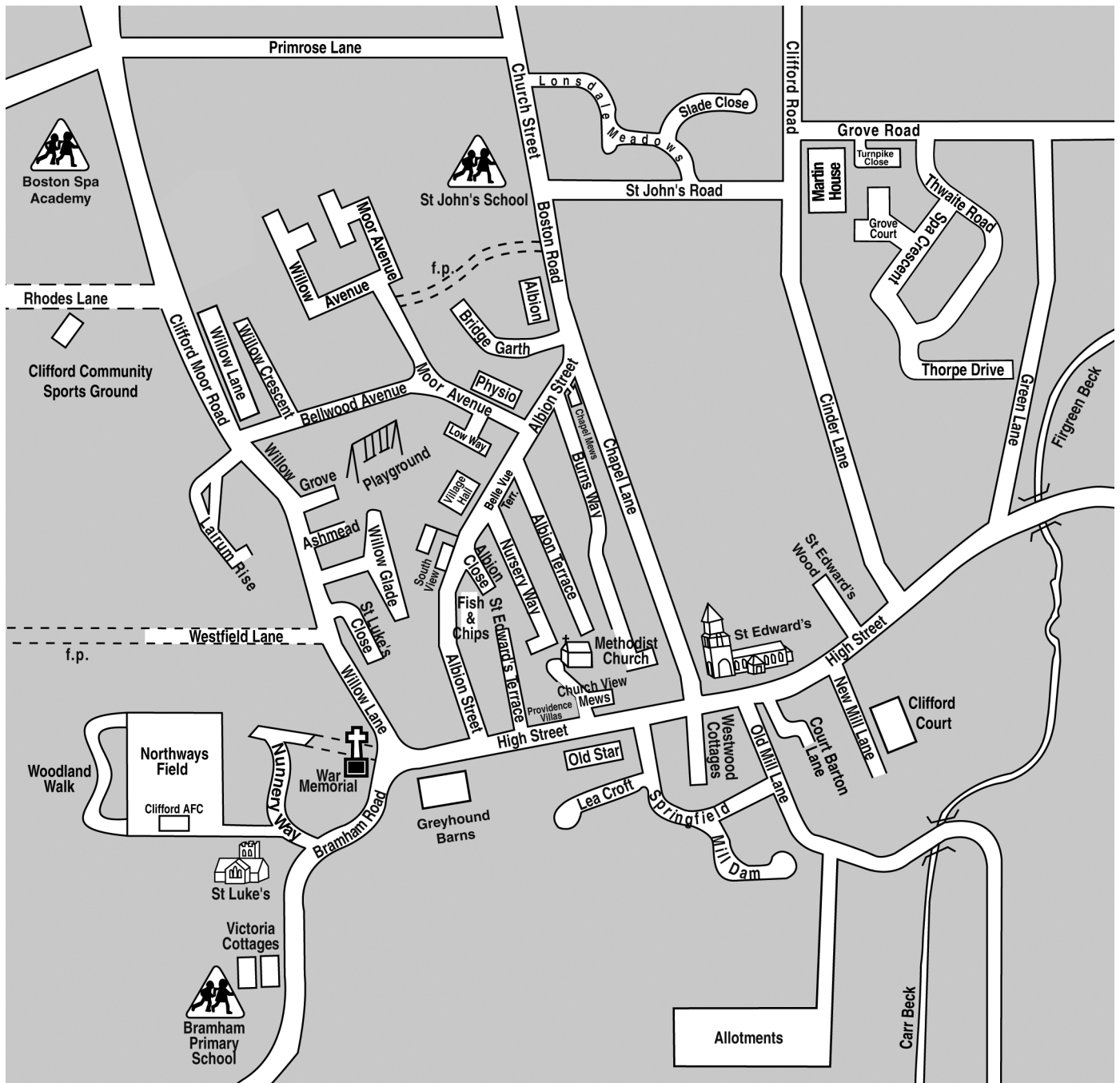


OUTLOOK

Issue 580

March 2024



The Magazine for the People of Clifford

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OUTLOOK CONTRIBUTIONS

Material for publication must be received
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Send to: cliffordoutlook@gmail.com

Articles and local issues are always
welcome.

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Clifford Champion Beer Festival Clifford Village Hall

Saturday 29th June 2024 (from 12noon)

Pop the date in your Diary and come along to this great village event

We are **holding** the entrance price at £6 (cash or card)

Under-18s are admitted **FREE** when accompanied by a paying adult

Want to avoid the queue on the door? Buy your ticket in advance at DOUGLAS YEADON HARDWARE, High Street, Boston Spa from 16th March

Drink: Beer, Lager, Cider, Prosecco, Wine, Gin, Soft Drinks

Food: Pie & Peas, Pizza, Snacks

Live Bands: Including The 88's & One Night Stand

UEFA EURO 2024: Round of 16 matches will be screened

Facepainting

Raffle: Prizes include Family Days Out, Race Days & Beer Tours

As one of our customers said last year "It's more than just a Beer Festival"

Why not **volunteer** to be part of it?

Can you spare a few hours on any of the days from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th June?

Please contact Jane Davies, email: janedavies383@btinternet.com / Mob 07802 447272

Sponsorship opportunities are available from £70. Please email Richard Brough, richard.brough@hotmail.com for more details on this great marketing opportunity.

Proceeds support Clifford Football Club and Clifford Village Hall

website: *currently under construction* twitter: [@cliffordbeerfst](https://twitter.com/cliffordbeerfst)

CLIFFORD VILLAGE HALL

1st Clifford Brownies Coffee Morning

Saturday 23rd March
9:45am - 12:30pm

Tea & Coffee
Bacon Sandwiches
Bake Sale
Tombola
Children's Book Sale

EVERYONE WELCOME! PLEASE BRING CASH ONLY

ALL FUNDS TO GO TOWARDS OUR PACK HOLIDAY AND
BROWNIE RESOURCES



BOOK SALES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Thanks to your generous donations, over the past few weeks we've sold a terrific number of books from the Village Hall book table, so if you have any recent fiction paperbacks that you'd like to donate, we'd be delighted to receive them. Please ring or text me on the number below to arrange receipt of your books.

All adult books cost 50p (children's 25p) with the proceeds helping to fund improvements to the Village Hall.

Why not look for a 'good read' from the book table whenever you're in the Hall?

Helen Chambers
Village Hall Book Sales Organiser
07588 602164



PANTO RETURNS TO CLIFFORD VILLAGE HALL



January saw the return of Pantomime to the Village Hall courtesy of our very own Clifford Drama Group. 'A Nursery Crime' written by local playwright and author Dave Pitt, was based on the simple premise that in Nursery Rhyme Land, the Queen of Hearts jam tarts have gone missing and we were introduced to a myriad of characters on the journey to track them down.

In a very clever opening scene, the Town Crier (Mick Sharp) did a lot of heavy lifting. He set the scene, starting the audience participation and had the audience roaring with laughter from the outset.

The Queens Guard (Dave Pitt/Emma Oxtoby) were a highly entertaining double act who appeared at regular intervals combining traditional slapstick with clever wordplay and precision comic timing. The Knave (Adam Stewart) was the 'Buttons' of the piece. He held the audience in the palm of his hand and with such confident adlibs it was amazing to think this was Adam's first Pantomime. I confidently predict it will not be his last. Every Pantomime needs its villain and Lorraine Gomersall as the Queen of Hearts had the audience booing and hissing. Her version of the song My Way was a real highlight. Katheryn Whaley, Maggie Bellew, Jean Naylor and Glenda Webb provided stellar support in multiple roles, singing and dancing their way through Nursery Rhyme land, with the Three Blind Mice being real crowd pleasers. With characters ranging from Miss Muffet and her very large spider to Humpty Dumpty as you've never seen him before plus a variety of surprising Mary's there were no stars in this show, it truly was an ensemble piece. The show was directed by the expert eye of Chris Knill with music courtesy of Lynn Dolgin. Final mention goes to Rosaline Webb as Stage Manager, who actually covered so many roles I couldn't list them all but she clearly was integral to the success of the production.

Now in its 57th year, Clifford Drama Group continues to be a vital part of the local community, entertaining audiences and raising money for local charities. Long may they continue!!

L.FISHER



CLIFFORD WALK 18 JANUARY 2024 A ROWNTREE WALK YORK



A group of eight keen walkers met at the entrance to the Museum Gardens in York on a very cold but sunny morning to visit many sights related to the Rowntree family, which were explained to us by Liz who led the walk with Alan.

We commenced by looking at Tanners Moat on the river where Rowntree bought an old iron foundry and started the chocolate business in 1862. We walked (from the town centre) out to the Quaker burial ground, dating to 1667, located at Bishop Hill on the grounds of Tuke House, where we saw the graves of many of the Rowntree family including Joseph Rowntree. Returning to the centre of York we were shown around the Friends Meeting House and had the Quaker religion explained to us by one of the Friends.

Lunch was eaten in the Museum Gardens before walking to Rowntree Park, which was gifted to the city in 1921, - well worth a visit if you are in York. Adjacent to the park is The Homestead; once the home of Sebohm Rowntree but now the headquarters of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation administering the three charities. From here we walked on to Clifton Lodge the home of Joseph from 1905 until his death there in 1925.

Returning to town we looked at Bootham School and the Central Library before visiting a Bailey's for refreshments on completing (about) a seven-mile walk.

We thank Liz and Alan for a very interesting walk, well researched.



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CLIFFORD SPRINGTIME QUIZ

It's a bit early, but as the first signs of Spring start to appear, here are some quiz questions on the theme of Springtime and the month of March.

1. In March 1966 which famous trophy was stolen?
2. The Japanese welcome Spring by organising significant showings of which flower?
3. Which annual health awareness day takes place on the second Wednesday in March?
4. In 1830, Englishman Edwin Bear Budding was granted the first patent for which device?
5. What is the full name of the actor that won Academy Awards for Best Actor in both 1946 and 1932?
6. The Rite of Spring is a ballet by which Russian composer?
7. The brief period of freedom in Czechoslovakia in 1968 was called what?
8. 'Younger than Springtime' is a show tune from which Rodgers and Hammerstein musical?
9. Which Hebrew female name meaning springlike or fresh, is also the name of a British insurance company?
10. What in Scotland are called syboes and in South Wales, gibbons, pronounced jibbuns?

Answers next month

Wetherby Choral Society's 50th Anniversary Concert (in partnership with the RNLI)

Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 7.30pm

St James Church, Wetherby

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ANSWERS TO VALENTINE QUIZ FROM LAST MONTH

1. Love Hearts
2. Eros
3. At least 110
4. YouTube
5. Oxytocin
6. The Duke of Orleans, from prison
7. Mother's Day
8. Al Capone
9. The telephone
10. The tomato

From the January 2024 Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at Clifford Village Hall. The meeting dates for 2024 are: January 17th, February 21st, March 20th, April 17th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, August – no meeting, September 18th, October 16th, November 20th and December 18th.

The agenda and minutes are published at www.cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings and there is a public participation session at before the Council meeting starts. If there are any issues you would like to raise with the council but you are not able to attend the meeting please contact clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk

2024/2025 Budget and precept

The Council has approved the budget for 2024/2025 and resolved to set the Precept at £40,635. The precept is the Parish Council's share of the council tax. The money is collected by Leeds City Council and passed on to the Parish Council. The precept for 2024/2025 equates to £47.83 per year for a band D property, an increase of £2.19 pence per year [4.8%] from 2023/2024. The full budget will be published at <https://cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk/accounts>

The precept is used to maintain most of the public spaces in Clifford, including the Clifford Community Sports Ground, Northways, St Edwards wood and the playground. It also funds the village defibrillators, projects to improve road safety and contributions towards community events.

Dog Waste



**Please pick up
after your dog**

There is a continuing issue with dog walkers not picking up after their dogs. The Council will be putting up further notices reminding dogs walkers to clean up after pets.

At the March meeting, the council will be considering the option of installing dog poo bag dispensers in the village.

Overgrown hedges

The Council has received complaints about several overgrown hedges which are partially blocking pavements. As many of the pavements in Clifford are narrow this is a significant safety risk as it means pedestrians may have to walk on the road. It is a particular problem for pedestrians using mobility aids and those with push chairs.

In the first instance Council will contact the landowners to ask them to cut back their hedges to prevent them obstructing the pavement. Ideally, hedges should not be cut back during the nesting season however work can be undertaken if the hedge is causing a hazard. If hedges are not cut back, the Council will contact Leeds City Council (LCC) who can issue a notice under The Highways Act 1980 requiring this. Failure to comply with the notice within the specified time from can result in LCC carrying out the work and charging the landowner. Please contact the Clerk if you are aware of any hedges that are blocking a public footpath.

Hedgehog Highways

Hedgehogs need to be able to access gardens and open spaces to forage for food. If you have a garden enclosed by a fence you can help the decline in hedgehog numbers by cutting some 5-inch gaps at the base of the fence to ensure that they can move from garden to garden. This will help the decline in hedgehog numbers. For more information contact HedgehogsRus@mail.com

Contacting the Parish Council

Email if you have any questions or comments for Council, clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk

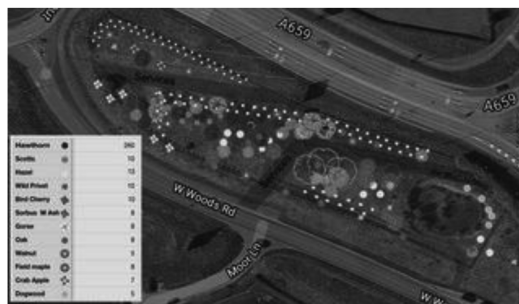


Tree Works by Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Green Group

We started planting trees at Wattle Syke a couple of years ago and, this year, we replaced a few trees that died in the summer drought (amazing how little we lost). We've also reinforced the boundary hedge with 160 hawthorn and a few crab apple. To date, we've planted over 350 trees at Wattle Syke.

Along the boundary wall between the Church and the car park at Church Fields, planting was put in about 10 years ago which we've done some work on as, otherwise, some of the young trees would grow very large and obscure the view of the Church as you enter Boston Spa. We cut down, coppiced or layered some of these as part of a new hedge along the wall. With correct cutting, this hedge will be thick and full of wildlife, and grow in height about a metre in 30 years.

The trees around the car park at Church Fields will also be worked on to create short sections of hedge with the aim to enhance the best trees and enrich the habitat of the area.



The meadow hedge at Church Fields is also being worked on in sections and has had about 35 new trees planted this year

Boston Big Bike Fix

This has now been running for three years and we have taken in over 600 donated bikes, serviced and repaired them and given them to those that can't afford to buy one, including refugees, asylum seekers and to families in inner city Leeds.

We are looking for more "fixers". We offer free training. Please let us know if you would like to help.

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CLIFFORD LADIES

Thursday 14th March 2024

POETRY, PROSE AND PEONIES

An illustrated talk about gardens owned by authors or famous individuals by Peter Mathers

Join us at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start in the Meeting Room at Clifford Village Hall

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

Annual membership is £25.

Visitors £4 each meeting.

Preferably in cash, please.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Bring a friend.

Further Info.

Tel. Liz 07851 401911

Yvonne 07960 962048

Clifford Local History Group The Grimston Family

What do you know about the Grimstons? Who are they, I hear you ask! The family was influential in the development of the village we know today, coming to live in Clifford in the 1830's when they took over the lease of Clifford Mills from Bramham Park.

The brothers Robert, Ralph and Thomas Grimston were Master Flax Spinners with mills in the Knaresborough and the lower Nidd valley. In 1844 all of them were married and buying houses and land in Clifford. The family were devout Roman Catholics but the nearest Catholic chapel was at Hazlewood Castle and every Sunday the Grimston family and servants would drive there from Clifford in a large wagonette.

Ralph's wife Elizabeth decided to build a church in the village. She was already running classes for converts in one of the family's houses and started raising money from not only within the UK but also from Europe. She obtained subscriptions from the Pope, the Queen of France, Grand Duke of Parma and the King of Sardinia. The church opened in 1848 but without the tower which was finally added in 1866.

We know from census returns that the family lived in substantial houses. In 1861 Ralph and Elizabeth were in St Edward's Lodge and in 1871 in what is now Nunnery House. Robert and Ann's house was where the church and churchyard now stand whilst Thomas and his wife Catherine lived in Springfield House. This was demolished in 1970 when the current Springfield Estate was built.

The mills were doing well, workers were brought in from their other mills in Nidderdale and Leeds and the population of Clifford increased to 1566 in 1851. In 1854 the New Mill was built in New Mill Lane.

Ralph and Elizabeth, who were childless, died in 1856/57. They are buried at St Edward's and there is an inscription above the door to the Tower in Ralph's memory. Robert and Ann died in 1856 and 1861. Thomas and his wife Catherine had one son, Thomas Augustine, born 1834. We know a party was held in the upper room of the New Mill for his 21st birthday where there was much jollity and a good time had by all! He was educated at a private Catholic School, Ushaw College in County Durham.

It must have been quite a wedding in 1861 when he married Emily Hargrave, the daughter of a Leeds cloth manufacturer, in St Ann's Catholic Cathedral in Leeds and St Stephen's in Kirkstall. He and Emily moved to St Kitts in Boston Spa, and later to Toulston Lodge now part of Tadcaster Grammar School, with 5 children, a Governess and staff. Two more children were born later.

Thomas Augustine appears to have been an inventor, taking out a patent for 'apparatus to be used with firearms'. The business employed 400 people in the mills and farms and owned 350 acres.

But there was a decline in flax spinning in the West Riding, possibly due to cheaper imports. The company owed money and in 1887 there was a sale of all the properties and fields in Clifford.

Thomas (Senior) had died in 1883 so the remaining family moved from Clifford, renting and eventually buying Mosergh House, Selside, in Westmorland, to the east of Kendal. They maintained the lifestyle of the gentry with holidays abroad and the two sons attending Ushaw College. Some unsold properties were rented out well into the 20th century including St. Edward's Terrace.

None of the children married; one of the girls lived in a convent, Wilfred was an electrical engineer living in Sheffield for a while and Francis travelled to Tasmania and also an inventor.

Thomas Augustine died in 1913, Emily in 1928. Thereafter as each child died, money was left to the remaining siblings until finally Wilfred was the last and died in 1971 without leaving a will! No-one came forward to inherit so £19,000 taken by the Crown.

What can we now see after their 50 odd years in the village? The original mill and chimney was latterly a sawmill before being demolished and replaced by the 2 newer houses in Old Mill Lane where the mill wheel is rusting away in one of the gardens behind the pentrough. The New Mill is now Clifford Court and the other mill building is also flats. The mill pond has dried up and becoming a wild area on private land. But surely their legacy is the beautiful church, St Edward's, which is admired by all.

CLIFFORD WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on **Thursday 21st March** and will be led by David and Ann Hovell. The walk will be in the Thorner area and will start by catching the 9.50am bus to Thorner from Clifford and alight at the church. No route details are available at this time.

If you are new to the group please contact 01937 842768 in case of changes.

OUT AND ABOUT IN CLIFFORD

A bit of brightness

In January & into February on cloudy days the start of a new year is always a dull affair. So, it's nice to see one of the advent windows of December being replaced with a cheerful display full of light and colour. Has that been to celebrate Imbolc - a pagan Celtic festival marking half-way, in early February, between the winter solstice and the March equinox. If so, it lifts the spirit in this never-ending winter. How about organising Imbolc windows next year?

Water, water everywhere

It's been a very wet winter. If you have been out in the Washburn valley recently you will have seen all 4 reservoirs full to the brim. Fortunately, Clifford is largely on high ground with a limestone rock bed & we don't experience serious floods. However, on 11th February, Carr beck was at its highest level with the steps at the allotments parking area totally covered. Water was draining from fields alongside Old Mill Lane fortunately finding a route along to the beck without entering into properties. 'Muddy Lane' alongside the beck was almost a stream itself. The persistent puddles at the bottom of High Street & elsewhere on Bar Lane were present. Leeds City Council has drawn up a plan to guide the water at Bar Lane directly into the beck. It's not clear when the job might be done. Grove Road has also been awash as well with water flowing along the road just outside Martin House hospice. Drain water from the field on the corner of Cinder Lane/St. John's Road has sent some water along to join it..

Albion Street

House No.7 changed hands a year or so ago and now displays a fine plaque reading 'THE OLD COACH HOUSE', making reference to an arch next to the front door which must, at some time, have been access to the rear of the property. This is a decorative addition to one of Clifford's oldest buildings & also illustrates a feature of its history.

Martin House Hospice

Although the hospice, just like the neighbouring housing estate, has a postal address of Boston Spa it is in Clifford. If you pass it on the Cinder Lane side you will see building work going on. Their website shows that Martin House is embarking on its biggest transformation since first opening its doors in 1987. A £21.9 million project to strengthen and expand the palliative care provided. A new children's wing will provide additional space and enhanced facilities. The current hospice will be transformed into a new wellbeing centre, providing vital dedicated spaces for counselling and complementary therapies. A brand-new sensory hydrotherapy pool will be an exciting and life-enhancing addition, providing therapeutic benefits to alleviate pain and facilitate movement. Some families will be able to swim together for the first time - a truly transformative experience. Full details are on the hospice website.

Re: Out & About February article

I read with interest the item regarding deer spotted in the woodland along Muddy Lane. This is not a new thing as I spotted them in January 2022 and photographed them on my mobile phone. Speaking with a resident who lived near to the wood in the 70's, 80's and 90's, deer were often seen in this area of the wood and also further round in the 'Bramham' wood. They also reminded me of the time whilst walking their dogs of meeting a stag complete with a splendid set of antlers on the cart track to the rear of the cottages at the bottom of Old Mill Lane. Luckily after a few moments it turned and took flight in the other direction.

Nick Fawcett

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Tracing Boston Spa's history at the Linton Antique Society

We return to Linton Memorial Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday 14 March when Leslie Newnham takes us through the history of Boston Spa, from its beginnings as an agricultural hamlet to its flowering as a fashionable Georgian spa only to fall from favour in the mid-19th century. She will look at the personalities involved in its history and the legacy of fine buildings that trace their origins to Boston Spa's Georgian heyday.

You can join the Society at www.lintonantiquesociety.org.uk or by contacting the Membership Secretary on 0113 345 1815. Membership fees are £25, individual, and £45, joint. Non-members can attend this meeting for a fee of £10.

Proposed Wentworth Woodhouse Trip

The Society is planning an outing to Wentworth Woodhouse on 9 May, open to members and non-members.

If you are interested, please contact Alison Smith either by email on alison44smith@btinternet.com or by phone on 01937 572984.

Learning a new skill – hedge laying

I've been volunteering with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for about a year and a half now and have recently started to learn a new skill – hedge laying. We're constructing new hazel hedges in a field near Ledsham about fifteen minutes down the A1 from Clifford, to keep livestock in and act as a haven for wildlife. In theory it's a relatively straightforward technique, but in practice it's much harder and needs skill and experience – I'm a long way from that.

You use a small axe or a billhook to cut down on one side into the upright stem of the hedgerow tree to be used (known as the pleacher), at an angle leaving about a quarter of the pleacher connected to the root to keep it alive a few centimetres above the ground. If you watch an experienced hedge layer do this, they'll do it in one or two clean cuts, but the rest of us are very nervous about fully cutting through the stem so it takes a lot longer using many hesitant cuts. You need to neaten off the trimmed stool at the bottom of the stem – this is where the strongest new growth will come from. You then lay down this stem at an angle (we used 45 degrees) along the length of the hedge, making sure that you don't break it. At regular intervals upright stakes are placed along the line of the hedge, and the pleachers and smaller branches, are woven in-between these stakes which give the hedge its final strength. Additional strength, and a neat look, is achieved by binding the uprights with hazel whips (known as binders) woven around the tops of the stakes and cutting off the tops of all the stakes at the

same height and the same angle. It can take a number of years for the hedge to fully mature, but it starts to look good from an early stage.



Hedge laying is a countryside skill that has been practised for centuries in the British Isles, with many different styles and techniques. Apparently the first description of hedge laying is in Julius Caesar's 'Commentary on the Gallic War' when his army was held up by thick woven hedges in Belgium. Today, the hedges are used not for slowing down Roman legions, but for containing livestock without the need for artificial fences; promoting biodiverse habitats and producing something using traditional techniques that looks really good.

The photo shows my first attempt before the binders go on.

Nick Dahlgreen



COMEDY
NIGHT

15TH MARCH 2024
7.30PM

£17.50

DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM
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Garden Notes for March

Spring is about to be sprung!

Jobs to do in early spring

- Prune shrub roses and climbing roses.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs, e.g. lilies
- Add a layer of new compost onto the top of plants in pots.
- Prune Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) down to the ground for bright coloured stems next winter.
- Lift larger clumps of perennials, divide into smaller clumps & replant or move to other parts of the garden.

Longer term planning

Consider sowing something easy that will be beneficial for wildlife later in the year - Calendula (marigolds), nasturtiums, poppies, cornflowers. Most can be sown on bare soil in a pot or on bare raked over piece of soil.

Mindful moment

All sorts of birdsong will be out there now - open the window, or get outside, even for a few moments and listen. Think about the different sounds you can hear. Check out the RSPB website where you can listen to birdsong to help identify the birds you hear.

Justine Incoll

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COG is an initiative of the Diggle's First Fruits Trust. Grants awarded subject to Trust policy. Activity not listed? You can still apply if it supports a young person's education. Full details on our website.

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