

the Rolleston Junction

Edition 44 - Spring 2026

In this issue...

- Christmas 2025 photos
- Memories of Rolleston
- Meet Kirsty Edwards

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Dates for your Diary

30th March onwards (Time to suit)	Family Easter Egg Treasure Hunt For info email laurabosworth22@hotmail.com	Around Rolleston
6th April • 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Rolleston Village Hall
10th April 1.55pm to 2.15pm	Mobile Library	outside Willwyns, Station Road
11th April 10am to 3.30pm	Spring Craft Fair	Southwell Minster
15th April • 7pm	The Annual Parish Meeting	The Crown
16th April	Book Club	TBC
18th April 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)	Country & Western Night Tickets: mdsanders@mac.com Tel: 815045	Rolleston Village Hall
21st to 25th April 7.30pm matinee 2.30pm final day	Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekov for tickets visit www.rhtc.co.uk or call 07733 1799 86	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham
2nd May to 4th May 11am - 4pm each day	Flower Festival	Holy Trinity Church
May 8th 1.55pm to 2.15pm	Mobile Library	outside Willwyns, Station Road
11th May • 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Rolleston Village Hall
17th May 11am to 4pm	Plant Hunters Fair	Southwell Minster
19th May	Book Club	TBC
1st June • 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Rolleston Village Hall
5th June 1.55pm to 2.15pm	Mobile Library	outside Willwyns, Station Road
16th to 20th June 7.30pm matinee 2.30pm final day	Quiz by James Graham for tickets visit www.rhtc.co.uk or call 07733 1799 86	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham

* Check latest times and venues on the Book Club meetings:
Contact Ron Burnett: **07843 774528 • RonBurnett1956@gmail.com** All are welcome.

The Junction magazine is a digital publication. Please notify us if you know a resident who is not on the village email list and wishes to receive the magazine as a PDF. We have a very limited number of printed 'workaday' copies with priority given to senior residents who do not use email. If you know someone in these circumstances, please let us know: **rollestonjunction@gmail.com**

Hello again

from the Junction Team!

I was amused by an observation from a member of our editorial team whilst putting this issue together.

Beth, who collects all the articles from our regular contributors, (like our local Councillors and our MP), remarked that we could play buzzword bingo with the words 'pothole' and 'rain' this quarter.

Those topics were certainly what we were all talking about in January to early March when the skies were consistently grey and spring still seemed a distant season.

Now, as I write this, the joy of spring arriving is finally here and the days seem more colourful with welcome sunshine and the arrival of the daffodils.

Spring always seems to bring a time of hope and renewal; we can look forward to the year ahead as events in our locality pop up on our calendars.

Some forthcoming Rolleston events include a Country & Western night at the village hall on 18th April, and The Flower Festival 2nd-4th May. Look out for email updates on these and other events in our area.

In this issue, there are photos of the tree planting in December and bulb planting in February. A lasting legacy for all villagers to enjoy and we look forward to seeing the bulb display this time next year.

We were delighted to hear from Revd Bryan Hackney (from Lincoln) who wrote to us about his childhood memories of living in Rolleston, and his early years living at Pear Tree Farm. It was during World War II, and we were fascinated to read about life in our village in quite a different time. We have serialised his article in two parts. Next issue we will publish part 2 which talks about Bryan being reunited with his father after the War, and his time spent at The Gables in Rolleston.

We also feature an interview with Kirsty Edwards, the new General Manager of Southwell Racecourse. The racecourse is a busy one, and brings a lot of business to this region which can have an impact on our village.

We welcome forging closer links with our racecourse neighbours which is definitely a good thing to do. We found Kirsty welcoming and keen to engage the local community.

We also feature all the pictures from Christmas in Rolleston 2025. Thanks to all those who help make things happen in our village - from social events to planting trees - and making our community such a special place to live.

We do appreciate our local advertisers for their sponsorship; please support those who make this community magazine possible.

Best wishes.

Carole, Gill and Beth



Revd. James Moring



Hello! I'm James, the still-relatively-new vicar of the West Trent Churches, of which Holy Trinity here in Rolleston is one.

We've loved getting settled into the area and getting to know the communities.

Christmas was such a joy and it was so encouraging to know that the church was full of people twice on Christmas Eve.

We've started a new service on a Sunday morning at Rolleston called 'The 9.30' (which hopefully gives you an indication of when it starts!).

Each Sunday we start with coffee, pastries, fruit and a chance to catch up with each other, before we sing some fun, upbeat songs. We

read a story inspired by the Bible, we play games and have challenges, we make and draw things and we have a short talk about the topic for the week.

The 9.30 is open to anyone but particularly aimed at children and families - we recognise that our existing forms of church haven't always been as accessible for younger generations and so we're trying to make this new service a space where that can happen.

You'd be really welcome to come along on a Sunday morning, I would love to meet you!

Clr. Keith Melton

Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice of West Trent Churches



News from

Cllr Keith Melton

Finally – The trees are planted!

Unfortunately, I was away in Brazil when the Rolleston Trees for Climate arrived ready for planting, but I am delighted to say they are in place now and will, I hope, bring pleasure to Rolleston residents for many years to come. And, although I did not get to help plant them, I am proud to have played a part in their provision.

It is a small legacy for my time as your District Councillor and I am greatly looking forward to their first showing of their springtime leaves in the village as springtime approaches. I gathered from the last Rolleston Parish Council meeting before starting to write this article, that it was planned to surround the trees with springtime bulbs for next year onwards. An excellent plan - Well Done!

Wettest winter on record?

The start of 2026 in the East Midlands has been marked by an exceptionally wet and gloomy period, with both January and February seeing above-average rainfall. Persistent low-pressure systems drifting in from the Atlantic have brought frequent bands of rain, often accompanied by thick grey cloud cover that has barely lifted for days on end. This has resulted in sodden fields, swollen rivers, and a general lack of sunshine, which has made the landscape feel particularly dreary for much of the local community.

Such conditions are not entirely unprecedented, of course, but the sheer

volume of rainfall and the persistent overcast skies have surpassed what many residents can recall from recent years. These wetter, greyer months have delayed some early spring preparations in gardens and public spaces, including my own, I have to say!

Nevertheless, the rain will hopefully benefit the newly planted trees, giving them a strong start as soon as the weather brightens, and temperatures begin to rise.

The weather hasn't been kind to our roads, however, and I think everyone has probably noticed many more, and many deeper, potholes appearing all over the place. I have certainly noticed that the exit from the centre of Newark (from the Castle, over the Trent Bridge, northwards to the A46 ring-road roundabout) is getting really rather rough and definitely needs some TLC. I rather expect, however, that there will be some dithering about sorting it out by the County Council, while we are waiting for definite news as to whether the major ring-road development is to take place or not.

Land around the Village Hall

If you keep up with the minutes from the Parish Council, you will, perhaps, already know that I have put a strong suggestion to the Newark and Sherwood District Officers, that they should sell the land surrounding Rolleston Village Hall to the Village Hall committee, or the Parish Council, for the price of a “single peppercorn” to protect its status indefinitely (a second option would be to rent it to the VH Committee on peppercorn rent on a 999 year lease?)


I have been told that there is a document now circulating amongst the Senior Leadership Team at N&SDC to consider this option, but it may be a month or two before it sees the light of day, as it depends upon, and involves, several different departments at N&SDC which have related responsibilities which touch upon land across the District as a whole. It will also have to await a review of the plans for the two council bungalows, just outside the plot of land under consideration, which have to be refurbished or rebuilt.

So, I will get back to you on this issue in due course. My hope is that this idea resonates with officers as the best way to solve what has become an irritating problem - fingers crossed!



Cllr. Keith Melton

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 • Trent Ward - NSDC



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Village Hall Lotto

At time of writing, here are the winners of the village lottery from 18th October 2025 - through to 21st January 2026:

Richard Thackeray (twice), Katy Baillon-Saunders, Sandie Pearson (twice), Glenice Walton, Damien Rex, Mark Robinson, Trish Steele, Sarah Thackeray (twice), Sandra Sawyer, Amanda Hillary, Mark Sanders, Sue Reedman (twice), June Smith, Steve Johnson, Steve Bosworth .

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions in keeping the Village Hall running. The Village Lottery raised £3679 last year. A fantastic help towards our costs!

And thanks for supporting the fundraising events that have featured throughout 2025. We have more planned for 2026 in order to cover the upkeep of our village hall. The next event is 18th April - Country & Western Night, so save the date!

In the meantime, I have two vacant numbers, 51 and 35. Please contact me if you would like to adopt them.

For those who may not be familiar with the village lotto, particularly if you are new to the village, a £50 cash prize is awarded every week and to enter it is only £2 a week collected usually by standing order every 10 weeks.

Angela Sanders

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Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Laura Bosworth will be setting up the annual Easter Egg Treasure Hunt in the village during the last weekend in March.

Families will be able to enjoy the treasure hunt at a time of your choosing from Monday, 30th March across the Easter period. Please post your completed forms through Laura's door (6 The Greenaway, on Staythorpe Road).

Thank you to the sponsor of the Easter Egg prizes and thanks also to Laura for organising!



News from

Cllr Bob Steele

Rolleston Parish Council News

Spring into 2026...

At the time of writing this piece (end of February) we have suffered weeks of continuous rain since Christmas – but no floods in Rolleston. Lucky us? But the roads have suffered very badly, the potholes are the worst I have ever seen, not just here but seemingly everywhere. It is a disgrace – is it the rain that has made it worse? Is it the weather, the lack of money? We all complain but it just seems to get worse. Perhaps now Spring is arriving, things will get better. I'm sure that I heard the first calling of the birds singing in the dawn chorus early this morning.

Spring should bring evidence of how successful our tree planting efforts have been. You may remember that we planted a total of 25 trees in early December last year, before the rains. The planting day was a great success with perfect weather and a wonderful turnout of villagers to help plant the trees. Our sincere thanks to everyone who turned up on the day.

We have also bought a large number of bulbs for spring flowers to plant around the trees. We missed the best planting time last Autumn, but we intend to plant the bulbs in early March. They won't show this Spring, but they should be growing wonderfully in Spring 2027! I feel that the project has been a great a success and I look forward to seeing the trees grow and perhaps to further planting projects.



When you have a bit of spare time, please take the time to go and look at the trees in the 2-acre field and the Greenaway garden.

The other main community-based ongoing activity is the development of the local Neighbourhood Plan as reported in the last edition of the Rolleston Junction. The development of the plan is still underway with a more conservative deadline for its achievement. The main causal factor of this is the fact that funding for groups developing plans has been cut to zero.

Since the funding could have amounted to something like £10k per project, this is a very significant loss. However, the development team of Gill Rowles, Peter Garrood, Michael Gemson, Jane Geraghty and myself – are persevering with the task. The team have made great progress and are liaising with N&SDC on matters such as framing the plan within national and regional planning laws, getting feedback from villagers and possible assistance with mapping software. By the time you read this, you will probably have received a questionnaire asking for your views on how the village should develop and maybe an invitation to a public meeting to discuss the plan.

Please respond to communications from the team about the plan. It is your village and your views are extremely valuable!

Other news is that the manager at the racecourse has changed and we will make efforts to build a good rapport with the new manager to ensure that we have a positive working relationship with them. I am sure that we are all aware of the impact that the racecourse has on the village in terms of traffic and event management, and it is important to make the management aware of how changes at the racecourse affect the village.

And, last but not least, we are considering the update of an emergency community plan for the village which will consider how the village will respond to a general incident such as serious flooding, a fire at the new battery installation at Staythorpe or failure of the railway crossings. Watch this space!!

I think that's it for now – I look forward to a dry spring with perfect weather and happy days spent outdoors in the fresh air.

Have a great one!!

Clr. Bob Steele



Chair, Rolleston Parish Council

✉ bob.steele@rolleston-pc.gov.uk



Tree Planting

Just to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who turned up Saturday, 6th December, to plant the trees in the 2-acre field and Corner Farm.

We counted 25 volunteers who turned up at 10am and it meant that the trees were all planted by lunchtime. The weather was very kind, and the digging was made easier by virtue of the previous day's rainfall. A good number of the volunteers then went on to enjoy the tea and coffee and the lovely cakes put on by the Crown, paid for by the Parish Council.

A good day's work, I think. But, see what you think. Go and have a look at the new trees, we think they look great!

In February we went back and planted some spring bulbs around the trees, ready for a good show next spring!

Sally John, Steve Bailey, Michael Gemson and Bob Steele



Cllr Sue Saddington

In touch with Council news

Surely spring will soon be with us, although looking outside as I write this, it looks more like it will snow! However, the brave snowdrops are poking their heads above the soil along with the daffodils, but the cold wind soon knocks them into the ground. The rain doesn't seem to have stopped since Christmas. The rivers are high and like most of you, I check the levels each day with fingers crossed.

The roads are in an appalling state, but we no longer control the funding. Reform are in charge and they prefer to spend £75,000 on hanging flags over the roads with large potholes, better referred to as craters, underneath them.

Damage is being reported by drivers to their vehicles, a costly problem for many. I have had to replace 2 rear springs on my car and my windscreen had to be replaced in Nottingham. A long job as the controls had to be calibrated to the windscreen, I had to allow 5 hours for the job to be done. Then, I discovered a pothole damaged my tyre, they were out of line and had to be recalibrated.

Like you, I am tired of damage to vehicles. I sympathise with anyone who has suffered these problems. The frustration is getting to everyone and, at the budget meeting on February 26th, the Administration will hear from me with regard to the state of the roads on behalf of all the residents I represent.

Some good news!

Following a meeting regarding the Southern Relief Road, they hope to open it earlier than thought, possibly early Summer. Apparently, the work left to do is slow - traffic lights, road signs, road lining.

As I travel the A46 I have concerns and always have had, that the balancing ponds have sufficient capacity for the surface water. Houses will be built on the land which is now covered in water; my concerns are, have they allowed capacity to accommodate that water when houses are built and tarmac drives are laid down? I have checked and they assure me there is capacity.

The Christmas lunch was held last year in a different venue - at The Crown. I did pop in and everyone appeared to be full of the Christmas spirit and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all the village volunteers and staff from the pub who made this a success.

From my Councillors Divisional Fund, I have requested a £250 payment for the Annual Village Summer Event. I hope you will have a cooler day than last year when, if I remember correctly everything melted!

I think that is all from me for this month. Keep warm and safe through the remaining winter, then hopefully we can look forward to a pleasant spring

Kind regards,

Cllr. Sue Saddington



📞 **0115 977 4158**

✉ **cllr.saddington@nottsc.gov.uk**

- **County Councillor for Farndon and Trent Division, Nottinghamshire County Council**
- **Vice Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee, Nottinghamshire County Council**
- **District Councillor for Muskham, Newark and Sherwood District Council**

Crunchy Cauliflower Salad

My recipe for spring 2026 is using cauliflower, a versatile vegetable and readily available from March to May.

If planted in the autumn, then it's available from the end of June through to November.

The English season is extended as temperatures change from Cornwall up to Scotland so there is hardly any need to buy imported cauliflower.

Obviously, these timings are weather dependent; with our topsy-turvy weather patterns of late, we have to grab any opportunity to plant that we can, and harvesting isn't much fun at the moment either!

So, a cauliflower goes a long way, using it in a few different ways makes the most of the whole curd (white bit) but I also use the green leaves.

Ingredients:

- Half a cauli - broken into small pieces or chopped
- 3 apples cored and chopped or sliced finely
- 150g stilton - crumbled
- A handful of Alfalfa sprouts (optional)

Dressing:

- 5 tbsp cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- A drizzle of honey
- Seasoning

Method:

Mix all this together then top with some chopped mint and 50g toasted sunflower seeds or chopped walnuts. It makes a delicious filling salad for lunch.

With the remaining half - why not make 'cauliflower rice,' a great alternative to actual rice!

Blitz up the cauli in a food processor or grate it. Spread evenly on a large baking tray, drizzle with oil then roast for about 12 minutes turning once or twice.

Use in place of rice or pasta with your favourite sauce. Minimal calories and very healthy!

Claire Foster



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Memories of Rolleston

Editor's note: We were delighted to receive an email from the Reverend Bryan Hackney who used to live in Rolleston at Pear Tree Farm when he was a young boy. He has very precious childhood memories of his time spent here. In fact, we were so pleased with his article, we decided to serialise it in two parts. Part 1 below covers his time at Pear Tree Farm, while Part 2 which we will publish in the summer issue, talks about his days spent at The Gables in Rolleston.

Incidentally, Bryan is known as 'Father George' and we'll explain why in the next instalment!

Part 1 • Pear Tree Farm

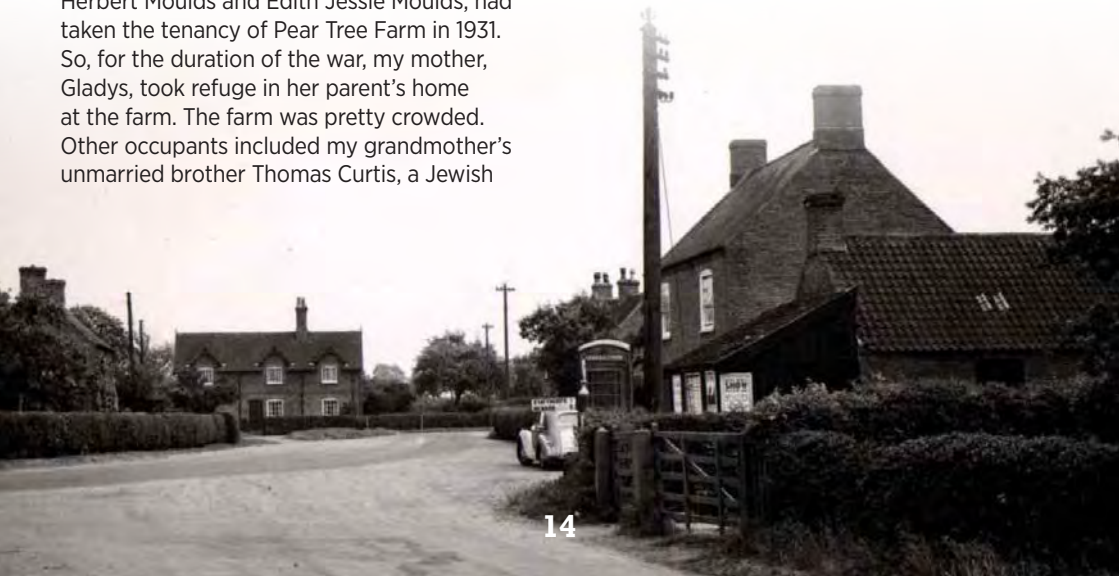
In March 1941, German raiders bombed Ransome and Marles factory in Newark. Then flying low, they machine gunned fleeing factory workers. Forty days later, I was born, only 5 miles away in Pear Tree Farm Rolleston.

At the time of my birth, my father, William George Alfred Hackney, (known as 'Bill') was away in the army. He was a Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards training recruits and stationed at Windsor. He later fought in North Africa and Italy.

My maternal grandfather and grandmother, Herbert Moulds and Edith Jessie Moulds, had taken the tenancy of Pear Tree Farm in 1931. So, for the duration of the war, my mother, Gladys, took refuge in her parent's home at the farm. The farm was pretty crowded. Other occupants included my grandmother's unmarried brother Thomas Curtis, a Jewish

refugee girl and two RAF personnel who were billeted at the farm. The RAF camp was on the racecourse.

My mother had two elder brothers: Horace and Percy. My Uncle Horace was the eldest and worked at Kelham Sugar Factory. Uncle Percy was away in the army. Uncle Horace had married May Murden in 1931 and in the same year my cousin Joan was born, followed by her brother (known as 'young Horace') in 1934. Uncle Horace and his family all moved at some point from a cottage in Kelham to No.4 Council House on Staythorpe Road, Rolleston. During the war they had two Canadian Servicemen billeted with them.





One of my most treasured photographs was taken outside the back door of the farmhouse on the day of my christening. I was baptised at Holy Trinity Parish Church on the 8th June 1941, by Parson Dawe. My father was granted leave to attend the christening and, in the photo, he can be seen holding me, (baby Bryan) in his arms. Also in the photo are my mother, my grandparents, (Herbert and Edith), my father's siblings, (Mary and Walter), Uncle Tom, Uncle Horace and Auntie May and my paternal grandmother, Nellie Hackney, as well as my cousins, Joan and Peter.

Pear Tree in those days was a dairy farm. Grandfather kept a herd of Friesian cows, several pigs and some hens. I remember the farmhouse kitchen with its heavy exposed roof beams and an open fire with a black iron range. There was a large wooden table and a paraffin lamp hanging above it. We had no electricity and all our light came from paraffin lamps and candles. One dark evening that lamp suddenly crashed down onto the table spilling fuel and spreading flames. I did not see how the adults dealt with it as I was bundled out to the safety of the yard outside.

Behind the farm buildings was a rabbit warren. This was fortunate for us when food

rationing was imposed from 1940 to 1954. Farming folk had an advantage over city dwellers. We had ready supplies of eggs, butter and pork. Although, when we killed a pig, we could only keep half of it; the other half had to be delivered to the government and the rations were distributed in the cities. This seemed fair.

Grandfather had begun his working life as a waggoner on a farm in Lincolnshire and worked with horses. He never had a tractor or similar machines on the farm.

Across the road from Pear Tree Farm stood the village Smithy. This was a brick building with a wooden extension, painted black. I remember grandfather leading his horses to the forge. He loved his horses and all his life he worked with them.

Some of my vivid memories include bouncing up and down strapped into my pram, the farmhouse kitchen, the falling lamp, the fishermen collecting brandlings from the dung heap in the crew yard, the cows coming in to be milked, the pear tree trained up the house wall, the Smith showing horses.

Years later, in her old age, my mother remembered those days at Pear Tree Farm in these words: *"The working day began at four o'clock in the morning and everything was done, not mechanically but with horses. In the harvest time their day used to go on, because we had double time then, another hour on, which meant it was light until eleven or half past eleven at night and in the hay making and corn getting time your grandma used to make them lemon and barley drinks and take them down to the fields. And all this was done on foot. No rushing about in cars and tractors and lorries and things."*

Rev Bryan Hackney (aka Father George)





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Meet Kirsty Edwards

We were delighted to meet up with Kirsty Edwards, the new General Manager of Southwell Racecourse - and the first female manager in the racecourse's history.

Originally from Taunton, Somerset, Kirsty moved to the area in 2008 and took up a commercial role at Nottingham Racecourse in 2008, where she worked for 8 years. Following this, she took up similar appointments at Notts County Football Club and Mellor's, (a major events company) as well as senior positions managing Rufford Park and the Nottingham Playhouse.

The vacancy at Southwell arose when long standing general manager, Mark Clayton, left for pastures new to become CEO of Leopardstown Racecourse in Ireland.

As Kirsty says, "It was a job I just had to go for - I remembered how much I had enjoyed my time working for Nottingham Racecourse."

The racecourse is part of Arena Racing, with Southwell being a regional hub. Her core team at Southwell is a surprisingly small group of 6 people who keep all aspects of the operation running efficiently, from managing food and beverage, to maintenance and security, as well as sales and marketing communications. But of course, when it comes to each race day, the team is hugely supported by extra part time personnel to make it seamless and enjoyable for owners, trainers, annual members and all race goers.

There are currently 79 race days a year, as well as other events running at the racecourse, for example, antique and collectors' fairs (including the BBC's Bargain Hunt) and dog agility shows to mention a few.

Kirsty explained that as Southwell is an all-weather and floodlit track, their prime racing season is actually during the winter months. In



the summer they run fewer race days as there is more horseracing in the racing calendar held by other racecourses across the country.

However, every August, they run their biggest event of the year, the highly successful Ladies Day. This brings in the biggest attendance for Southwell racecourse - at around 9000 people which is more than double their other big race day events.

The winter months are not without challenges; while horses can run on an all-weather track, people have to be able to walk around key areas of the course to enjoy everything that's on offer. Stormy weather or persistent days of rain can result in boggy ground, so in the time leading up to an event, a strong nerve and trusted experience is needed to make the right decision to go ahead. Those big decisions rest on Kirsty's shoulders and it's all part of the job.

Kirsty likened the racecourse team to a family, "There's a very friendly and supportive atmosphere here, everyone works hard, and long hours. No two days are ever the same."

On race days you will find her doing her rounds across the course, making sure she speaks to restaurant customers, annual members, owners, trainers and racegoers alike, as well as members of her operational team, race stewards and the numerous part time support staff who all make it happen. She also enjoys presenting the winning cup to the owners.

Kirsty is keen to embed the racecourse into the community and wants to attract families, by ensuring that on Family Days, parents can enjoy the racing because there are plenty of activities to keep the children engaged too. Food and refreshments are on offer, but people can bring picnics to make it an affordable day out.

She has already starting to get involved with local sports clubs and community groups to encourage more people to bring their friends down to the racecourse as a great venue to meet up.

“This is right on our doorstep” she said, “It’s got such a nice family feel and it’s about making people in our locality know they can come here for a fun afternoon or evening.”

Despite the demands of the job, she strives always to maintain her work /life balance to recharge her batteries and enjoys family life and living in the local area.

We wish Kirsty every success on her new appointment, and with her clear passion for the racecourse and her experienced hands on the reins, we can see it going from strength to strength.

Some forthcoming events in the diary are:

5th April: Easter Sunday Family Fun Day
25th April: Country & Western Race Evening
29th May: Faulty Towers Dining Experience
2nd June: Dog Friendly Race Day

COMPETITION

For the chance to win four tickets to 5th April - Easter Sunday Family Fun Day please answer the following question:

Which famous racehorse, previously one of the highest rated hurdlers, recently made his flat racing debut at Southwell racecourse and won the race?

Send your answer to: rollestonjunction@gmail.com by 1st April and remember to include your full name and phone number. In the case of more than one winning entry, the winner will be drawn from a hat!



WI News

The November WI meeting was 'Songs and Stories from the 50s and 60s' with Clive Rudd. Clive was very entertaining, and he got all the audience joining in with the familiar songs as well as recounting some funny events in his life.

At the end of November 2025, a group of seven WI ladies visited Doddington Hall to see the decorated Christmas trees throughout this Elizabethan manor house. The theme this year was 'A Fairytale Christmas', which was stunning. This was followed by lunch in the restaurant.

Our Christmas meal at The Full Moon in December was well attended and we were served a lovely festive meal. Much chatting and laughter closed 2025 for Morton, Fiskerton and Morton WI.

The January 2026 meeting was a talk and slide show from 2 volunteers from The National Garden Scheme. These gentlemen were very informative about an organisation which is more than it appears. It has raised much needed funds for various charities over the last 99 years, mainly dealing with health and welfare matters. Many of the gardens that take part in the scheme are in this area, so it is worth a look on the NGS website for places and opening times to visit during 2026.

As I write this, the February meeting, 'Dress to Impress Yourself' and the meeting in March, 'Magic' with Paul Vickers, are in the WI diary.

WI meetings are held at The Arthur Radford Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Visitors are welcome at our meetings with a £5 charge for refreshments.

Other events include a coffee morning at Reg Taylors Garden Centre (monthly), Book Club at The Full moon, (2nd Friday of the month), Craft and Chat on an evening at a members' house (venue changes each month). 'Pub Club' at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This is a social get together at The Bromley in Fiskerton.

Pilates Classes, with Cat Bagley (a qualified fitness instructor), are organised by MFR WI, but are open to everyone, male and female. The classes are held at the Arthur Radford Hall on Thursday morning, 10am to 11am. The cost is £6 cash payable as you attend. For further information contact Susan Bosworth on **07733 135175**.

Visit the MFR WI website: **www.mfrwi.co.uk**

Susan Bosworth

Contacts:

President: Elaine Lewis-Evans: 07886 562853

Secretary: Beryl Northcote: 01636 812579

Treasurer: Helen Boffy: 07515 280707



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Robert JENRICK

MP FOR NEWARK

What a start to the year! A lot has happened in politics of which you will probably be fully aware. I've been as busy as ever.

However, the biggest issue on everyone's lips locally has been the appalling state of the roads. I live in Southwell and so see for myself the roads around your villages, as well as in Southwell and Newark. I've had emails and spoken to people who have had to replace tyres and fix their cars, when they can ill afford to do so. With bills going up and up right now, from groceries to energy to water bills, this is the last thing we need.

As an MP I don't control the council as you know, but I can try my hardest to ensure they understand the situation in our part of the county.

Clearly the issue is not new, it's been a problem for years and clearly the dreadful weather has played a significant part. But we need the spring to see action. I've met the leader of the council and officers and am doing so again next week.

I accompanied the council highways team to JCB in Staffordshire a fortnight ago to see their new machines - Pothole Pros - which the council are buying, and which fill in potholes six times faster than the traditional approach. And I have been told that despite the budget pressures on the council due to adult and children's care costs, they are upping the money for roads.

I will be meeting them to see a schedule for works and following up on this again and again. I know how much it matters to people.

Have a good March. See you soon, I hope.

Robert Jenrick

📞 01636 612837

✉️ robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk

29a London Road, Newark-On-Trent, NG24 1TN

 [RobertJenrickNewark](https://www.facebook.com/RobertJenrickNewark)

 [RobertJenrick](https://twitter.com/RobertJenrick)

www.robertjenrick.com

I Spy... Something Wild in Rolleston!

If you've ever wandered through the village and thought, "Was that a sparrow, a plane, or superman?" or "Is that plant rare, or just very inconspicuous?" - then welcome to Rolleston's Wildlife I Spy!

Our village is bursting with life: garden birds chattering from hedges, secretive mammals sneaking along fences, butterflies dancing over verges, mushrooms popping up like surprise guests, and ancient trees quietly minding their own business.

And here's the fun bit - your casual wildlife sightings can actually help conservation efforts, both here in Rolleston and across the UK.

Become a Rolleston Wildlife Detective

You don't need binoculars the size of Saturn or a biology degree.

You just need your phone - and possibly an ability to hold it still for two seconds. Here's some useful apps and QR codes for where to find them:

iNaturalist - Think of it as Facebook... but for wildlife.

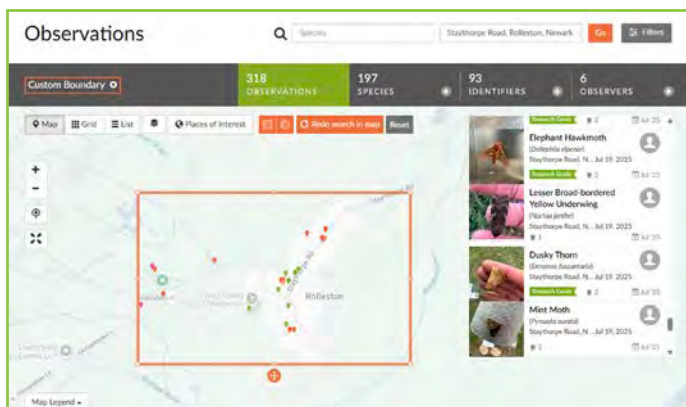
Snap a picture, and the app's clever AI will suggest what you've found.

And yes - it's surprisingly good at distinguishing between a frog and a particularly mossy stone.

Scan here to visit the **iNaturalist website**



Here's a peek at what's already been spotted around Rolleston (turns out we're wilder than we look!):



Not a Wildlife Expert? Not a Problem!

If you're still learning the difference between a bee and a hoverfly (don't worry, you're not alone), try: **Seek** (by iNaturalist)

Perfect for families, kids, and curious wanderers. Just point your camera at something - Seek magically tells you what it is, without sharing your data publicly.

It can also log sightings straight into iNaturalist if you want to contribute to Rolleston's growing nature records.

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app



Other Brilliant Wildlife Apps for Village Explorers

eBird

For those who've ever said, 'Ooh! A bird!' and then wanted to know which one. Excellent for logging garden and migrating birds.



Birda

A fun, community friendly app with challenges and logging - ideal if you like gentle competition (or proving the robin in your garden is your robin).



Merlin Bird ID

Hears a chirp in the hedge and instantly knows who's gossiping. Great for identifying birds by sound.



Nature's Calendar

Record the 'firsts' of the seasons - first snowdrop, first swallow, first leaf falling because it simply gave up. Every entry helps climate researchers.



So... Ready to Play I Spy?

Whether you're walking the dog, strolling to the shop, or staring absent minded out the window with a cup of tea, keep an eye out. Snap it. Log it. Share it. Together we can build a brilliant picture of Rolleston's wildlife - one photo at a time.

Graham Osborn

Christmas 2025



There were many events in the village including: Carols Round the Tree, the Young Farmers Tractor Run, The Motorbike Run for the Salvation Army, and the Seniors' Christmas Lunch.

There were also Christmas gatherings of the Book Club, Wednesday Ladies Club (an afternoon tea and an evening festive dinner) and the Men's Sunday Night Club dinner with their wives and partners.

The Senior's Lunch, which in previous years was held at the village hall, was hosted at The Crown. A fabulous meal was enjoyed by everyone; thanks to all the team who made it happen.

'Carols Round the Tree' was also held at the pub in the outdoor patio area and we all appreciated the shelter from the elements. £138 was collected for Beaumont House Hospice.

The Crown topped this up to £300 by contributing staff tips (given on Christmas Day), plus a cash donation instead of purchasing festive crackers. Thanks to them for this generosity which was very much in the spirit of Christmas.



Editor's note: We would also like to thank Tom and the whole team at The Crown for being 'the hub' for many of the Christmas events this year, including Ange waiting on tables and Mark helping in the kitchen on Christmas Day.



We received this write up of the Sunday Night Club festive dinner from Alec Jezewski:

"On a crisp winter's evening, the warmth of friendship and tradition filled the Crown Inn Rolleston as the Sunday Night Club gathered for their annual Christmas Dinner. This wasn't just any meal - it was a celebration of a year's worth of Sunday night meetings, a time to reminisce about cherished friends and neighbours, and to honour the bonds that have grown stronger with each passing week.

The evening sparkled with laughter, heartfelt toasts, and a shared sense of purpose. As glasses were raised, the group reflected on their guiding principles:

"Where there is boredom, may we bring excitement. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is ignorance, may we bring knowledge. Where there is despair, may we bring light."

These words echoed through the room, a testament to the club's commitment to uplifting one another and their community.

The festivities on December 11th, 2025, were made possible thanks to the efforts of Tom, Dan, Annabel, and especially organiser Michael Gemson, whose dedication ensured a night of delicious food and lively conversation. As plates were cleared and stories shared, it was clear that this was more than a dinner - it was a celebration of connection, gratitude, and the enduring spirit of the Sunday Night Club.

In the glow of The Crown Inn, old memories mingled with new, and everyone left with full hearts, already looking forward to another year of Sunday night gatherings."



Save the Dates

Country & Western Night 18th April • 7.30pm

Yeee-hah partners! There'll be music, dancing, great food and fun to raise money towards the upkeep of the village hall. Keep an eye out for more information from village emails and posters.

Doors open 7pm. Tickets are £32 and available from Mark Sanders: email mdsanders@mac.com or call 01636 815045. We expect it to be a very popular night, so booking is essential.



Rolleston Flower Festival 2026 2nd to 4th May

The festival at Rolleston Church, will be open to visitors from 11am - 4pm each day. Refreshments available. Donations will go towards the church roof repairs. An exciting theme this year: Agatha Christie. This promises some creative 'exhibits' on display (if you pardon the pun), for one our most celebrated murder mystery authors.

See poster on page 30.

Walking for Worthy Causes

Gill's Sponsored Walk

"Throughout March, myself, and my sister Pam, along with thousands of other women will be walking 100km in aid of Ovarian Cancer Action. I'm walking in memory of my wonderful mum and for all the women and families out there who have been, and will be, touched by this terrible disease.

If you would like to sponsor me the details are below, but a wave and a smile if you see me walking by will be just as important. Thank you, and fingers crossed for some nice weather!"

You can sponsor Gill through her Facebook page or by [clicking here](#).

Gill Rowles



Gill & Pam



Leo

Heather's Dog Walk for Charity

"Throughout November, at time of writing, I am walking 60 miles with our dog Leo. I am walking in aid of Cancer Research in support of Holly Stafford and anyone else living with cancer".

Anyone wishing to donate can give through Heather's Just Giving page by [clicking here](#).

Heather Brogan

Editor's note: Alternatively, if you prefer, you can contact Gill and Heather via the Junction for donations or messages of support. Email: rollestonjunction@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch.

Congratulations

New Baby

Many Congratulations to Will & Alex Towse family on the birth of Gracie Evie Towse, who was born on the 16th December. We look forward to proud 'Grandad Bram' wheeling the pram round our village.



Platinum Wedding

And... congratulations are also due to Frank and Jean Mitchell who celebrated their Platinum (70th) Wedding Anniversary in October. A quite remarkable achievement. In true modest, Mitchell style, it meant this date flew under our Junction radar, but we do want to give it a mention now – we know that many villagers would want to send their best wishes to them both.



Diamond Wedding

Many Congratulations to Angela and Steve Johnson for their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary in December which they celebrated at the Village Hall. In attendance were their three children, five grandchildren and their various husbands, wives and partners.



Ron's Big 7-0

Special birthday wishes to Ron Burnett of Holly Court who celebrated his 70th birthday in February. Ron said, "Thanks to everyone for making my transition from a sexagenarian to a septuagenarian an extremely enjoyable event! Thanks also for all the wonderful cards and presents - they were amazing."

Editor's note: The photo features the amazing cake made by his wife, Shirley. It was like a work of art and tasted fantastic too!

Welcome

A warm welcome to Alex Bendin and his wife, (also called Alex) who have moved into Lime Tree House with their two small dogs. The couple have moved here from Bilsthorpe and are already embracing village life, including the quiz night at the pub.

And our best wishes also to Stuart Brown who has moved into Greenacre. Stuart used to live on the other side of Newark and is looking forward to life in Rolleston.

If you have any news of neighbours moving in, please don't forget to let the Junction know so we can drop off a welcome pack.

Email: rollestonvillage@gmail.com

Rolleston is known for being one of the friendliest villages, and we're sure you'll look forward to chatting to our newest residents.

Local Author's Novel chosen by Book Club

Congratulations also to Angela Moore, on quite a different kind of achievement: completing her debut novel. We received this message from Angela about her book:

“ I'm thrilled to announce that I've completed my first novel, *Loose Change* and that it's been selected by Rolleston Book Club for their April meeting.

Loose Change is a gripping boardroom drama that plunges readers into the heart of a high-stakes workplace negotiation. When Janet, a newly appointed Workforce Manager, is tasked with overhauling a decades-old shift system, she faces a workforce on edge and a management team under pressure to cut costs and boost productivity. As union reps like Derick and Polly rally workers fearful of losing overtime and cherished family traditions, management's carefully laid plans threaten to unravel amid clashing ambitions, personal sacrifices, and simmering distrust.

From the opulent hotel ballroom where strategies are forged and alliances tested, to the kitchens and living rooms where families weigh the true cost of change, every character must confront what they're willing to fight for - and what they might lose. With livelihoods, family time, and the plant's very future hanging in the balance, *Loose Change* asks: when everything is negotiable, what is truly non-negotiable?

This novel delivers a powerful, authentic portrait of ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances - where every decision counts, and every voice matters.

I am honoured that my first novel has been chosen by the book club; this means the story will be shared, discussed, and hopefully enjoyed. I can't wait to hear what readers think.

*I'm currently seeking a publisher; if you have contacts in the publishing world or experience with independent presses, I'd love to hear from you. Your help could bring *Loose Change* to a wider audience. If you're interested in reading the book, joining the book club, or helping with the publishing journey, please get in touch. ”*

Angela Moore



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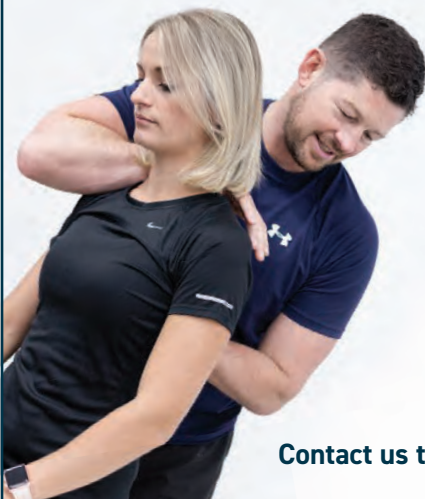


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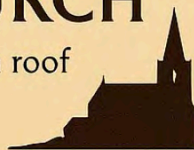
SATURDAY 2ND MAY – MONDAY 4TH MAY

11AM – 4PM DAILY

FREE ENTRY REFRESHMENTS

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In aid of the restoration of the church roof



Rolleston Regular Events

Pilates

Cheryl Roebuck • 07949 260032

'Pop-up' events will feature at the Village Hall every few weeks. Contact Cheryl for details and also for Zoom classes

Total Fitness

Jennie Overton • 01636 816800

Village Hall

Darts

**Graham Osborn
07977 172707**

Book Club

Ron Burnett • 07843 774528

ronburnett1956@gmail.com

Contact for times and venues

GORGS

Bram Towse • 07921 828474

Gentlemen of Rolleston
Golfing Society

Washindo

Tim Barbary • 07711 597636

Wednesdays 7-8pm, Fridays 7-9pm
and Sundays 5-7pm

Yoga

Mandy • 07773 551916

Pre-booking is essential for all classes
Monday: 10-11.30am Gentle Stretching & relax
Tuesday: 10-11.30am General Hatha Yoga
Tuesday evenings: 6.30-7.55pm and 8.05-9.30pm
Classes for those with some experience.

Wednesday Coffee and Lunch Club, Village Hall

1st Wednesday in the month at 12pm

2-course Pre-booked Lunch

To book: call **Amanda 07779561934**

£3.50 includes raffle ticket.

2nd Wednesday 10.30am

Coffee/Tea/Cakes/Biccies (free).

3rd Wednesday 10.30am

Coffee/Tea/Cakes etc. (free)

Bacon Cobs (£1)

4th & 5th Wednesday 10.30am

Coffee/Tea/Cakes/etc. (free).

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Peter Salter • 01636 819197

Bell Ringers

Bryan Northcote • 01636 812579

Wednesday 7.30pm, alternating
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Note:

Please contact individual
organisers for bookings or to
check events are running in
the Village Hall.

Local services & businesses

JDP Windows - Window Cleaning Service	01636 816662
Steve Bosworth - Joiner & Building Contractor	01636 815542 • 07976 894449
Fiskerton Post Office & Village Shop	01636 830230
Turnbull and Sons - Professional Tree & Hedge Care	01636 816361 / 07970 633150 turnbullandson@outlook.com
The Old Barn at Field Farm - Arts, Entertainment	07834 689878
The Stable Salon - Ladies Hairdressing, Fiskerton	01636 830044
Gasline - Plumbing & Heating (24 hour service)	01623 871772 / 07805 525174
Harwood Decorators - Abs Chaaban	01636 815979 • 07788 962707 abs.chaaban@hotmail.com • www.harwooddecorators.com
Morton, Fiskerton, Rolleston WI	01636812881/07733135175 susan.bosworth24@yahoo.co.uk • www.mfrwi.co.uk
Indigo Architecture	01332 541 691 • hello@indigo-architecture.co.uk www.indigo-architecture.co.uk
Rooms at Rolleston - Airbnb	07815 846773 • roomsrolleston@gmail.com www.roomsatrolleston.com
Nikky Green - Remedial & Sports Massage	07734 155240 • info@nikkygreenmassage.com
Alex Openshaw - Carpentry & Building	07866 712721 • openshawliving@yahoo.co.uk
The Crown at Rolleston	01636 925719 • hello@crownatrolleston.co.uk www.crownatrolleston.co.uk
Steve Cook Electrical Ltd	07764 990563 • stevecookelectrician@gmail.com
Strive Movement	07778 726092 • james@strivemovement.com

Useful contacts

Flood Warden - Steve Bosworth

01636 815542 • 07976 894449

Parish Council - Bob Steele

01636 812463 / 07971 028801

Village Hall Management - Mark Sanders

mdsanders@mac.com / 07825 204936

Village Hall Bookings - Lucy Kyte

07398 670139

Holy Trinity Vicar - James Moring

07986 228992

Pavements, pot holes, street lighting, standing water: Nottinghamshire Council

0300 500 8080

Church Warden - Peter Salter

01636 819197

Church Treasurer - Peter Salter

01636 819197

District Councillor - Keith Melton

01636 672276

County Councillor - Sue Saddington

01636 704550

Member of Parliament - MP Robert Jenrick

01636 703269

Southwell Doctors

01636 813561

Minster Vets

01636 812133

Southwell Racecourse

01636 814481

Community Car Scheme

01636 611220

Police

Emergencies 999 • Non emergencies 101

Newark & Sherwood District Council

01636 650000

It's good to keep in touch

If you don't know what's going on, how can you get the most out of the village?

This is how we do it...

- If your email is registered with The Rolleston Junction, you are also added to the village Parish Council email list. This means you don't miss out on any important news. Your information is not shared with other third parties.
- Rolleston Village Facebook page - for instant updates.
- Rolleston Village web site - **rollestonvillage.uk**
- The notice board on Corner Farm.
- The Rolleston Junction - **rollestonjunction@gmail.com**
- We are a quarterly magazine dependent on our advertisers and sponsorship.
- We do need more donations and advertising income - if you have a business your advertising support would be appreciated. A quarter page costs just £30 per issue.
- It's your magazine and we welcome articles, announcements, snippets and photos from you. Send us an email or phone Carole on **01636 815089**
- New neighbours? Let us know and we'll pop round with a welcome package and a Junction!



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