

the Rolleston Junction

Edition 36 - Spring 2024

In this issue...

- FLOODING IN ROLLESTON
- TRIBUTE TO MARIA BROADBENT
- TRIBUTE TO BRIAN JOHN
- CHRISTMAS PHOTOS



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Dates for your Diary

2nd April	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
12th April	2.15 - 2.30pm	Mobile Library	Outside Willwyls, Station Road
13th April	10am - 3.30pm	Spring Craft Fair	Southwell Minster
16th April	7.30pm	Book Club	For book and venue please contact Pati Colman
25th April	7pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
23-27th April	7.30pm Matinee 2.30pm on final day	The Sign Of Four by Nick Lane	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham. For tickets visit www.rhtc.co.uk or call 07733 1799 86
27th April	7.30pm	The Creation by Joseph Haydn	Southwell Minster
4th-6th May	11am - 5pm	Flower Festival	Holy Trinity Church Rolleston
7th May	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
10th May	2.15 - 2.30pm	Mobile Library	Outside Willwyls, Station Road
15th May	7.30pm	Book Club	For book and venue please contact Pati Colman
3rd June	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
7th June	2.15 - 2.30pm	Mobile Library	Outside Willwyls, Station Road
11-15th June	7.30pm Matinee 2.30pm on final day	The Lady in the Van by Alan Bennett	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham. For tickets visit www.rhtc.co.uk or call 07733 1799 86
13th June	7.30pm	Book Club	For book and venue please contact Pati Colman

* Check latest times and venues on the Book Club meetings:
Contact Pati Colman: **07786 937266**
pati.colman@icloud.com

To ensure you are on the village email list contact:
rollestonjunction@gmail.com

Hello again

from the Junction Team!

The delightful horse riders on our front cover show a cheery side to the flooding in our village. However, the stark reality is that for a number of villagers the flood water caused a lot of distress and much work for our Flood Warden, Steve Bosworth.

A huge thanks for his sterling work in supporting our community.

Floods are easy to forget once they subside, but we would like to keep the subject top of mind. Flooding is certainly getting more frequent and it raises serious questions about its impact on future housing development in our area. Read Steve Johnson's and Steve Bosworth's collective comments and their report on the floods in Rolleston on page 10.

In this issue there are other articles by our Parish, District and County Councillors and by our MP who all reference the floods and state what is being done, what should be done and what we can all do to take action ourselves.

Wow. Remember Christmas? It went past in a flash and so much went on in our village. Over the festive season there were indoor and outdoor events to enjoy as the published photos clearly show. Of course, the Village Hall and The Vinery played a central role in these festivities.

And then... we received the shocking news in early January about the sudden death of Maria Broadbent.

You can read the tribute to Maria on page 22 (a eulogy delivered by David Hanson at the memorial service held at Kelham Hall).

Our thoughts are with Andy and with Maria's family. She will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

There is also a tribute to Brian John by his wife Sally who is currently in Australia.

Sally is spending some time over there with her family. We look forward to welcoming her back home to Rolleston soon.

The Village Hall hosted a Greek-themed evening in November, including an Abba Tribute act. It was highly successful in raising funds for our Village Hall. The decor looked amazing and very 'Mamma Mia'. The magazine had already gone to print at that point so we are pleased to read all about it here and how the funds will be used.

Did you know that the Wednesday Coffee and Lunch Club is almost 20 years old?

Ran by community spirited volunteers, Amanda Beswick writes about what's on offer and would like to emphasise it's open for all ages to enjoy.

It's another useful 'hub' in the village for a free cuppa, cake and great conversation.

Depending on which Wednesday you pick - once a month there is a regular lunch - and there are other savoury delights for a nominal price. With huge thanks to Amanda and the team for the time and service they so generously give to villagers.

As I write this, we heard some positive news about the pub.

Read the snippet in the News in Brief section on page 29 and we will keep you updated through Rolleston Junction emails.

With spring approaching, may we wish everyone a Happy Easter - and fingers crossed for brighter days ahead and for sunnier weather.

Best wishes,

Carole, Gill and Beth

Front cover: photo by Gill Rowles

Church News

We are still in a period of vacancy and preparing the ground for appointing a new vicar. It is not expected to happen quickly; it may take a couple of years.

There are more clergy being trained, but the Benefice of West Trent is more appealing to a mature person rather than a young person seeking a career in the bright lights. Fortunately, the existence of the church school in Bleasby is a great attraction.

Costs continue to rise in the maintenance of the buildings and graveyard. We spent over £3300 last year on graveyard maintenance alone, but it does look great. As many will have seen there has been extensive tree damage recently too. Obtaining a diocese approved tree surgeon to deal with the damage is not easy as there were so many trees damaged this winter. There are always costs in maintaining an ancient building too, with roof tiles blowing off in storms and an aging electrical system in parts of the church.

The Rolleston Flower Festival with an Olympic theme is planned for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, (see News in Brief, page 28 for details).

Regular services in church are at 10.30 am on the second Sunday of each month, with a few others from time to time. Details are on the church website, Rollestonchurch.org.uk

There are also services at 9am on Zoom every Sunday, and a 12-minute Compline service on Wednesdays online at 7pm. Compline is for the 'completion of the day' and is a very peaceful service of prayer and readings. Everyone is ever welcome.

The church is open daily from 9 to 5. You can't get locked in! It is ideal if you need a short time to come for a bit of peace and quiet away from the rest of the world.

Our peaceful churchyard is there for everyone. A place to sit quietly. A place to remember those who have been before us. Somewhere just to be. It is a place where any parishioner of any religion, or none, can be laid to rest through burial or having their ashes interred.

I am a local point of contact for the church, and am always happy to help.

Julian Ellis

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Rolleston Parish Council News

The Village is a Community

At the time of writing this, it is yet another rainy day in early February. The Greet is high and the ground water is standing everywhere. In short, it is the rain and flood season in Rolleston. It is also a sad season with the death of Maria Broadbent and the closure of the Vinery. Maria will be sadly missed by us all.

I would like to thank Steve Bosworth our Flood Warden for his tireless efforts to deal with the flood water where and whenever it has occurred. I sincerely hope that by the time you are reading this, it really is Spring weather and that the rains and the floods are a distant memory. It will of course happen again and the next time it does happen we will need to be better prepared.

The Parish Council has provided the money for a bigger portable water pump to help the Flood Warden deal with the emergency flood situations, but we also need a plan for the whole village and its surrounding areas. Nottingham County Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council and 'Via' (Highways agency) are working on a strategy to mitigate the flooding in the Trent Valley and we need to ensure that we have an input to the development of that plan.

On a brighter note, we have produced our budget for the coming year and have used it to identify where we will need funding in the next few years and to ask for an increase in our precept, (the money we get from the District Council), to finance our activities in the village.

Building the budget was an interesting exercise and we decided to offset the total precept increase needed by using some cash from our bank balance. So, the regular bills will be paid, and we are putting money into



anticipated areas of funding needed, e.g. keeping the playpark in good condition in future years.

The new village website (rollestonvillage.uk) is about ready to go 'live', and you will be able to see the agendas and minutes for our meetings as well as an electronic version of the Rolleston Junction magazine. Links to the existing Village Hall and the Church websites will also be available.

The new website will be for our village community and we will be asking you to provide input. One idea is for people to send favourite photographs of anything that interests them. Watch this space and the village email system for more information.

Chair Bob Steele

Chair of Rolleston PC

Diary Date:

The Rolleston Annual Parish Meeting will be held 25th April, at 7pm at the Village Hall



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Wednesday Coffee and Lunch Club – Open to All

Did you know there is a long established coffee and lunch club open to all ages at the Village Hall?

It's been going almost 20 years and every Wednesday, people meet up for coffee/tea, a chat and cake.

With the exception of the 1st Wednesday of the month – this is special. Instead of coffees, teas, cake etc. a 2-course lunch is on offer from 12 noon.

And... don't miss the extra option of a bacon cob on every third Wednesday of the month!

Whether you are a person working from home or nearby, or retired - or you might be busy Mums and Dads or grandparents... everyone deserves a break and a cuppa.

Ran by local volunteers who generously support the Coffee and Lunch Club, this community spirited venture is there for you at the Village Hall.

Here is a summary of times and full details of what's on offer:

1st Wednesday in the month - 12pm:

2-course Lunch (*must be pre-booked please). £3.50 includes a raffle ticket. Diners provide small prize donations.

2nd Wednesday - 10.30am:

Coffee/Tea and Cakes/Biccies, (FREE).

3rd Wednesday - 10.30am:

Coffee/Tea and Cakes/Biccies, (FREE).

Bacon Cobs (£1)

4th & 5th Wednesday - 10.30am:

Coffee/Tea and Cakes/Biccies, (FREE).

Come along and take a break, meet other villagers and have some great conversations.

* If you are interested in lunch then please pre-book by contacting Amanda Beswick on **07779 561934**.

By the way, people at the playpark with their children or grandchildren are most welcome to pop in for a drink... as long they bring their mugs back please.

Amanda Beswick

Editor's note: with huge thanks to Amanda and the fine team who run the Rolleston Coffee and Lunch Club.



Greek Night at the Village Hall

Saturday, 18th November saw Rolleston Village Hall being transformed into a Greek Taverna for the night, serving up Greek Food, Abba Music and much fun!

Over 60 villagers came to show us they were Dancing Queens and looking out for a Super Trouper, entertained by music from duo, 'Viva Abba', and served with a delicious Greek feast provided by The Vinery.

The event raised over £700 towards the upkeep of our Village Hall, so a big thanks to everyone who helped set it up or came along and supported the event. There was even a raffle and an Abba quiz where the Winner Takes it All!

Rolleston Village Hall costs over £18,000 per year to keep it open and we can't generate enough revenue from hall bookings to cover these costs and cover the maintenance, so these fund-raising events are really important. We will soon need to decorate the hall and refinish the floor, so we have some big bills coming up.

More importantly, we love seeing people from the village getting together and having fun.

Mark Sanders



Claire's Recipe In celebration of **Rhubarb**



Now that I have a decent rhubarb patch (after quite a few failures in the past), I am looking forward to having lots to play with this year.

Rhubarb and Custard are one of my favourite flavour combinations. I had a super Rhubarb and Ginger Creme Brûlée recently.

Here is a recipe for **Rhubarb and Custard Scones**.

The addition of custard powder is inspired and can be used in lots of recipes, substituting a spoon of the measured flour for a spoon of custard powder to give that distinctive flavour.

Ingredients: (Scone dough)

300g self-raising flour
50g custard powder
1tsp baking powder
50g caster sugar
100g butter - cut into small cubes
150-175ml milk and 1 egg
Clotted cream to serve

Ingredients: (Rhubarb and Vanilla Jam)

1kg rhubarb after trimming, cut into 3cm pieces
1kg jam sugar and an 8g sachet of pectin
2 vanilla pods, split lengthways
Juice of 1 lemon

Method:

1. Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl then rub in the butter until it looks like breadcrumbs.
2. Now mix the egg and milk together and stir in just enough to make a soft dough. Save the rest for brushing on the scones before baking.
3. Knead the dough lightly on a floured surface to bring it all together. Roll out gently to approx. 2cm thick then stamp out rounds of dough and place on a baking tray. Brush the tops with the leftover egg and milk mix.
4. Bake for 10-15 minutes in a hot oven until golden brown.
5. For the Rhubarb and Vanilla Jam: use a large pan, a jam pan if you have one. Put a saucer in the fridge to chill. Sterilize the jars (about 4, depending on their size) by washing them and either put into the oven on a low heat or run through the dishwasher, including the lids.
6. Put the rhubarb, sugar, pectin and vanilla pods in the pan and heat gently, stirring until the sugar dissolves.
7. Pour in the lemon juice then bring to the boil and cook for about 10 minutes, it should be bubbling fiercely all the time.
8. Test to see if it is setting by spooning a small amount onto the cold plate and after a minute or so run your finger along the surface, if it wrinkles up then the setting point has been reached. Alternatively, use a jam thermometer; the jam needs to reach 105°C.
9. Remove the pan from the heat and leave for 15 minutes before stirring. Remove the vanilla pods and pour into the sterilized jars. Cover.

To serve:

Split the scones and spread with clotted cream then add a lovely dollop of your homemade jam. You can use the rest stirred into yoghurt, with little pancakes, swirled into cheesecakes, or even on French Toast. In fact, there are so many uses for it that you'll have to make another batch!

Hope you enjoy this recipe. Send in your own favourite recipes for us all to try. Email: rollestonjunction@gmail.com

Claire

Flooding in Rolleston

The new year unfortunately brought problems to a significant number of households in Rolleston along with many other Trentside communities.

A summary of issues in Rolleston was sent to local councillors, the Parish Council and various outside agencies. Responses have been patchy but local councillors are working hard to collate all information from their wards, learn from their findings and push the authorities to plan better for the future.

Meanwhile, it is important that Rolleston engages with the relevant authorities and find solutions to our own concerns.

The broken surface drain running down Staythorpe Road caused surface water flooding in gardens, drives and garages. Water then entered the main sewage system which then became overwhelmed. Sewage then came out of manholes in various parts of the village.

Road drains and gullies are not cleaned regularly enough and hence there was flooding on all of the three main roads in the village. Simply reporting these generates a lot of incident numbers but little work to remedy the situation.

In order to move things on:

- The PC is hoping to get a senior manager from Severn Trent to come to a Parish Council meeting which will be open to the public
- Flood Wardens, present and past, will walk the banks of the Greet with an Environment Agency representative and report back to the Parish Council
- A senior member of Via (responsible for highways in Nottinghamshire) will be asked to come to the village and look at the problem areas on the roads together with councillors and the flood warden

Finally, some points on the role of a flood warden:

1. These are volunteers and have their own properties and businesses to look after. They receive no priority in getting flood warnings or getting equipment to prevent flooding.
2. They are able to put road closure signs in place, in liaison with Via.
3. Often they receive information no quicker than the general public.

We have a resilience store which has a pump and some basic equipment. Sandbags are difficult to store both inside and outside and heavy to transport. As an alternative, individuals can obtain aqua sacs which are easy to store at home and also air brick covers.

Households can get flood warnings and alerts from flood line, but it's important not to go into panic mode as thankfully many err on the side of caution.

We also need your continued cooperation to help prevent 'fatbergs' building up in our drainage systems - as previously advised, wet wipes, sanitary products, dental floss, cotton wool products, cooking oils, solid fats (e.g. butter, creams etc) and even salad dressings, should be disposed of in your household waste - not down sinks or toilets. Please note this also includes items that claim they are 'flushable'.

It is important that as a community we do not just wait until the next weather event thinking that our own properties will be okay. Every weather event appears to give different outcomes and individual households should give some thought to their own situation. When the floods recede, we must keep this issue top of mind as it's a topic that is not going to go away.

Rolleston has a tradition of working together and hopefully this will continue to make the whole village as safe as possible.

Steve Johnson Past Flood Warden

Steve Bosworth Present Flood Warden

Editor's note: With appreciative thanks for all the help and support that Steve Bosworth continuously gives to assist villagers, especially during the floods in Rolleston. Our village could do with an extra flood warden. Would you be prepared to help out? You will receive training and be made aware of the flood resilience facilities. Contact **Bob Steele 07971 028801** email: cllr.bobsteele@hotmail.com

The sweet smell of invasion

When we think of spring, we think of warm breezes carrying the smell of freshly cut grass, of honeysuckle, roses, and other olfactory delights. But captured within that is the seductive fragrance of Himalayan Balsam, *Impatiens glandulifera*, an invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).

Over 2,000 plants and animals have been introduced to Britain from all over the world by people. These are known as non-native species. Most are harmless, but around 10-15% spread and become invasive which harm wildlife and the environment, are costly to the economy and can even impact on our health and way of life. INNS are estimated to cost the UK economy £2.2 billion annually and include other plants such as Japanese Knotweed, Cotoneaster, Giant Hogweed and Rhododendron.

Himalayan Balsam out-competes native species, growing prolifically along riverbanks and in damp areas including wetlands, ditches, damp meadows or woodland. This rapid growth blocks light and steals valuable nutrients leading to monoculture stands of the plant. Then, due to its short growing season, it dies back leaving bare banks and causing destabilisation and erosion during wet winter weather. It has a shorter flowering 'window' than the native species would have provided - leading to potential food shortages for some pollinators causing declines in population and biodiversity loss.

It is extremely efficient at colonising areas. Himalayan Balsam has explosive seed pods spreading the plant up to 7 metres from the donor plant. One plant can produce up to 800 seeds. An established patch could mean up to 5000 seeds are present within a square metre.

Once in a watercourse, the pods will spread downstream causing more plant propagation and during flooding this distribution of seed can be even wider. Seeds of the Himalayan Balsam can remain viable for up to 2 years.

You might wonder why I'm putting a spotlight on this particular plant. Well, if you go down Station road, just before you reach the bridge, you'll see this growing in abundance, or going across the fields towards Fiskerton you'll see this along the watercourse. I admit, it does look pretty, and it smells nice too. However, for the reasons outlined above, we can't allow it to proliferate. So be vigilant in your own gardens and hope it doesn't spread onto your own land.

All is not lost though! Due to its short root structure it means it's easy to pull out and prevent it from flowering and setting seed - if done at the right time: May to around July/August - before the seed pods ripen.

For more guidance on how to manage this plant search for 'RAPID Good Practice Management Guide For Himalayan Balsam', or go to www.nonnativespecies.org for more general INNS information.

Graham Osborn

Biodiversity & Ecology Lead, Severn Trent



Cllr Sue Saddington

In touch with Council news

I think over the last few months with so many storms in quick succession, we have all watched the weather forecasts daily with some anxiety, in what has been unprecedented weather.

In October, Storm Babette arrived with some force and then, just after the New Year, Storm Henk arrived. Never having experienced these ferocious storms, I understand residents' concerns; we were all fearful of flooding and had good reason to be.

This time around, it is my understanding that water did not enter residents' properties in Rolleston, I trust that information I have been given is correct. I understand that the bund held, which was my concern.

NCC were rescuing residents in the County from properties where their lives were in danger, they checked the flood plains were coping with the water and said they would look at the situation when the water subsided.

For those residents not aware, in any emergency event, it is approached multi agency, that is, NSDC, NCC, Environment Agency, Severn Trent, Canal and River Trust and the Fire Service, if necessary, to name a few.

Each agency specialises in its own responsibility:

- **NSDC** provide aqua sacs, and rehabilitate residents if they need to leave their property and collect all the rubbish when residents have cleared up carpets etc.
- **NCC** are in charge of road closures and the flood wardens.
- **Severn Trent** deal with sewage problems as resulted in the last storm, toilet paper etc. in residents' gardens.
- **The Environment Agency** are in charge of the river and river levels.

We all appreciate they cannot turn back the river, but they can monitor and send out flood warnings to residents who have registered with them.

It is the Canal and River Trust who are responsible for dredging the river, which I have requested for years. However, for reasons better known to themselves, they will not do it.

The Fire Service often help to pump water, but as you know the river was extremely high, the fields were full of water and there was nowhere to pump it into.

Residents do find Severn Trent very difficult to contact, however, I have been in touch with them.

It was an unprecedented amount of water. As we speak, Section 19 reports are being written as to how this was managed, so we learn from this should there be another time.

Residents can help by offering to be a flood warden, they have the legal right to close roads in times of flood. One of the problems is, when roads are closed, drivers remove the signs, drive down the road and create a wave of water which goes into residents' properties.

As you can see, it is not a case of one Agency being in charge, each one has a particular job to do.

The Lead flood department at County Hall have agreed a meeting with the Environment Agency. The riverside village representatives will be invited; the purpose of this will be to sort out concerns from each village.

Let us hope we can soon look forward to Spring, without a 'Beast from the East' or more rain.

Wishing you all a Peaceful Easter.

Kind regards,

Cllr. Sue Saddington

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- 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



Village Hall Lotto

Here are the winners since the last edition of the Junction:

Lisa Osborn, Simon Haydock, Sarah Thackeray, Alistair Aden, Ian Whitehead, Glenice Walton, Elizabeth Blakey, Sally John, Di Overton and Doug Townsend

Number 33 has become vacant if anyone would like to contact me.

Thank you for your kind support which we do need. A £50 cash prize will continue to be awarded each week and the lotto keeps the village hall running as a facility for to enjoy.

(See the article about the successful Abba-themed fund raiser, 'Greek Night' on page 8).

Angela Sanders

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Cllr Keith Melton

I am sure I am not the only person to say this, but we've had rather a wet autumn and winter since I last wrote to you! Seven or more 'named storms' in the space of three months or so, has led to a lot of saturated ground close by and a number of flooding incidents. Indeed, it is the worst year for flooding I have seen since I started living in Staythorpe back in 1974.

Unfortunately, there appear to have been quite a few incidents where things have been worse for Rolleston residents due to foul drains not coping with the 'hydrological pressure'. This has led to the blowing off of manhole covers, thereby releasing raw sewage into gardens, garages and onto the roads. We need to find solutions for this not to happen again!

For the record, a huge thank you to Steve Bosworth, as Rolleston's Flood Warden, and to all the other local people involved in helping to cope with the pressures of our local flooding.

Your County Councillor, Sue Saddington, and I, hope to bring some of the agencies concerned together to listen to your local experiences during the last four months and find out what lessons can be learned for the future. So, watch the public noticeboards for possible events.

The administration and Officers of Newark and Sherwood DC have taken a number of initiatives to try and protect us all in future flooding events, by bringing together representatives from all the relevant agencies and key players to learn

lessons of mitigation and adaptation that will help us all as we move onwards.

It seems likely that weather events will almost certainly get worse and more frequent as global warming changes the pattern of our underlying weather conditions.

As portfolio holder for Climate Change and Net Zero, I am working on plans with a range of agencies to increase the number and success of nature-based flood prevention measures across the District, where possible.

In an emerging extreme weather event, we need to try and slow the progress of the water going directly into the river. In this way we should be able to manage the worst weather that is thrown our way, without suffering damaging floods every time.

It is also the case that some agencies and organisations need a bit of a strong nudge to improve their maintenance activity, to keep drains, culverts etc. free to allow rainwater to drain away safely, rather than causing localised 'flash-flooding', as has happened in recent months.

Trees and biodiversity boosts

On a more cheerful note, as I mentioned in the last Rolleston Junction, part of my responsibility is to increase tree-planting across the District. When the spring weather picks up a bit we will be 'walking on the wild side' with some Rolleston residents, who know the local byways well, to see just where we can introduce more biodiversity to boost nature's wellbeing for all residents.

I will be joined by another portfolio holder, Cllr Emma Oldham, responsible for biodiversity issues and some of our NSDC officers whose day jobs are also linked to these issues.

We are also keen for the District to be strongly associated with 'Great Big Green Week', which is to be held from the 8th to the 16th of June. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust also have a Green

Month across the whole of June, so we expect lots of opportunities for residents to be involved in environmental projects of all kinds.

If you, or any local groups which you belong to, would like to be involved, please get in touch with me directly; I'll ensure you are linked into the network of support for this activity. Drop me a line if you are interested.

Staythorpe Battery Energy Storage System

The applicants for the Staythorpe BESS have appealed against the NSDC refusal to go ahead with the project - and the public Inquiry will take place at Castle House in Newark from the 9th April onwards. If you are interested there will be public access to listen in either directly or online.

Warm regards to all.

Cllr. Keith Melton



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✉ keith.melton@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

- Trent Ward - NSDC
- Portfolio Holder for Climate change and Net Zero

TOM GERAGHTY

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MP FOR NEWARK

In recent months, constituents in Newark and surrounding areas have faced a series of testing challenges. From the devastating impacts of flooding to the rise in anti-social behaviour and the controversial proposals for large solar farms, these issues have undeniably cast a shadow over our historic and beautiful constituency. However, amidst these trials, there is a continued commitment to rebuilding and restoring pride in our local area.

The issue of flooding has been particularly harrowing for many in our community. The loss of homes, possessions, and the daunting task of clean up and recovery have been a reality for too many. As your Member of Parliament, I have witnessed first-hand the resilience of our residents, business owners, and farmers as they navigate the aftermath of these flood events.

In response, I am steadfast in my commitment to advocating for enhanced flood defences and ensuring that our community is better protected against future flooding events. The recent floods underscore the urgency of completing projects like the multi-million pound Lowdham flood defences. I am organising a Flood Forum to engage directly with constituents, listening to your concerns and suggestions for further support and prevention measures.

Anti-social behaviour and crime remains a pressing concern for many. The sense of safety and community well-being is paramount, which is why I have spearheaded initiatives like the Newark Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Summit - the first of its kind in our area. These forums, held in collaboration with local policing and operational leads, aim to

develop effective strategies to curb anti-social behaviour, ensuring that Newark remains a safe and enjoyable place for all residents, even into the late hours of the night. Leveraging government funding, such as the Safer Streets Fund, has already enabled us to enhance the local security infrastructure, including the installation of additional CCTV systems across town centres.

The proposals for large-scale solar farms in and around Newark have sparked considerable concern in our constituency. While recognising the importance of renewable energy, the impact on our landscape, agricultural land, and local communities for generations, cannot be overlooked. Having received almost 1000 replies to my 'Solar Farm Survey', overwhelmingly opposing the large and unreasonable solar farm proposals, I will be continuing to oppose the three proposals in and around the Newark constituency unless they are drastically changed. I have met with the solar farm representatives and the relevant government Ministers to lay out my concerns with them and ensure that your voice is being heard.

Newark's rich history, beautiful towns and villages and vibrant community should be sources of immense pride. My commitment to safeguarding our local area's future, enhancing its beauty, and ensuring a safe, welcoming environment is unwavering.

As always, should there be anything with which you require assistance, please get in touch with me and my office.

Robert Jenrick

📞 01636 612837

✉ robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk

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WI News

The December meeting of the Morton, Fiskerton & Rolleston WI was our Christmas meal which was well attended by 30 members. The Full Moon served an excellent meal and a good time was had by all.

The January 2024 meeting was about healthy nutrition. The speaker was Nina Thomas from Bridgford and Bingham Nutrition. Nina gave us all very useful information to help us stay healthy and enjoy life.

A group of 7 members went to the latest production at the Robin Hood Theatre in Averham on 31st January. The comedy production was funny and entertaining.

'The Hat Lady' was the speaker for the February meeting. The talk was fascinating about her occupation of millinery, and all the work involved to produce the perfect hat for an occasion.

The March WI meeting was 'Games and Nibbles'. This was a chance to get to know other WI members and have some laughs and fun.

The April meeting is our Annual meeting and the May meeting is a speaker on 'eye health' from Pinders of Southwell.

Some Nottinghamshire County WI events available for members include a Rummikub competition (won recently by Beryl Northcote from MFR WI), Long Alley Skittles and an organised walk around Oxtun, to name a few.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings with a £5 charge for refreshments.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at The Arthur Radford Sports Hall, Cooks Lane, Fiskerton NG25 0UT.

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

Visit our website: **www.mfrwi.co.uk**

Susan Bosworth

Contacts:

Jeanette Brownson: 07816 609913

Beryl Northcote: 01636 812579

Helen Boffy: 07515 280707



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Congratulations to Dr. Mike Taylor

It had always been assumed that after taking my history degree I'd stay on to do a PhD and eventually become a don. A lack of funding scuppered that ambition and so in a move that shocked my old maths teachers - I became an accountant in London.

I retired from the City in 2018, and with help from Julian Ellis, enrolled at the University of Nottingham to research a history PhD.

My thesis was examined and accepted last year, and I formally graduated in December at a ceremony attended by my wife, Fiona, our daughter, Katie and son, James, and my brother Martin and sister-in-law Barbara.

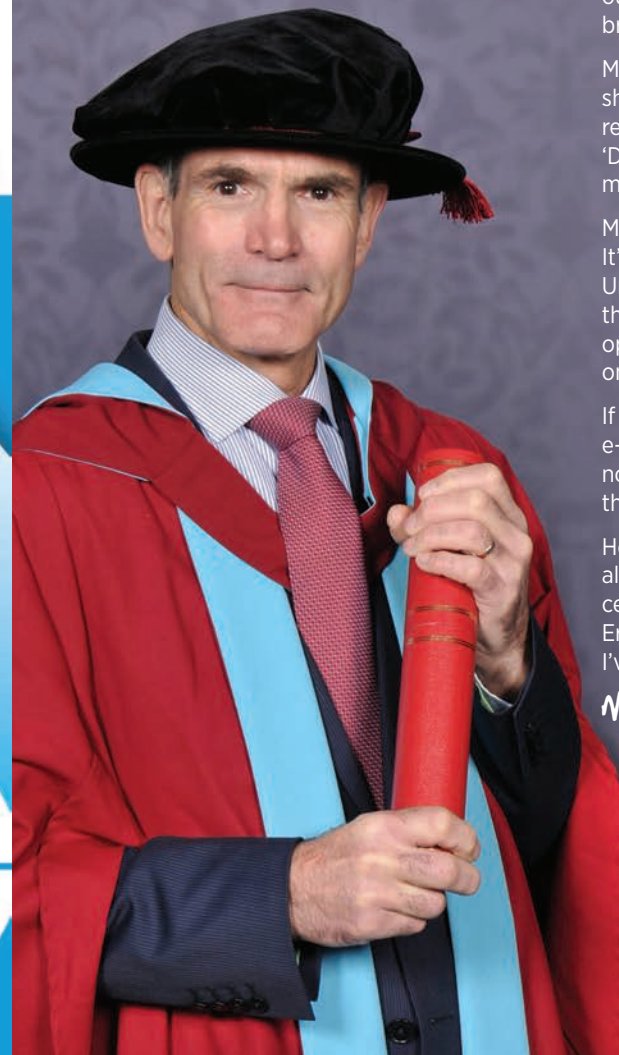
My mother's ambition that both her sons should become doctors has now been realized, although my brother, the original 'Doc Martin', is of rather more use in a medical emergency.

My thesis is about the origins of this country. It's called 'The British Court and the 1707 Union of England and Scotland' and because the University of Nottingham pursues an open access policy, it's freely accessible in an on-line repository.

If you're interested, just google Nottingham e-theses and you can search for it there. If not, there are loads of other freely accessible theses to read!

Here's a photo of me at my graduation in all the formal academic gear. Readers of a certain age will note with a smile that, like Eric Morecambe in the play what Ernie wrote, I've got the scrolls.

Mike Taylor



Tribute to Maria Broadbent

7th June 1967 - 2nd January 2024

Editorial Team's note: Many of us were shocked to hear of Maria's death in January whilst taking a well-deserved skiing holiday with her family. Maria was full of vitality; in such a short time her vibrant and generous personality made such a positive impact in our community. We send our sincere condolences to Andy, Maria's family and friends.

We reproduce here the eulogy delivered at Maria's Life Celebration, 8th February, at Kelham Hall by David Hanson. Although many villagers were there, some of our community were unable to attend the service and we are sure you would like to read it.

“

As you all know, the circle of people who knew Maria and were her friends was wide, some couldn't be here today, but they've sent messages of tribute and the family have asked me to read some out. Here is a friend Andreas from Bury:

'I've been remembering how great your mum was and the good chuckles we had. I remember doing an impromptu 80's music quiz with her and Andy in the office at Casa. My god nobody was going to win against her!'

There are several from Rolleston, 'Maria made such a big impact in such a short time and really brought this community together.' 'She was a warm engaging and generous lady.' 'We were loving her lively restaurant.' And: 'Never has someone spread as much happiness to so many people in so short a time as Maria did in Rolleston, where she made many new friends.'

And, going all the way back to Carlton le Willows secondary school, there were 76 comments on Facebook from friends and ex-pupils. Here are some: 'She was a dear friend who brought joy and laughter to us all. I'm so sorry for your loss, and love to all your family,' that's from Maxine. 'I remember her lovely smile right back from Primary school' (Richard Wells). 'She was an amazing person' (Paul). 'I was in form R with her from the annexe until leaving in year 5.'

She started late as she'd had scarlet fever. She was bubbly and full of giggles. We went on the French trip to Le Treport together and often went for tea and birthday parties at each other's houses. We met again a couple of years ago, it was great to catch up and reminisce. I'm so sorry to read she has passed away - condolences to you all' (from Carolyn).

Many more. Many condolences, and a lot of love. And there's this from Martin Husselbee: 'I remember Maria well from primary and secondary school; always busy and smiling. I saw her a few times over the last 30 years and was continually amazed at what she was achieving, always trying something new. She will be sadly missed.'

I didn't know Maria for nearly so long, but I counted her my friend too, because she had that gift for friendship, so let me say something. I've been asked not to make this religious, though it's kind of what I do, and I won't. That's for another time and place.

But I will say this. Maria was a friend to the things that religious people, (at their best and we aren't always), also believe in and try to live by. She believed in people, she was a friend, an encourager, she built community, she fed people, she was a fabulous host.

The God stuff. Maria didn't know all the answers, and anyone who thinks they do hasn't thought enough. But she valued the questions. She was, maybe, spiritual. And she believed in and lived a full life and wanted the best for other folks. That is a deeply Christian thing to believe in. Not saying we've got a monopoly on it, but it's there.

Maria was a friend to me. She was my sermon consultant. Forgive me, some people here have heard me say this too often, but it's true. She gave me my best lines. I didn't have many, but the ones I managed were hers. Christmas carols at Rolleston Church, it's our main gig of the year. Half-empty the rest of the time but, Christmas Eve, everyone piles in, O Come All Ye Faithful, all of that.

I asked Maria, what am I going to say to all those people? She said, well, keep it short, and don't make it too religious, nobody wants that at Christmas, do they? All you need to do, she said, is tell them that this year, there is room at the inn. And get them to come to the pub.

I did what Maria said. Always the best way. She was wise, she was fun, she was joyful. We will miss her.

David Hanson

”

Thank you

A thank you to all those who attended Maria's Life Celebration at Kelham Hall and to others that were unable to attend but still gave their support, I and Maria's family would like to say a very large and sincere thank you. Having the support of the Rolleston community has been both humbling and heartwarming during this very difficult time. It was also lovely to hear from many that appreciated how much she had brought the community together in such a short space of time. We will all miss her a great deal.

Andy Poxon



Christmas Events

There was a lot of activity with many events going on either in Rolleston itself, or travelling through our village in December. We feature some memorable photos including, the Christmas lights on display in the village, the Tractor Run (in aid of local Young Farmer's Funds), the Motorbike Toy Run (in aid of a Salvation Army appeal), the Carol Singing Round the Tree, the Seniors' Christmas Lunch and the Festive Gig.

Carole Chandler

Seniors' Christmas Lunch

On the 6th December, 36 residents celebrated Christmas with the annual Seniors' Christmas Lunch. There was a quiz, a raffle and also carol singing organised by Mary Walsh with David Hanson on the keyboard.

Huge thanks to the following volunteers who helped to make the afternoon's festivities, food and entertainment really special: Jenny and John Doyle, Pati and Arne Colman, Penny Lester, Chris and Peter Salter, Jane Geraghty, Ron and Shirley Burnett and Amanda Beswick. Our apologies if we missed any names!

Thanks to Sue Saddington for the funding contributed by NCC to make this event so enjoyable.



Seniors' Christmas Lunch



Motorbike Toy Run



Christmas Lights in the Village



Festive Gig

A fun-filled night was had by all at the Festive Gig, 9th December, featuring local musical duo, '2 Down'. A sizeable donation was secured for Beaumont House thanks to the generous gift of the band. Proceeds from the raffle went to the village hall funds as a thank you for the use of the hall. Thanks to everyone who came to support it and to those volunteers that helped make it happen. It really was a special night. The food catering and the bar were expertly managed by staff from the Vinery.

One overriding thing I recall was when the organisers were coaxed into accompanying the band singing 'Mustang Sally'. This was at the insistence of Maria Broadbent, who joined in the impromptu performance too and enjoyed a rare night off. Such a cherished and lasting memory of Maria. Everyone's dancing skills were also on full display. We'd like to thank Sue Saddington for the funding from NCC which paid for the festive food and the prizes for the quiz, making the night really special - for all villagers to enjoy.

Carole Chandler



Carols Around the Tree



Tractor Run

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Tribute to Brian John

May 4th 1940 - October 19th 2024

Brian was born in 1940 in Cardiff. After graduating with an honours degree in Chemistry from Cardiff University, he went to work for Midland Silicones, a chemical company in Barry, South Wales.

The company ran into difficulties and was bought by an American company, Dow Corning. Little did we think that our lives would change overnight!

Brian was transferred to Midland, Michigan, USA, where the company headquarters were located. He left Wales in 1972 accompanied by 2 sons, Jeremy 3 and Tim 6 months and arrived in the middle of the Michigan winter, some days - 20 degrees and continuous snow!

Two years later Brian was assigned to look after a unit in the Kentucky Plant in Elizabethtown. The town was close to Fort Knox, and a bourbon distillery. However, the county was 'dry', so there was no alcohol to be had, not even in a restaurant!

The birthplace of Abraham Lincoln was close by and each year there was an Abe Lincoln lookalike competition. Brian would recount how the operators working for him would all grow beards ready for the competition!

In late 1976, Brian was transferred to Brussels, Belgium, where the European headquarters were located. Here two more sons were added to the family, Philip and Simon!

The European area covered a wide number of countries, but Brian could work out of Brussels and travel to them as required. We lived in Waterloo, (Battle of Waterloo fame).



During his time in Europe he was transferred to Germany and worked in the newly acquired Wiesbaden Plant for 4 years. The school in Frankfurt could not accommodate all 4 boys and so I stayed in Belgium with them to avoid interrupting their schooling.

In 2008, we became Spanish residents and in 2011 we became UK residents for the first time since 1972! We settled in Rolleston, the best decision we ever made.

Life has a funny way of throwing surprises at you and certainly Brian had not envisaged where his work would take him!

Sally John

Editor's note: on behalf of the village, sincere condolences to Sally and family and to friends of Brian. Sally is currently in Australia (from where she sent this tribute) and we look forward to welcoming her back to Rolleston after her extended break abroad with her family.



Happy 30th Birthday to Katie Taylor

One of our Rollestonians celebrated a very special birthday on the 18th January. Happy 30th birthday Katie. Hope you had a wonderful day. Our best wishes in your studies and for the future.



Rolleston Flower Festival

4th - 6th May

'Celebrating the Summer Olympics in Paris'

We are really looking forward to the flower festival again this year which will take place in Rolleston Church from Saturday, 4th to Monday, 6th May. Open daily: 11am until 5pm.

People are already working hard on planning their Olympic themed displays, and if previous years are anything to go by, they will be sensational. Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

Donations will be welcomed towards replacing the Notice board and there will be a raffle.

Sincere Condolences

We heard the sad news that Doug Townsend of Fiskerton Road has recently died. Doug was a senior member of our community. In early 2023 his wife, Maureen, had been admitted into a care home.

Doug came along to various village events including the recent Festive Gig in December. We send sincere condolences to his family and friends.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to Louise Salerno and her children who live on Goodwin's Close, off Staythorpe Road. Louise recently lost her husband, Chris, after a long illness. Louise only moved to the village last year and has been touched by the kindness of villagers in our community.

Residents who have left Rolleston

A number of our residents have left the village; sometimes it's a temporary circumstance, sometimes it's a more permanent move.

Either way, we want to send our best wishes to: Eleanor Brettle who is in a care home in Bassingham, Margaret Hodgett in Byars, Derek Favel in a care home in Farndon and Marion Voce in Southwell Court. Penny Lester has recently left the village for pastures new, so we wish her the very best. And of course, we send our sincere condolences and warmest wishes to Andy Poxon as he leaves The Vinery and the village.

The Crown at Rolleston

At time of writing we welcomed the news that the pub will be taken over by local catering duo, Tom and Gail Dandy.

Their names might be familiar to you; Gail for many years ran a successful Deli business in Southwell and joined by her son, Tom, the business went from strength to strength.

Later, this successful team developed an excellent reputation for providing professional catering services for many weddings and private functions and won multiple awards for their food at Norwood Park in Southwell and also the Pumping House on the edge of Sherwood Forest.

Tom says, 'We are delighted to take on The Crown at Rolleston. We have exciting plans and look forward to meeting villagers and providing the best quality food and drink offerings. We recognise the importance of the pub to this community.'

We are looking forward to interviewing Tom and Gail for the next issue of the Junction magazine. We wish them every success and we're sure they will receive a warm welcome and lots of support from the village.

Defibrillator Training

On December 7th, about 20 people took part in a course organised by Southwell Rotary Club and held at the village hall.

Our trainer was a lady who was a former paramedic and was very hands on and knowledgeable. There were some people from Averham who had also signed up for the course. The feedback received was very positive.

For information, Arne Colman has volunteered to be in charge of the maintenance of the defibrillator kit held in the phone box

There is interest in organising other types of courses such as CPR training, and the Parish Council is investigating this. Also, if any parents (or grandparents) would be interested in attending a course to learn important first aid skills to help a baby or child there are some excellent organisations out there, e.g. St John's Ambulance.

This would require perhaps a couple of local parents to volunteer to take the lead in coordinating such an event to benefit our community.

Michael Gemson

Success for The Domino Team

I am pleased to announce another success for Rolleston. The Domino Team at The Vinery topped the league. We would like to thank all who played, but we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and remember the kind support of Maria and the team at the Vinery. Maria will be greatly missed by the village.

Peter Salter

Rolleston Regular Events

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1 hr classes return to village hall.
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Contact Cheryl for details

Total Fitness

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Village Hall

Darts

Barry Thomas
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GORGS

Bram Towse • 01636 813901
Gentlemen of Rolleston
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Book Club

Pati Colman • 07786 937266
pati.colman@icloud.com
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Tuesday evenings, Village
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Dominoes at The Crown

Peter Salter • 01636 819197

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Mandy • 07773 551916
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Useful contacts

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01636 815542 • 07976 894449

Parish Council - Bob Steele
01636 812463 / 07971 028801

Village Hall Chair - Julian Ellis
01636 831165

Village Hall Bookings - Lucy Kyte
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- Rolleston Village web site - **rollestonvillage.co.uk**
- The notice board on Corner Farm.
- The Rolleston Junction - **rollestonjunction@gmail.com**
- We are a quarterly magazine dependent on our advertisers and sponsorship.
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