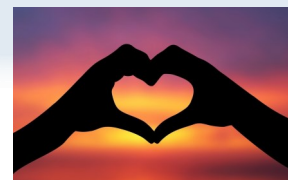


The Plough



February 2025

To: AVERHAM, STAYTHORPE & KELHAM VILLAGERS



Dear Villagers,

You are the heart and soul of our community, and it is your kindness, dedication, and unity that make our villages truly special. From the smiles on our streets to the helping hands in times of need, each one of you makes our villages a place we love to call home, and a wonderful place to live.

Wishing you all a wonderful Valentine's filled with joy, love, and cherished moments.

Bob

WHAT'S ON?

Theatre Presentation (The Good Life) Robin Hood Theatre Company	28th Jan -1st Feb
Messy Church St Michael and All Angels Church	9th Feb 4—5pm
W.I. Meeting Robin Hood Theatre Company	10 th Feb 7:30pm
ASK Hive Committee Meeting Estate Office, Kelham Hall	11 th Feb 7:30pm
AKS Parish Council Meeting Estate Office, Kelham Hall	17 th Feb 7:00pm
Garden Club Robin Hood Theatre Company	18th Feb 7:00pm

See page 14 for Church Services

Editor: Bob McGhee

ploughmageditor@gmail.com



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JAZZ CAROL CONCERT

WOW!

What a stunning evening. Many were sceptical about Jazz and Carols combined. However, everyone, without exception, thoroughly enjoyed the evening and sang along filling the St Michael and All Angels Church with a glorious sound.

A huge thanks go to Roger and Diana King for the concept and bringing it to life and to the band of jazz musicians who had never done a carol version of jazz before! The band must have spent a huge amount of time rehearsing to achieve this polished performance. The band was helped by sound engineer Dave Downs and his wife Marion who not only provided the sound equipment but balanced the sound perfectly for the church surroundings and did this free of charge!

As well as the wonderful music, at the intermission, cakes, mince pies, wine and soft drinks were distributed as part of the amazingly low ticket price of £10. Added to this was a raffle with great prizes donated by residents, with a special mention to our neighbours at Staythorpe Power Station who provided both a large and a small hamper.

As a consequence the event raised a surplus of £370 that has gone to the church for ongoing repairs etc.

FINALLY: The event was so successful that this year's has already been booked for 6th December, 2025.

February 2025

2024's Christmas Party meeting was really different as we welcomed Clive as our guest and entertainer for the evening. Clive is a great guitarist, songster and comedian and he took us all back to the 50's and 60's as we all joined in singing along to our favourite songs from that era. After a few glasses of champers and mulled wine we even rocked it up on the dance floor. Great fun evening with a great buffet.

Following on from the Christmas fun we had a great evening in January playing some of our favourite board games. Favourites being Rummikub and Yatzee. The noise levels from 12 ladies would challenge the average football crowd. Again the jollity was helped with the mulled wine!!

So here we are at the beginning of another year. We have plans for a visit to the renovated Planetarium near Mansfield and our usual lunch event. The ever popular Rummikub sessions are starting again.

We will be welcoming Bob McGhee to our next monthly meeting which is on February 10th at 7.15pm at the RHT. Bob is well known throughout the villages through his community involvement, not least the Hive project. Bob is coming along to update and inform us on the progress of trying to acquire and use the old school as a community facility, so of interest to everyone. Please feel free to join us if you would like an up to the minute 'position statement'



If you would like any more information please contact Jenny Quickmire on 07890641102.

Jenny Quickmire Meeting Secretary.

Local Legends Take 'Walk in the Park' to New Heights **All 500 MILES!**

In what might be the most ambitious retirement hobby since Gerald started competitive badminton at 88, three intrepid seniors from the villages of Averham, Kelham, and Staythorpe are proving that you're never too old to walk across an entire country – specifically, Spain.

The septuagenarian trio, with a combined age that would make a respectable cricket score, will embark on the legendary Camino Frances pilgrimage route. Their mission? To raise £5,000 for a new local Community Centre, though some locals suspect they might just be doing it to avoid their gardening duties.

"We figured that if we're going to have senior moments, we might as well have them in spectacular locations," chuckled one of the adventurers, adjusting his hiking poles. "Besides, it's only 500 miles. That's practically a stroll to the pub... times about 250."

The three wise men of Nottinghamshire are funding the entire journey from their own pockets, ensuring that every penny raised goes directly to their noble cause. Their fundraising strategy is remarkably straightforward: a penny per mile equals a £5 donation, ten pence equals £50, and so on – though they've politely declined offers to pay them to walk in the opposite direction.

Their ambitious project aims to establish a Community Centre serving Averham, Kelham, and Staythorpe. The funds will cover the less glamorous but nevertheless essential costs of site acquisition, valuation, conveyancing, and planning – or as one walker put it, "all the boring bits that nobody thinks about until they try to build something."

Continued

500 MILES!

Local supporter Janet Thompson noted, "When most people their age say they're going on a long walk, they usually mean to the corner shop and back. These gentlemen are crossing Spain. I'm not sure whether to sponsor them or have them sectioned."

The group has promised that any surplus funds will go towards the building and landscaping of the Centre, and if the project doesn't materialize, the money will be donated to local non-profit and charitable organisations. "We're determined to make this work," said another of the hikers. "Although if we don't, at least we'll have some excellent stories for the grandchildren about the time Grandad got lost in the Pyrenees."

When asked about their training regimen, one member of the group replied, "Well, I've been walking to the village post box daily instead of driving. That's basically the same thing, right?"

As they set off on their epic journey, armed with walking sticks, determination, and enough blister plasters to wallpaper a small room, these local heroes are proving that age is just a number – albeit a rather high one in their case.

To support their cause, villagers can donate based on the penny-per-mile scheme, more details in the next issue. As one local wit pointed out, "It's probably the only time in history where hoping someone walks really slowly might be considered rude."

The trio's parting words? "If you see three old fellows wobbling through Spain looking slightly lost, that'll be us. And yes, we do take cash and contactless payments."



ASK Hive Community Hub

A Positive Meeting

In December, four of the ASK Hive board members attended a meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) to discuss their ideas and a way forward for the former Averham school. There were three members from the County Council and Councillor Sue Saddington.

The short version of the meeting is that there is still a significant amount of internal work that NCC have to do before we can talk again. This is provisionally set for March but will be dependent upon their progress.

The meeting was upbeat and positive from both sides and Cllr Saddington made significant interventions on our behalf.

For more information please contact us at askhive@icloud.com

Bob McGhee, Secretary, Ask Hive Limited



Parish Councillors Required

Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe require the next generation of Parish Councillors to represent our community. It is an important role and the commitment is six 'open' meetings a year plus two finance meetings. The role of the Parish Council is to represent our community, which may become more important if the government wishes to merge District Councils!

Contact: Cllr. John Miller (*Chairman*) on 07966 519793 to discuss further.

Parish Clerk Required

We are looking for a Parish Clerk for the Parish Council

The role entails:

- ⇒ Preparing the Agenda and taking Minutes for meetings, writing up and distributing the Minutes for the SIX Parish Council 'Open' meetings and TWO Finance meetings over the year.
- ⇒ Paying invoices and completing financial spreadsheets
- ⇒ You will use the Council's laptop and printer for these tasks
- ⇒ Training will be provided.
- ⇒ The Rewards:
 - ⇒ An ideal flexible PART TIME role
 - ⇒ £17.00 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per month
- ⇒ Please contact: Cllr. John Miller (*Chairman*) on 07966 519793 to discuss further.

NEWARK WOMEN'S AID

The annual collection, supported by AKS PC, ran just before Christmas to provide some festive cheer for the families that found themselves supported by Newark Women's Aid. Yet again you wonderful villagers were super generous and hopefully we popped a smile on the faces of those less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas.



The letter in response:

To all at AKS who did the amazing collection for Newark Women's Aid this Christmas, we thank you all so much. It was totally fantastic, it only just fitted in my car!! We get to see the joy that donations give to the families we support and I can honestly tell you, yours will be gratefully received. Thank you all once again

Lisa, Newark Women's Aid xx



ASK Garden Club AGM Report February 2025

'Twas the week before Christmas, twenty-nine Gardening Club members and their guests enjoyed a lovely evening at the Lord Ted Pub, Newark.



Our tables were in a separate space, close to the bar but separated from the main bar area. We were well looked after by the staff who served the courses promptly, but without us feeling rushed in any way. The food was good and plentiful – especially if you had the 'Festive Carvery' with a choice of gammon, turkey or beef, with all the trimmings.

It was, perhaps, a shame that the Pub's own quiz was running that night as this was broadcast over the speaker system and the frequent sound effects and commentary was a bit distracting.

Continued

ASK Garden Club Report



Nevertheless, the AKS Quiz Master for the night, Aaron Lawrence, valiantly overcame all the disturbance to run an entertaining and sometimes thought-provoking quiz (just how many turkeys were cooked at Christmas in 2023?). There were four prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last place. Without being immodest (of course) I'm delighted to say I won 1st prize of a hand wash and hand cream set – probably because I'd been talking to a neighbour about how to make mulled wine only a few hours before.

The second competition of the evening was for the best 'decorated sleeve'. There were quite a number of entrants who all showed a great deal of ingenuity and craft skills in creating their sleeves. Some had flashing lights while others comprised baubles and bows. To ensure neutrality, the judging was done by three members of the Lord Ted's bar staff.



Continued

ASK Garden Club AGM Report



The prize of a box of biscuits was won by Bob McGhee with a sleeve made up of Santa hats, and the Lord Ted awarded him a free meal for two. Overall, a great way to start Christmas. Many thanks must go to everyone involved in organising the event, in particular Nigel Britton who, as usual excelled himself.

The next Gardening Club event is on Tuesday February 18th 7pm at The Robin Hood Theatre. Ian Stephens

will be giving us a presentation on Lawn Care and a book he's compiled from photos taken during the Covid pandemic 'My Year in Photos'.

The annual subscription for 2024-25 is £15pp. This is still a good time to join the club, members' benefits include priority places to our summer visits, activities, regular news updates and receive 10% discount at Southwell Garden Centre on most purchases.

Judith Mills

Village WhatsApp Groups

Did you know that our villages have their own WhatsApp Groups?

Well, we do and they keep us in touch with what's happening around us and share community news. If you'd like to join, here are the 'Administrator' details:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ◇ Averham: | Tracey Carlisle | 07970 179755 |
| ◇ Kelham: | Judith Mills | 07775 781591 |
| ◇ Staythorpe: | Debs Storey | 07974 957684 |



CHRISTMAS EVE on Pinfold Lane

What a phenomenal turn-out on this festive evening held at John and Alison's. Attended by about 100 this year, one of the best yet. As well as the hearty sing along helped by Steve Emeny manning the PA and song-sheets, there were the usual mince pies and mulled wine! Even the weather was kind, bearing in mind the turmoil we've had in January! £170 was raised for the Newark Women's Aid.

On behalf of St Michael & All Angels Averham, a big thank you to all those who support our church in many different ways.

Firstly Anne Pirisi who runs our Messy Church which is enjoyed by all.

Our friends from North Muskham, South Muskham & Kelham who join us at church and to Bishop John Finney, Revd David Bartlett, Jenny Hamilton and Susan Twemlow who conduct our services.

Our great team of cleaners who take turns monthly to prepare the church for the monthly services, if anyone else would like to help out with this please contact me.

Colin of Beech Cottage who keeps the church path clear of debris and with general help.

Finally to all the generous people who give on regular basis monthly or annually to support the church THANK YOU. Without your support our beautiful Grade 1 listed church could not function.

If I've missed anyone else, apologies, you are all appreciated.

Hilary Snell

Averham Church

CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND UNITED SERVICES

Sunday 2nd February 9:30am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th February 9:30am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th February 4:00pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Messy Church
Sunday 16th February 9:30am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th February 3:00pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Messy Church
Sunday 23th February 9:30am	St Michael and All Angels Averham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23th February 7:00pm	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 2nd March 9:30am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 5th March 9:30am	TBA	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 9th March 9:30am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th March 4:00pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Messy Church
Sunday 16th March 09:30am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th March 3:00pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Messy Church

Church News for Christmas.

By the time you guys read this, Christmas will be a distant but hopefully a happy memory; however we had such a happy time with our church events we felt it would be nice to share the joy. It all started off with a mammoth decorating event and many thanks to all who hung the baubles and glitter. This was all in preparation for the Jazz Carol evening which went very well in spite of the awful weather. Many thanks to all who arranged and supported this event. Hopefully for repetition this year.

We then moved forwards enjoying the usual messy church with children making their Christingles and helping set up the crib. Unfortunately Anne Pirisi was unable to join the usual team and we really missed her but we managed to sing a round of 'Away in a Manger' without too many mishaps!

Then the big day itself Christmas morning when again we welcomed a number of families for our Christmas Day Service. They gave it a real Family Christmas feel, and some of them helped to make sure that the figure of Jesus was safely installed in the Crib at the front of the church before blessing the Crib

Many thanks to everyone involved in the putting away of Christmas i.e. the decorations. So we are now in Epiphany which leads us onward like the 3 kings, into our new church year. With a bit of luck and a lot of prayers we may be welcoming a new shared vicar.

Fingers firmly crossed.!

Jenny Quickmire

ASSISTED DYING

In a short article I can't hope to do justice to such a topic, but here are thoughts following the recent debate in Parliament. As a Christian Minister I cannot readily support the idea, since it goes against a major principle of our Faith. And I note that virtually all the Faith leaders (not just the Christian ones) have spoken against it.

One can well appreciate the desire to spare people a painful and lingering death if their condition has been diagnosed as terminal. One Christian writer, suffering with terminal MS, complains that those who oppose Assisted Dying " do not want a sick person to avoid, at their own request, an unpleasant death."

However, I have read about a retired Doctor, in favour of it, who would choose to go to Dignitas, when dying of MS or MND received good end-of-life care; he and his family found his final days a time of peace and fellowship as his body shut down. Being with, sitting with a dying person has been said by many to be therapeutic and precious, for both parties. A former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, said that when their infant daughter was dying, those last days which he and Sarah spent with her were among the most precious in their lives. "She died in our arms."

Not long after the legalisation of assisted dying, A former Palliative Care Social Worker, now a Priest in Canada, tells of being contacted by one lady who was due to be dying the next day because of pressure from her family. He tells of another lady whose husband had recently made use of the facility - the day after they had had a blazing row which had not been resolved.

Continued

ASSISTED DYING

She was distraught, after years of happy marriage. On another occasion he was visiting a parishioner in hospital, who had suffered from cancer for many years and whose health had suddenly deteriorated severely, who had been handed the MAiD brochure by hospital staff, unasked and without prior discussion with him or his wife. "Hello Father" he said, "they want me to kill myself." He died naturally some weeks later, at home, surrounded by his family.

Then there is also the question regarding the qualified people deciding whether someone is eligible for Assisted Dying - will they be taken from other health-connected jobs, with doctors in short supply anyway? And where would the necessary funding come from?

I don't envy our legislators. Let us pray for them.

David Bartlett.

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ASK Garden Club – Japanese Gardens

At our November meeting, we were very fortunate to be taken on a visual tour of Japanese gardens visited by our speaker for the evening, Andrew Young, while touring Japan. Showing us some spectacular photos, he gave us insight into how these gardens had been created, maintained and enjoyed. To achieve a harmonious and serene Japanese garden, five key elements known as the design principles need to be incorporated into the garden. These elements are asymmetry, balance, symbolism, enclosure and borrowed scenery.

Asymmetry is embraced to reflect the irregularities found in nature with the arrangement of pathways, plants and rocks. Pathways should meander rather than take the shortest route through the garden to allow for contemplation and reflection.



Balance is achieved

through careful consideration of colour, texture and visual weight reflecting the idea of equilibrium and harmony and often features a combination of light and dark, for example moss covered stones against a bright green backdrop of foliage. Visual harmony can be created by the placement of lanterns or rocks, but this has to be done with precision.

Symbolism is an important part in all Japanese gardens. Elements such as rock represent mountains or islands, while water is seen as a symbol of tranquillity and purity. It is believed the use of specific plants and arrangements of colours can evoke certain emotions.

Enclosure helps create a feeling of privacy and tranquillity. To create a secluded environment, Japanese gardens will often feature walls, hedges or fences. This allows the integration of other design elements as well as providing a sense of protection and peace from the world outside.

Borrowed scenery or shakkei in Japanese is a seamless integration between manmade and natural elements. By strategically placing trees, rocks and water features, the Japanese garden can blend harmoniously with the surroundings. Perhaps creating your own Japanese garden isn't for everyone, while undoubtedly beautiful and serene, meticulous maintenance and attention to detail is necessary.

*Yorkshire Archaeologists have recently discovered what they believe to be the world's oldest man at 194! They have even discovered he was originally from London and his name was Miles. Apparently his gravestone read: **"194 Miles from London"***

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**For the March 2025 edition of the magazine -
Copy required by 17 February 2025.**

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Treasurer:	Steve Emeny	07889 486 260

AVERHAM CHURCH:

Warden:	Vacancy	
Treasurer:	Hilary Snell	01636 672 640

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Secretary:	Carole Binks	01636 816 343
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AKS PARISH COUNCIL:

Chair:	John Miller	01636 704670 cllrJohnrMiller@gmail.com
Clerk:	TBA	aksparishclerk@outlook.com

FLOOD WARDEN:	Aaron Laurence	07713 594665
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staythorpe@rwe.com

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:

Environment Agency Flood line:	0345 988 1188
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NATIONAL GRID:	www.nationalgrid.co.uk/power-cut-information
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OTHERS:

Garden Club:	Nigel Britton	07929 367 461
W.I. Secretary:	Jenny Quickmire	07890 641 102
Bell Ringers:	Martin Cooper	07810 658 627
Latham Farms:	Steven Gill	07966 382 781 or
	John Shepherd	07947 218213
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