Steve doesn't just play music - he creates an atmosphere. Set lasts approximately 90 minutes, beginning about 10 minutes after the final race. Gates open approx 11:45am, first race starts approx 1:45pm. Access to the Champagne Lawn is exclusive to County, Premier, and Hospitality ticket holders (ages 13+, under 18s must be accompanied). From £10.

Sunday 2nd August

Feel the Howl of Vulcan XH558, Doncaster Sheffield Airport, 9:00am. An unforgettable opportunity to experience Vulcan XH558 as she is brought back to life. The Vulcan XH558 Engine Ground Run Experience is a rare chance to get close to one of Britain's most iconic aircraft and feel the sound, power and atmosphere of the legendary Rolls-Royce Olympus engines.

Watch the ground crew prepare the aircraft for power-on, see control surfaces exercised, witness the bomb-bay doors and airbrakes in operation, and hear the famous Vulcan howl. Approximately 60 minutes at the aircraft with photo opportunities and a commemorative certificate. Two sessions: 9:00am-11:00am and 10:30am-12:30pm. Includes coach transfer through security, tea or coffee on arrival and free parking. From £95.

Friday 7th August

The Yorkshire Wartime, Willows Farm, Moss Road, Kirkhouse Green, 10:00am. The North of

England's Largest WWI & WWII Military Vehicle and Living History Event. Over 500 military vehicles and over 50 re-enactment group displays across 30 acres of land, 10 miles north of Doncaster. Witness battles re-enacted in meticulous detail, walk amongst British Tommies, GI Joes, the Women's Land Army, and more. Features some of the largest and rarest military vehicles on static display and during daily vehicle parades. Runs through Sunday 9th August.

Saturday 8th August:

Doncaster Pride 2026, Town Field, from £8. Doncaster Pride is back - bigger, bolder, and brighter than ever! A full day of colour, joy, and unity featuring two incredible live music stages with DJs, drag performances, and show-stopping acts. Plus a Cabaret Space, Family Space with crafts and entertainment for kids, Funfair, food and drink from local and international street food vendors, licensed bars, and Pride Markets showcasing unique gifts, handmade goods, and local LGBTQ+ businesses. For everyone - LGBTQ+, allies, families, and all who want to celebrate love, inclusion, and equality.

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Night Out At The Zoo, Yorkshire Wildlife Park Resort, 5:00pm. Join Yorkshire Wildlife Park for a sunset safari followed by a late night opening exploring the dusk-lit lawns of Tsavo! Incredible live entertainment including the Jungle Boogie Live Show and the Jungle Rumble circus spectacular with unicycle stunts, juggling, and a breathtaking fire finale. Roaming stilt walkers, giant puppets including elephants, an orangutan on a bicycle, and a magnificent polar bear. Late opening until 9pm. Also running Saturday 22nd August. From £27.99.

Wednesday 12th August

Doncaster Lit Fest, Bake Battle & Roll Board Game Cafe and venues across the city centre, 10:00am. Doncaster's five-day literary event for young people! Featuring author talks, poetry and spoken word events, literary quiz night, book giveaways, young persons short story competitions, author panels, fancy dress Saturday, and zine making workshops. Short story competition winners announced Sunday 16th August at Bake, Battle and Roll. Runs through Sunday 16th August. Free entry.

Friday 14th August

The Ultimate Tribute to Eminem, Doncaster Dome, 6:00pm. Lose Yourself Live brings the music of Eminem to the stage in a full theatre scale production, performed by James Wythes with a full live band. Expect to hear Lose Yourself, The Real Slim Shady, Stan, Without You,

Rap God, Love The Way You Lie and many more. Careful staging, lighting and sound give the music the space to take centre stage. Please note this performance contains explicit language. Suitable for ages 14 and over, with under 18s required to be accompanied by an adult. From £23.25.

Saturday 15th August

Gorilla Fest '26, Gorilla Beer Hall and Brewery, Mexborough, 1:00pm. Grab your ticket early for this summer's GorillaFest! Live music from The Harbours, Maybe Gold, The Glasshouse, Olivia Booth, and Tuesday Night Whites. 1:00pm-10:00pm. From £15.

Wallen & Combs Tribute Live After Racing, Doncaster Racecourse, 12:00pm. The Meadowhall Summer Saturday Series presents the ultimate tribute to country superstars Morgan Wallen and Luke Combs. Authentic vocals, live guitars, and a stadium-style atmosphere bring the sound, swagger, and soul of modern country to the stage. 45 minutes dedicated to each artist delivering a full 90-minute live concert, beginning approximately 10 minutes after the final race. Gates open approx 12pm, first race starts approx 2pm. Access to the Champagne Lawn is exclusive to County, Premier, and Hospitality ticket holders (ages 13+, under 18s must be accompanied). From £10.

Swift & Styles, Doncaster Corn Exchange. A fun, high-energy celebration for children inspired by the music and creativity of Taylor Swift and Harry Styles. Young fans sing along to clean, age-appropriate songs, dance, and enjoy an interactive experience filled with colour, friendship, and self-expression. Through lively performances, simple choreography, and playful audience participation, children are encouraged to be confident, kind, and themselves. Safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all ages. From £11.55.



Gorilla Fest '26, Mexborough.

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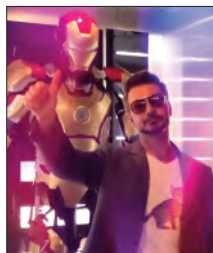
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Sunday 16th August

Doncaster Antique Fair, Doncaster Corn Exchange, 9:00am. Spend your Sunday morning hunting for fine treasures, vintage silver, collectables, and jewellery. 24 specialist sellers over 24 tables inside the stunningly restored historic Corn Exchange building, which features a fantastic cafe and bar on site. A lovely weekend wander in the heart of the city centre.

Friday 21st August

Donny Hunters Scooter Rally, Parklands Sports and Social Club, Wheatley Hall Road, 11:00am. The Donny Hunters Scooter Rally weekend returns! Live music from Andy Wallace and DJ Tall Paul, DYNO shoot out, hot food and drink, merch and goodies, trade stands, and BBQ Friday night. Runs through Sunday 23rd August. From £5.



UltraCon, Doncaster.

Saturday 22nd August

UltraCon, Doncaster Racecourse, 10:30am. The UK's most unforgettable comic con experience returns to Doncaster Racecourse! Bigger props, more stars, louder cos-

play, wilder stage shows. Featuring huge, large-scale interactive movie sets, the UK's largest gathering of TV and movie vehicles, special guests from film and TV, merchandise and incredible collectables, and the high-energy UltraCon Live stage production.

Night Out At The Zoo, Yorkshire Wildlife Park Resort, 5:00pm. Second date for this spectacular evening event at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Sunset safari followed by late night opening until 9pm with incredible live entertainment, Jungle Boogie and Jungle Rumble live shows, roaming stilt walkers, and giant puppets. From £27.99.

Sunday 23rd August

Dons RLFC vs Sheffield Eagles, Club Doncaster Sports Village, 3:00pm. The Dons' 75th birthday celebrations continue with a massive South Yorkshire derby as The Dons take on local rivals Sheffield Eagles in the Betfred Rugby League Championship. With the Dons pushing to secure their place in the top six, there's plenty at stake in what promises to be a fiercely contested encounter. Standard Blue unreserved seating: Adults £22, ages 14-17 £5, ages 13 and under £5. Gold seating with lounge access: Adults £27, ages 14-17 £10, ages 13 and under £10.

Saturday 29th August

Scouting for Girls at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Yorkshire Wildlife Park Resort, 4:00pm. An incredible day of wild adventures at Yorkshire Wildlife Park followed by an evening of live music from Scouting for Girls, The Hoosiers, Toploader, and Camens! All-day park entry from 9:45am included. Weekender tickets also available combining Saturday with Ocean Colour Scene on Sunday. From £29.99.

Abba Attack, Doncaster Corn Exchange, 7:30pm (Doors 7:00pm). Step into a world of glitter, glamour, and timeless pop as this ABBA Tribute Band takes to the stage at the Corn Exchange! Bringing all the unforgettable hits including Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia, Waterloo, and Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! 18+ only. From £10.

Sunday 30th August

Ocean Colour Scene at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Yorkshire Wildlife Park Resort, 4:00pm. An incredible day of wild adventures at Yorkshire Wildlife Park from 9:45am followed by an evening of live music from Ocean Colour Scene, The Feeling, The Farm, and Stereo MC's! All-day park entry included in concert ticket. From £44.99.

September Sneak Preview - Friday 4th September

DN One Live, Sir Nigel Gresley Square, 7:00pm. Get ready for a full weekend of live entertainment as DN ONE Live returns - and as always, it's completely FREE to attend! A festival celebrating the very best of the local music scene alongside exciting feature acts and bands. Away from the stage, popular character meet and greets and family entertainment throughout. Runs through Sunday 6th September. Free entry.

Cast Comedy Club, Cast Theatre, 7:45pm. Twelve years of guaranteed hilarity! Featuring some of the finest touring comedians on the UK stand-up circuit. This month's headliners are Shazia Mirza and Paul Campbell. Shazia's vast TV credits include Have I Got News For You, QI, Would I Lie To You, Top Gear, The Jonathan Ross Show, House of Games, and Pointless Celebrities. This event is 16+. From £15.50.



P!NK Live starring Vicky Jackson, Doncaster Dome.

Saturday 5th September

Waiting in the Wings, Cast Theatre, 2:00pm. This September, join Cast on the Main Stage for an extraordinary original production uncovering two and a half centuries of Doncaster's theatrical heart and soul. This year marks 250 years since Doncaster's first theatre opened its doors. A moving, funny, and resilient journey through local history charting how the arts have connected us through times of change. A company of over 50 local performers ranging in age from 7 to 86 celebrate Doncaster's rich culture of performance, past and present, with storytelling, movement, song, and community spirit. Co-created and performed by Doncaster People's Theatre and written by Chris O'Connor. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. From £15.

P!NK Live starring Vicky Jackson 2026, Doncaster Dome, 6:45pm. An incredible night with the world's number one tribute to one of the best-selling female artists of all time. This breathtaking production recreates performances from P!NK's live concert tours, featuring So What, Perfect, Try, Just Like a Pill, Get The Party Started, and many more. Complete with full live band, incredible lighting and visuals, costume changes and exceptional live vocals. From £28.25.

Sunday 6th September

Grand Charity Concert, Tickhill Methodist Church, 3:30pm. A special charity concert in aid of The Britain-Nepal Otology Service (BRINOS). Enjoy an afternoon of music performed by The Hallgate Chamber Orchestra and talented soloists. Tickets £10.

SCROOBY SHOW

Opens at 1pm on the Croft

Saturday 5th September, 2026

Stalls and events include - Cake Stall, Jam and Pickle Stall, Sweet Stall, Plant Stall, Knitting and Stitching Stall, Church Tombola, Grand Raffle, Candles, Sweets, Craft Stall, Local Produce Stall, Pet Show, Tug-of-War, Children's Races, and Face Painting.

BBQ and Bar

Show competition open to all -
Vegetables, fruit, flowers, culinary, art and craft,
children's.

SHOW COMPETITION ENTRY FORMS FROM -
www.scrooby.net

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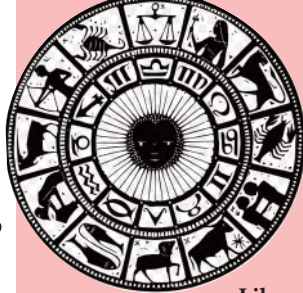


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Your August Star signs



Aries: A sudden, aggressive urge to tackle the monstrous hedge at the back of the garden will seize you this month. Armed with a pair of rusty shears, you'll look like a warrior defending the patio. Try to leave at least some of the greenery intact before your shoulders demand a long sit-down and a cold drink.

Taurus: A particularly persistent local wasp will choose your morning marmalade toast as its personal battleground this month. Armed with a rolled-up copy of the newspaper, you will engage in a high-stakes psychological war. Your legendary patience will be tested, but the breakfast table must be defended at all costs.

Gemini: The village is remarkably quiet with everyone away on their holidays, leaving a distinct shortage of fresh gossip. You'll find yourself over-analysing the postman's daily routine or interrogating the milkman just to keep your intelligence network active. A quiet month is a personal challenge for your chatty nature.

Cancer: A sudden wave of nesting hits you as the evenings begin to draw in just a fraction. You'll feel a powerful urge to batch-cook blackberry crumbles and freeze them for winter, filling the kitchen with the sweet scent of stewed fruit. Preparing for the colder months brings you a deep sense of security.

Leo: The August bank holiday is your time to shine, preferably at a local pub garden where you can secure the best seat in the sun. If the weather refuses to cooperate, your flamboyant choice of knitwear and a robustly told travel tale will provide all the warmth the patio needs.

Virgo: The annual ritual of checking the tyre pressure and fluid levels on the car before a minor trip becomes a grand logistical exercise. While others throw a suitcase in the boot and hope for the best, your glovebox is a masterpiece of maps and mints. Precision is your shield against motorway delays.

Libra: You'll spend hours agonizing over whether it's safe to leave the house without an umbrella, despite the blazing August sun. Balancing the optimism of a clear blue sky against the sudden, dramatic threat of a British summer thunderstorm is a delicate art.

Scorpio: You'll be quietly observing the dramatic efforts of your neighbours trying to put up a new garden gazebo in a sudden August breeze. Your talent for spotting structural flaws means you'll predict the exact moment the canopy takes flight. Keep your observations to yourself until they ask to borrow your hammer.

Sagittarius: A sudden yearning for a bracing walk along the coastal paths might hit you, regardless of the bank holiday traffic warnings. You'll insist that three hours gridlocked in traffic is simply part of the great British adventure. Just ensure you've packed enough flasks of tea.

Capricorn: The summer lull is the perfect excuse for a thorough audit of the garden shed before the autumn damp sets in. You'll spend a satisfying afternoon testing every torch battery and ensuring the lawnmower is properly prepped for its final cuts. It's a sign that your commitment to domestic maintenance is entirely unbothered by the holiday mood.

Aquarius: An innovative, homemade trap for fruit flies involving apple cider vinegar and an intricately folded piece of paper will occupy your mind this week. While it looks completely unhelpful sitting on the kitchen counter, your scientific method will prove victorious against the tiny invaders, much to your delight.

Pisces: The sight of a golden cornfield under an August sky sends you into a dreamy, end-of-summer reverie. You'll spend a lovely afternoon wondering where the swifts go for the winter instead of tackling the growing pile of ironing. The mundane chores can wait while you enjoy the final quiet days of the season.



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8.45am to 3.30pm, term time only.

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

Our aims

Provide every child with a quality early childhood experience.

Create a happy place for your children where they are able to learn.

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.

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

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

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

**Spaces available! To register
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Scrooby Village Hall

The hall is now available for business meetings and parties.

- Fully equipped kitchen with crockery for up to 60 people.
- Wi-Fi, Audio-visual equipment, screen and 4K projector.
- French doors from hall opening onto attractive patio and village green.
- Barbeque
- Disabled access and toilet
- Competitive rates -

Scrooby Residents £9.50 per hour

Non-residents / Commercial £12

Ring Izzy to book on 01302 719090

Christian perspective: War & Peace

War is a terrible thing. When wars arise we hope and pray for peace as we see it. But it seems that as one area of the world, where there has been war, starts to calm down, another disagreement starts off somewhere else. This appears to be the world we live in.

Some people march for peace, waving flags, supporting one side or the other for different reasons, or sign petitions. Some try to help those displaced from their homes. All these things have their place. However, the peace we are searching for in these things is a ‘worldly’ peace — no war between peoples and nations.

However, Jesus makes an interesting promise to his disciples in John 14:27: *‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’* He is promising to those who trust in him that there is a place to live where we can experience a different kind of peace, *‘not as the world gives’*. This kind of peace is not that which does away with all war and trouble, but a wonderful inner peace we can experience as we trust in Jesus and bring all our areas of strife and trouble to him and leave them at his feet.

So even as we express our concern for the wrongs we see going on in the world and around us where we are, we can also be at peace within, with the precious peace that comes to us through

faith in Jesus Christ, welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives to sustain us through the strife. How then do we find this other kind of peace and walk in it?

There is a precious passage in Paul’s letter to the Philippians, chapter 4 verses 4-9, which I often turn to and seek to put it into practice. It’s good to look this up in the Bible and read it through. Paul starts off encouraging the people to *‘Rejoice’*. He repeats this. Then he goes on to say, *‘be gentle’*, and reminds them *‘the Lord is near’*. Eventually he comes to *‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God’*. And here is the wonderful promise: *‘And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus’*.

When we place in his hands all our concerns and troubles, and leave them there, we can know this thought-transcending peace. It will guard us, even though we still have to walk through the troubles, even though we may grieve over the loss of a loved one, even though life is still tough and uncertain, his peace will sustain us, and the Holy Spirit’s presence within will guard and guide us. God bless you as you also put this into practice.

** Brenda Critchley*



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

Your August Sudoku puzzle

Sudoku is a number placement puzzle. The aim of Sudoku is to complete the grid by entering numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell of the 9x9 grid which comprises 9 sub-grids each with 9 cells in a 3x3 pattern. Each row, column and sub-grid must contain only one instance of each number.

Solution on page 34.



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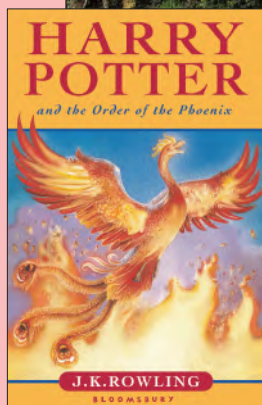
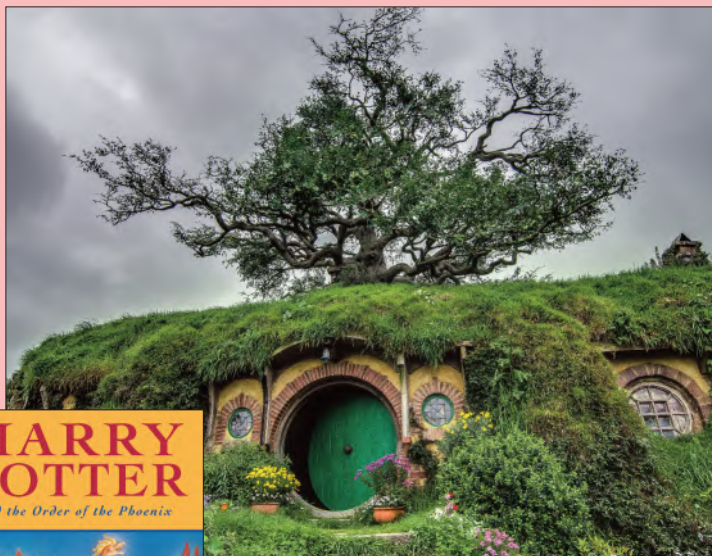
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The pop-up pub quiz: Literature

1. In which Dickens novel does Uriah Heep appear?
2. Who wrote the novel Jamaica Inn?
3. Which author is best known for The Old Man and the Sea?
4. In Harry Potter, what were the names of his parents?
5. Whose adventures did Mark Twain write about?
6. Who wrote The Great Gatsby?
7. In which novel would you find the character Atticus Finch?
8. What is the surname of the children in The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe?
9. On what Greek island was Captain Corelli's Mandolin set?
10. Who wrote the His Dark Materials trilogy?
11. Who wrote the novel The Catcher in the Rye?
12. What detective is featured in The Maltese Falcon?
13. In which mythical world are the Lord of the Rings book set?
14. Natasha Rostov is the heroine of which novel?



15. What novel begins with the line "Call me Ishmael"?
16. Which 19th century novel features the character Pip?
17. What is the name of the tiger in The Jungle Book?
18. Who wrote A Streetcar Named Desire?
19. Which detective first appeared in A Study in Scarlet in 1887?
20. What was Jane Austen's last completed novel before her untimely death?

Answers on page 34.

Church notices for August

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

Sunday 2nd Blyth – 9.30am CW HC; Sunday 9th Ranskill – 9.30am CW HC; Sunday 16th Scrooby – 9.30am CW HC; Sunday 23rd Blyth – 9.30am CW HC; Sunday 30th Ranskill – 9.30am CW HC

If you would like to arrange a baptism, wedding, funeral or other function, please contact one of the churchwardens: Churchwardens – Ranskill: David Hill – 01777 818072, Derek Gill – 07704 065002. Church Warden – Scrooby: Gordon Ashworth 01777 818322.



Market Forces

Such exotic fruits to tempt me
All from sunny foreign climes:
Papayas, coconuts and mangoes,
Lemons, oranges and limes.

Peaches, apricots and guavas
Must be added to my list,
Lychees, kumquats and bananas,
Figs and dates – none can be missed.

We have grapes and pomegranates
Next to grapefruits on the stall –
Chinese gooseberries, satsumas,
Tangerines – we have them all.

Their individual good merits
I, for one, cannot refute
But give me the humble apple
– And an english one to boot!

Joy T.



The STAR recipe: Coconut Brownies

Ingredients

- 3oz butter
- 2oz plain chocolate
- 2 eggs
- 4oz caster sugar
- 4oz SR flour
- 2oz soft light brown sugar
- 4oz coconut
- 1/2tsp vanilla essence

Method

Line the base of a tin 11 inches by 7 inches. Melt the butter and chocolate together, then stir in the rest of the ingredients, beat smooth, and pour into the prepared tin. Bake at 350°F-375°F (180°C–190°C) for 35 minutes, then cool and cut into fingers.





Don't miss this great weekend. If you live in or near Scrooby come along and join in the fun.

Saturday 5th September

Opens at 1pm in the Village Hall and on the Croft

(entries 5:00 to 6:00 Friday 4th and 8:30 to 10:00am on Saturday 5th)

Music, Cake Stall, Jam & Pickle Stall, Plant Stall, Bar, Knitting & Stitching Stall, Church Tombola, Grand Raffle, Tug-of-War, Children's Races, Sweet Stall, Craft Stalls, Local Produce Stall, BBQ

Sunday 6th September

Ranskill, Torworth and Scrooby Parish Lunch
Scrooby Village Hall 1pm

This year is a little different, a Scrooby Fuddle.

No tickets. No charge.

Please would everyone who wishes to come bring dishes of food enough for the number in your party, sweet and savoury, to go onto tables in the hall we can all share.

Bar will be available for glasses of wine or beer, or bring your own. The lunch has always been a really good event, let's keep it going. Obviously it needs organising and help with setting up and clearing away, anyone who would like to help would be very welcome.

For more information contact Barbara Morgan 07810 120783





RANSKILL BOWLS CLUB

We are currently looking for new members to join us.
We are **YOUR** village Crown Green Bowling Club.



It has certainly been hot again over these past few weeks. This has meant that the green has dried out and the bowls have been rolling quicker making the game more challenging, but equally fun. Why not come along on Thursday evening (6pm) or Saturday evening (5pm) and try your hand. We would love to see you. If you can't make those days we can arrange other sessions. For more details contact Simon on 07876 285593. Our pavilion is also available to hire (Would suit small Funeral Teas/Baptism parties etc)

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Ranskill and Torworth—Friday, August 28th
Scrooby - Tuesday August 11th

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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/>

ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES OF SCROOBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 08 June 2026 in the Scrooby Village Hall

1. Present : Chair Elaine Gargett, Lindsey Buxton, Terry Goldsmith, Sandra Withington, County Cllr Mike Robertson (Part), District Councillor Jack Bowker (Part), Tony Smith (Clerk & Treasurer), Parishioners / Public present: None.

2. Apologies: Stephen Cordery, Jean Ogden, Dan Blount.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Minutes were accepted, No corrections - Proposed by Terry Goldsmith, Seconded by Lindsey Buxton. The draft minutes of the AGM of 11th May 2026 were also validated.

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, Websites, replace the Noticeboards, chase the responses from Network Rail and Notts CC re. the closure of the Station Road crossing, Talk to Licensing re. Trader Licenses for the Village Show, continue to search for a solution to the removed climbing frame.

4. Agenda

Confirmation of Agenda Items – 3 agreed, 1 noted. (See below). None.

5. Correspondence: The usual number of notices, e-mails and letters had been received over the last month and were listed before the meeting. Those of note: Notts Civic Service, Boundary Commission consultation publicity assistance..

5.9 An invitation has been received to join and subscribe the Bassetlaw Today Website, this was thought not appropriate.

6. District and County Councillor's Report

County Councillor – AGM was ceremonial, discussion about highways budget and plans, the 2nd Trent crossing and the Great North Road footpath sizing. LindseyB asked about funding for cross county schooling with ECHP funding.

District Councillor Jack Bowker – Again AGM was ceremonial, apologies for interrupted waste collection services which are being worked up, HMO consultation for town centres, Street Traders policy under review with an amendment placed forward.

7. Finance Report

7.1 The Treasurer presented his report, which included Village Hall costs and grass cutting. The request to circulate the Village Hall accounts had been met. Full details of the report can always be viewed at www.scrooby.net.

7.2. Other activities: A request to trim the Village Hall hedges was agreed. Then as per the action points last meeting. Also noted there was no need to have an external audit of the accounts this year (reduced spending).

After accepting a late agenda item it was fully agreed under S137 rules to donate £60 to support the North Notts First Responders as in previous years.

7.2.3 The funding from Tesco Work-sop – it will start with the 1st schools clay sculpting.

8. Police Report

Local PCSO. Tel: 07525 989445, did not attend. PCSO continues to be requested to attend.

The police web site that shows crime statistics was presented, along with access – No reported crimes in April.

9. Planning & Neighbourhood Plan

9.2 Planning issues: New Applications – Consultation for extensions to the Scrooby Top Quarry on 26th June. Existing Applications: 26/00346/OUT,

Sheepcote House: 24/01380/01381/ COU Holmefield Barn conversion.

9.3 Others: Our own SNAP plan re-start is still in progress, public meeting yet to be organised.

9.5 Know Your Place Trent Valley, a consultation including the power station re-use, etc.

10. Play Area

The Rope Climbing Frame work on the ground cover in progress with a different option under investigation.

11. Village Hall

11.1 Village Hall Operations: The hall is in good use, operating well. A request to review the security effect on any event at the V Hall. And praise received from an external users of the Village Hall – it is an asset to the parish.

11.1.4 The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe conference in the Scrooby V Hall on 4th July. The PC will accept an invitation to a lunch during the conference.

11.2 The Scrooby Show and the new Traders Licensing rules and costs, are causing much dismay and apprehension. The subject and its effect are be-

ing investigated and information / clarity sought.

12. Village Environment

12.0 Noted – Recent road works notices.

12.0.4 Village Hedges, the Great North Road footpath continues.

12.1 Grass Cutting, continues, as do the hedges.

12.2 The development of The Whinze and Gibbet Hill Common – The Bird Feeder had been knocked over but was re-instated very quickly by a mystery person. The PC thanks that mystery person....

12.9 The Station Road Level Crossing closure. The PC working party has started it's work and will report back in July.

14. Items for Information Only / Next Agenda

None.

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

Next meeting to be held on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

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.*

→ Need to book the Village Hall for a party or such, call or WhatsApp Izzi Marshall on 07776 304336

→ **Watch out there is a SCAM about...And a Thief !!**

→ **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.

→ *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 !!!*

→ **Do you know why the Station Road Level Crossing**

was closed??? Can you help with historical records that prove it is a Bridle Path?

→ 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 !**

→ **Praise indeed – The Village Hall was rated as "an asset to the Parish"**

→ *Were you the mystery person who re-instated the bird feeder on the Whinze? Our "thank yous" to you.*

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



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last words



August has rolled in, and our villages seem to be juggling everything from serious farm animal escapes to full-on neighbourhood watch drama.

Between loose livestock, mystery metal, and a spot of bad behaviour, quiet country life hasn't been particularly quiet lately.

It started with a bit of a hazard at the bottom of Station Road, where a piece of metal -- one local swears it looked like a stick -- has been catching people out right at the entrance to the field.

Apparently more than one person has gone over on it now, which says either something about the metal or something about how well-worn that path is. Nice to know that even a trip hazard gets met with proper village humour and genuine concern for whoever's fallen foul of it.

As one resident put it, "if there is something to trip over, I will find it." Here's hoping everyone's recovered, and maybe we'll leave the stick-hunting to the experts from now on. In the meantime, watch where you're walking down there.

Less funny was the report from Mattersey Road, where a group of teenage lads were seen throwing stones at passing cars. One windscreen made it through unscathed, but it easily could have gone differently, and it's a good reminder that while we all love our village freedoms, this sort of thing isn't on.

Cars aren't cheap to fix, and neither are the consequences if someone gets hurt. If any of this sounds like it could be your kids, a word with them -- and maybe confiscating their stone supply -- wouldn't go amiss. Better an awkward conversation now than a much worse one later.

On a much nicer note, the village Facebook group threw itself wholeheartedly into finding Boris, a ginger-and-cream Persian Exotic cat who'd taken himself off on an impromptu tour of Torworth.

The comments turned into a full guide on cat retrieval -- rattling treat boxes, checking under cars, meowing through letterboxes, the lot. It's genuinely lovely seeing that many people pitch in for one missing cat.

Good news: Boris turned up safe, most likely having got himself shut in somewhere and decided a nap and his dinner were more pressing than coming home. Typical cat, really.

And then there's the Ranskill piglet, which has become a bit of a local legend at this point. A piglet on the run near the Ranskill bend gave the morning commute an unexpected bit of drama, with more than one driver presumably doing a double-take.

Nobody's entirely sure where it got to, but we're told those looking after it were on the case; we're sending our very best and hope the piglet is back safe and sound.

So much for the quiet life -- between missing cats, escaped livestock, and the ongoing mystery of the Station Road metal, Scooby, Torworth, and Ranskill haven't had a dull moment.

Watch your step, keep an eye out for any more four-legged escapees, and we'll catch you in September.

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

Quiz answers: 1. David Copperfield 2. Daphne Du Maurier 3. Ernest Hemingway 4. James & Lily 5. Huckleberry Finn 6. F Scott Fitzgerald 7. To Kill a Mockingbird 8. Pevensie 9. Kefalonia 10. Phillip Pulman 11. J D Salinger 12. Sam Spade 13. Middle Earth 14. War & Peace 15. Moby Dick 16. Great Expectations 17. Shere Khan 18. Tennessee Williams 19. Sherlock Holmes 20. Persuasion

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