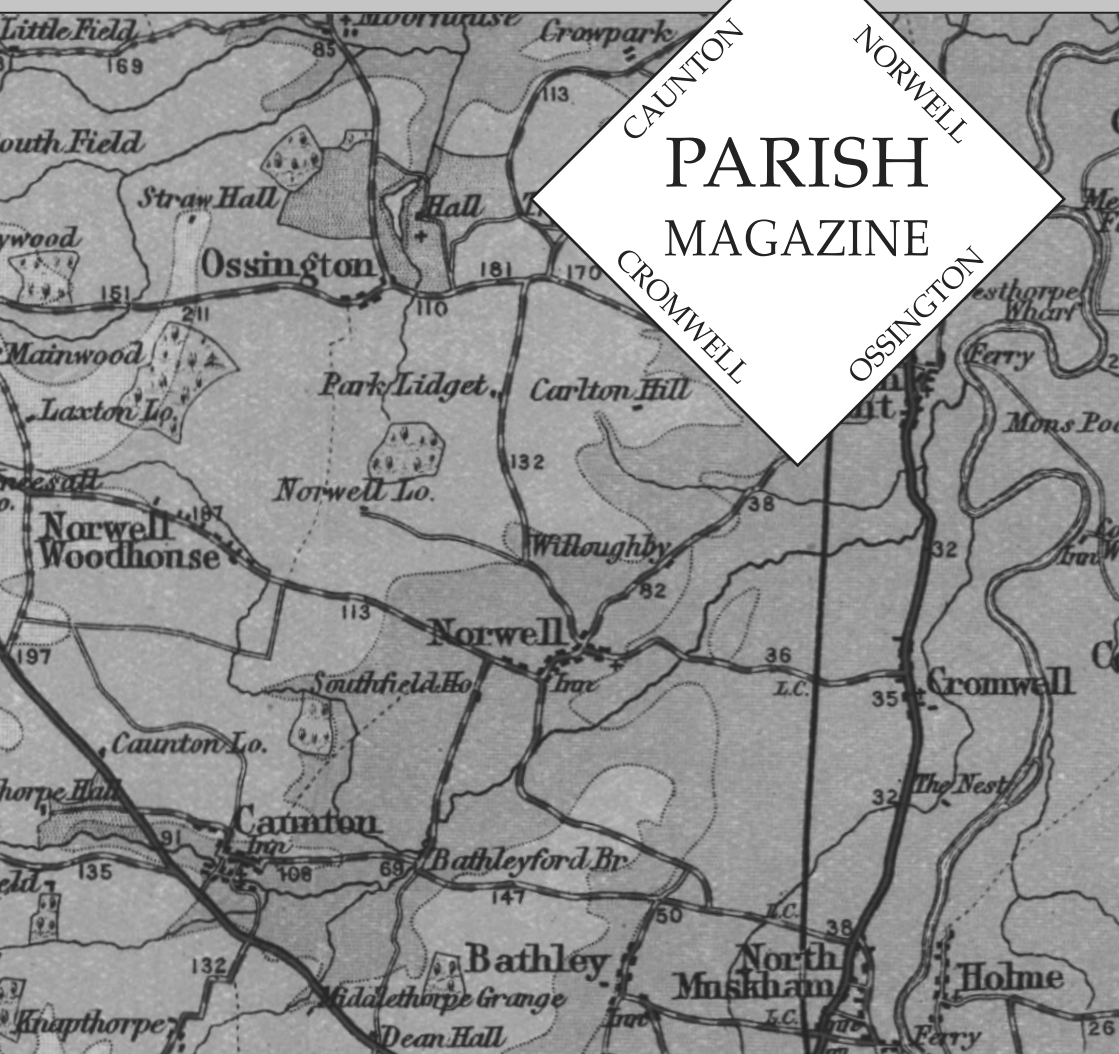


February 2026



Produced by the churches of  
Caunton, Cromwell,  
Norwell and Ossington

[www.becktrent.org.uk/ccno-parish-magazine](http://www.becktrent.org.uk/ccno-parish-magazine)



## CCNO Parish Magazine – February 2026

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### Beck & Trent Parishes

### Services February 2026

|                      |                                                | St Andrew's<br><b>Caunton</b>                                        | St Giles'<br><b>Cromwell</b>       | St Laurence's<br><b>Norwell</b>               | Holy Rood<br><b>Ossington</b>       | All Saints'<br><b>Sutton</b>                                 | St Mary's<br><b>Carlton</b>         |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>first Sunday</i>  | <b>1 Feb.</b><br><i>Candlemas</i>              | <b>9.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion                                   |                                    |                                               |                                     | <b>11.00am</b><br>Family<br>Service at<br>All Saints         |                                     |
| <i>second Sunday</i> | <b>8 Feb.</b><br><i>Second<br/>Before Lent</i> |                                                                      |                                    | <b>9.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion            | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion | <b>9.00am</b><br>Breakfast<br>Church at<br>Methodist<br>Hall | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion |
| <i>third Sunday</i>  | <b>15 Feb.</b><br><i>Last<br/>Before Lent</i>  |                                                                      | <b>9.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion |                                               |                                     | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion<br>at All Saints         |                                     |
| <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | <b>18 Feb.</b><br><i>Ash<br/>Wednesday</i>     | 6.30pm Benefice Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's, Carlton-on-Trent |                                    |                                               |                                     |                                                              |                                     |
| <i>fourth Sunday</i> | <b>22 Feb.</b><br><i>Lent 1</i>                |                                                                      |                                    | <b>11.00am</b><br>Fourth<br>Sunday<br>Worship |                                     | <b>10.30am</b><br>Joint Service<br>at Methodist<br>Chapel    | <b>9.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion  |
| <i>fifth Sunday</i>  | <b>1 Mar.</b><br><i>Lent 2</i>                 | <b>9.00am</b><br>Holy<br>Communion                                   |                                    |                                               |                                     | <b>11.00am</b><br>Family<br>Service at<br>All Saints         |                                     |

This parish magazine serves the villages of Caunton, Cromwell, Norwell and Ossington and is published monthly. It is delivered free to households in the four parishes.

The magazine is produced by the church for the primary purpose of delivering information about church services, events and related issues. We are fortunate that we are also able to include community news, and news of events in neighbouring villages. Advertisements are paid for, enabling free delivery to all homes. Thank you to our advertisers.

# Lent and Easter in Beck and Trent

I am so pleased that this Lent and Easter we will be taking a joined-up approach across the Benefice.

The six villages of Carlton on Trent, Caunton, Cromwell, Norwell, Ossington and Sutton on Trent represent so many people and provide a variety of spaces in which to meet. You will see from the accompanying schedules that there will be a host of things going on as we approach Easter Sunday, which are spread across our community.

I'm particularly grateful to Cromwell's Milestone Brewery Tap for providing hospitality and the starting point for our Palm Sunday Procession through the village

(with donkey) before the 11.00am service at Cromwell Church where we will be joined by Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood.

Our Ash Wednesday Service on 18 February will be held at Carlton Church at 6.30pm and this kicks off the season of Lent. The next day we will begin a series of Thursday evening events exploring the six chapters of the Letter to the Ephesians. Why that bit of the Bible? Well, here's a quote from the book by Tom Wright that we will be using as a reference point throughout:

*'Where I live in Scotland there's a room at the back of the house, looking out south across the Firth of Forth. If you look to the*

*(continued overleaf...)*

## Help, support and contacts

The church is here to help, support and advise you.

Please get in touch with our Vicar, the Reverend David Lewis, who would like to hear from you. Email [david.lewis@beckandtrent.church](mailto:david.lewis@beckandtrent.church) or call 07742 932444.

Do not hesitate to make contact, however please remember that Wednesday is David's day off.

|                 |                  |                                  |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Churchwardens:  | <b>Caunton</b>   | Irene Crossley 01636 639 123     |
|                 | <b>Cromwell</b>  | Sarah Clark 01636 821 943        |
|                 | <b>Ossington</b> | Robin & Jane Drury 07951 439 840 |
| Other contacts: | <b>Norwell</b>   | Elizabeth Jones 01636 636 365    |
|                 |                  | Barbara Bateson 01636 636 840    |



Also in the Benefice:

**Carlton-on-Trent** Edith Crowther (PCC Secretary) [edithtamworth@gmail.com](mailto:edithtamworth@gmail.com)  
**Sutton-on-Trent** contact the Administrator (see below)

- For baptisms, weddings and funerals contact the churchwarden or the administrator, Lorna Caddy, on 01636 555082 / 07568 929232, or email [lorna.c.caddy@gmail.com](mailto:lorna.c.caddy@gmail.com)
- Deanery Administrator [paula.carlin@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:paula.carlin@southwell.anglican.org) 01636 817988

Beck and Trent website: [www.becktrent.org.uk](http://www.becktrent.org.uk)

## Safeguarding in our churches

Ensuring that children, young people and adults are kept safe whilst in our care is an integral part of our church life. If you have any concerns about Safeguarding contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team:

email: [safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org)

or report a concern on <https://southwell.anglican.org/contact-safeguarding> or contact 01636 817200

Outside of normal office hours:

Nottinghamshire: 0300 456 4546

Nottingham City Council: 0115 876 1000

Bawtry: 01302 796 000

*left, you can see the sun rising out of the North Sea. And if you look to the right, you can see the moon setting over the Lomond Hills. That's Ephesians. It gives you a wide-ranging panorama of the Christian gospel. It looks back to the creation of the world, and to God's purpose from the beginning. It looks on to the time when, as Paul says elsewhere, God will be all in all. It foregrounds at every point the work of Jesus the Messiah. It maps out the question*

*of what the church is, and what it's here for; becoming the new sort of humanity that God has created and is creating.'*

I hope this goes some way to explaining how journeying through Ephesians together in Lent will be fulfilling and encouraging. I will focus more on Easter itself in next month's issue so, for now, please make a note of all that we have going on. I hope to see you soon.

Rev. David Lewis - Vicar

## BECK & TRENT - LENT & EASTER 2026

### LENT

**(Thursday @ 7.30PM)**

*6 session-based on a chapter from the book of Ephesians*

Feb 19 @ Norwell Village Hall

Feb 26 @ Carlton Village Hall

March 5 @ Dean Hole Cauntun

March 12 @ Cromwell Village Hall

March 19 @ Sutton Community Centre

March 26 @ Ossington Village Hall

### PALM SUNDAY

**[March 29 @ Cromwell]**

Milestone Brewery

Open from **9.30 AM**

• Hot drinks • Breakfast cobs

**10:45 AM:** Procession to St Giles Church

**11 AM:** Sunday Service

### HOLY WEEK

**[March 30 – April 3]**

*Nightly gatherings in anticipation of Easter*

*Monday - St Lawrence's, Norwell*

*Tuesday - St Andrew's Cauntun*

*Wednesday - St Mary's Carlton*

*Maundy Thursday - Ossington*

*Friday - St Giles' Cromwell*

**All @ 7.30 PM**

### GOOD FRIDAY

An Hour at the Cross

Norwell: **9.30-10.30 AM**

Ossington: **11-12 PM**

Cauntun: **1-2 PM**

Carlton: **2.30-3.30 PM**

Sutton: **4-5 PM**

Cromwell: **7.30 PM**

*(Part of nightly gathering)*

## EASTER SUNDAY

**6 AM** - Cauntun • **9 AM** - Norwell • **11 AM** - Sutton • **7.30 PM** - Ossington

# From the Reverend David Lewis



The church calendar continues to celebrate elements of Jesus' life even after Christmas has passed. January was spent dwelling on Christ's baptism and dedication, reminding us of the powerful work of the Spirit. We now find ourselves in a momentary window of 'Ordinary Time' before diving into Lent and Easter. This period of moving from different types of time within the calendar helps me to remember that Christians are taught that there is both 'Chronos' (hours/seconds) and 'Kairos' (right/opportune) time.

I have found that Kairos times appear in our own lives, usually with a similar sense of anticipation and (hopefully) celebration. Of course, I have experienced one recently in moving our family's life here to be Vicar of the Beck & Trent Benefice. However, at some point, life here will become completely 'chronos', and I will await whatever 'kairos' moment comes around next.

A colleague and I used to meet to go through what we called the 'kairos circle' – an opportunity to acknowledge things happening at home or in work, to reflect on any learning gained from these experiences, and take

accountability for putting this reflection into practice. Jesus was constantly doing this with his disciples as he intentionally showed them how he wanted them to live and drove the lessons home both practically and theoretically. We may be used to going to a trainer to get physically fit, or a professor to increase our knowledge, but to whom do we go to grow as human beings?

I have met some people over the years who have attempted to do this in isolation and have usually ended up with rather warped ideas on life. It seems to me it is best done in community. Psychologist Brene Brown says that vulnerability is "having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome".

I hope 2026 can be a year when many of us feel open to sharing in ways we may not have before and see the resulting rich relational treasures. As always, I would be more than happy to be part of that process for you, so please do get in touch.

David  
Your Vicar

## Verse of the month:

*'... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.  
The old life is gone; a new life has begun!'*

2 Corinthians 5 v 17

Whatever is going on in life, God makes us new versions of ourselves and heals us from the inside.

## From the registers

15 December 2025 – 14 January 2026

### Funeral

29 December 2025

Olive Brenda Beard

All Saints, Sutton-on-Trent

# NATURE *Watch*

---

February's wet, leafless and sometimes cold weather is perfect for spotting lichen. Although resembling plants, lichen is actually a symbiotic relationship between two species – a fungus (the mycobiont) and another photosynthesising organism such as an alga or cyanobacterium (the photobiont). In this relationship, the fungus provides a substrate (the thallus) that protects and absorbs moisture for the photobiont that in return provides carbohydrates, a food source.

There are approximately 20,000 different species of lichen in the world, of which 1,800 are found in the UK. Lichens, like mosses (see Nature Watch December 2025), are a pioneer species, specially adapted for colonising extreme environments such as bare rock, walls, trees and even the metal roofs of buildings and cars. Lichens do not have root systems and instead absorb moisture and nutrients from the atmosphere and surroundings. It is this feature for which they are known as an indicator species – a species that reflects its environmental conditions and can be used to indicate the health of an ecosystem.

Lichens are extremely sensitive to the concentration of pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and heavy metals, and the presence or absence of certain lichen species allows the quality of the air to be determined. Lichens come in a variety of colours from green (due to the chlorophyll), to yellow and orange (due to protective compounds such as usnic acid that protect against UV light for lichens in high light intensities), purple, pink to white and silver-grey. They also come in a variety of shapes and forms from branch-like, flattened, hair-like and leafy.

Their presence during the winter means that lichens are a valuable food source to animals, in particular invertebrates such as grasshoppers, moth and butterfly larvae, as well as mites, snails and slugs. Birds also use shield lichens as a nesting material, as

it acts as a natural camouflage for their eggs and hatchlings.

Historically, lichens were used as natural fabric dyes due to the array of different colours. A well-known dye you may recall from your chemistry lessons is, in fact, obtained from *Rocella* and *Lecanora* lichens commonly found on rocks. These lichens produce a compound called orcinol that can be converted through reactions with other compounds to produce litmus dye. This dye is used in litmus paper which is a pH indicator that turns red in acidic conditions and blue in basic (often called alkaline) conditions.



*Parmelia sulcata*. Hammered shield

Lichens can also be used medicinally, and traditionally were used as a poultice to relieve pain from arthritic joints. Recent research suggests that specific metabolites produced by lichens have the potential to be valuable targets for the development of drugs. Lichens produce numerous chemicals such as atranorin, in order to prevent competition from other lichens, to reduce consumption by herbivores, and protect against bacteria and other fungi. These compounds have been found to have antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties, and usnic acid in particular has been found to enhance the effects of compounds found in the existing antibiotic, norfloxacin.

*Adam Breslin*  
[adamnaturewatch@gmail.com](mailto:adamnaturewatch@gmail.com)

# BIRD *Watch*

---

A couple of late December sightings at Cromwell gravel pits just before New Year's Day, adding Shelduck and Wigeon to the list, made it 84 species for the year (mostly all local) – and then on New Year's Eve, I glanced out of the window just in time to see a Little Owl bouncing its way over the fields opposite our house, which meant I was all done at 85, which is pretty comparable to previous years. I must get out more and try to reach 100 this year! At the time of writing I have already seen 41 different species in 2026 without really going outside the local area.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about their own sightings and calls. It gives some reassurance that people do read my musings and are as enthused by spotting birds as I am. Amazingly, I had three different people contact me within two hours of each other during January when a Goldcrest was seen busying itself around the Norwell churchyard, apparently completely unperturbed by human presence, even managing to land on one villager's boot! Goldcrests are Britain's smallest bird; they have a bright golden orange (yellow in females) cap or 'crest' on the middle of their head. Even though Goldcrests are not overly rare, it is always great to see one as they are so small and move so quickly and restlessly among bushes and coniferous trees that they are easily missed.

Winter can be a great time for unusual sightings and bird activity – and the bonus about winter is that there are fewer leaves on the trees, so it is easier to spot birds among the branches and identify what is calling. So wrap up warm and get out there! If you can't make it outside, there is always the option of the sofa or your favourite chair by the window to watch your feeders. Speaking of which, I hope that by the time you read this, you will have taken part in the 2026 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (24-26 January) and submitted your sightings. I always look forward to seeing the results.

As mentioned earlier, Cromwell Lock is a great location locally for bird spotting. I've had recent reports of calling Curlew and on my recent trips, along with the usual array of ducks, Grey Heron, Cormorant, Little Egret, Mute Swans, Canada and Greylag geese, I was delighted to also see over 80 Wigeon, a Kingfisher and a Dunlin which was feeding on the banks near the water before it got disturbed. It flew off calling and was picked up by the Merlin Bird ID app. Dunlin are a small wader which, although not overly common, can be seen year-round, mostly along the coast or in shallow inland waters. They are a summer migrant but birds from Greenland, Iceland and Northern Europe will arrive in late autumn and stay with us through winter.

However the star of the show for January had to be a single rare Cattle Egret, which was unashamedly stalking a herd of cows in the very same field that the two Great White Egrets were spotted last year. I don't recall ever seeing a Cattle Egret before, certainly not locally, so was absolutely delighted to see it and finally add it to the 'local list' that I keep. I hope it sticks around or returns for regular visits so more people can get their own sighting. Cattle Egrets, as their name suggests, tend to be found among cattle in fields, taking advantage of the large animals disturbing the ground as they move, acting as 'beaters', exposing insects like grasshoppers, flies and beetles as well as frogs, which become easy prey for the Cattle Egret.



*Cattle Egret*

Happy birding in 2026, and do continue to get in touch with your own sightings.

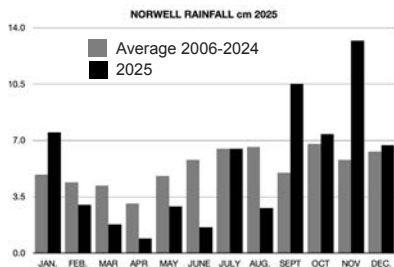
*Greg Hill*  
[gregoryjameshill24@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjameshill24@gmail.com)

# RAIN *Watch*

Rainfall in December was slightly wetter than Norwell's long-term: we had 6.7cm (2.7 in), which is 7% more than expected.

Contrary to how it felt in the summer, when it was dry for such a prolonged time, the wet January, September and November offset this drought, so it was actually slightly wetter over the year than the long-term Norwell average: we had 64.8cm (25.5in) – just 1% more than expected. The graph shows rainfall in 2025 (the dark bars) compared to the long-term Norwell average (2006-2024) – the light coloured bars. It shows how dry February, March, April, May, June and August were, but, in contrast, how wet January, September and November were.

Andrew Ward [wardha@aol.com](mailto:wardha@aol.com)



## HOLIDAY COTTAGE

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# Caunton church news



Sunday 21 December saw St. Andrew's decorated in all its Christmas splendour – Christmas trees, flowers, lights, advent wreath and Nativity stable, all added to a lovely atmosphere as we held our carol service.

We were hoping for a good attendance but didn't for a minute expect the 122 men, women and children who came and helped to make this service truly memorable! From young Natalie's sweet solo voice, Alex's keyboard playing, guitars, Esther and Adrian's 'News at ten' playlet, to readers of lessons and the singing of carols (plus other partakers) all came together for a most memorable evening.

There was something for all, and it was so uplifting to see the village gather together to help celebrate such a joyous occasion. The

mulled wine and other refreshments helped to bring the evening to a happy ending.

Grateful thanks have to go to David Tranter for his hard work, as well as to those who took part in whatever form, and those who helped behind the scenes, not forgetting Brian for playing the church organ. (I'm not going to try and name everyone for fear of missing someone off.) But not forgetting our vicar, David!

As usual, January was a very quiet month but February is just round the corner and it's then that we start the run-up to Easter. Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 18 February marks the start of Lent. Our Easter Dawn Service will be at 6.00am on 5 April. There will be several services throughout this time across the Benefice (details on page 2).

## **Caunton Church Rota Cleaning**

Two young villagers are doing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and, as part of this, they are doing three months of cleaning the church.

Grace Crossley and Harry Lamb are in church every Saturday morning with broom, hoover and bucket and doing a splendid job. They started at the beginning of December and finish in early March. Ten out of ten for choosing the coldest time of the year!

## **Flowers**

Sat 31 January – 7th February: Bow  
No flowers in church during Lent

## **Caunton Community Centre**

**Bingo** – Friday 6 February, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

## **LIVE AND LOCAL!**

### **Saturday 14 March – Victor and Albert**

Join identical twins Professor Victor and Dr Albert for an evening of riotous comedy, interaction, original songs, games, mayhem and a sprinkling of magic. A good old-fashioned two-man variety show brought kicking and screaming into the 21st century.

We welcome back this brilliant double act and look forward to an evening of fun and laughter.

**Tickets £13.50** – cash, payable on the night, which includes supper, but please remember to bring your own drinks and glasses. There will also be a raffle.

*Contact Pat 07929 136788  
or Irene 07814 709969.*

**Also, on Saturday 23 May:** How the Beatles got me a job with the ELO.



## Caunton Parish Council – report on the January meeting

There were a number of residents at the meeting to speak about concerns and objections to a planning application for five bungalows on land to the rear of Mill Lane. The Parish Council noted that more than 30 residents' submissions have been made, all being objections, and agreed to also register their objection and to seek support from our district councillor, Sue Saddington.

Support was agreed for planning applications for Greengage House and Caunton Lodge Farm.

Concerns about increased HGV movements through Caunton associated with Flaggs Farm's latest application were also submitted.

County councillor Bruce Laughton updated the meeting on the proposal to close Dean Hole C of E Primary School with effect from 31 August 2026. A formal stage 2 consultation has commenced and will close on 11 February with a final decision expected in March.

The Parish Council agreed to engage with the County Council to explore how community use of the school premises can continue. Residents and friends of Caunton are urged to submit a response to this consultation via the following link:  
<https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schools/stage-2-dean-hole-church-of-england-primary-school/>

No further updates have been received regarding the GNR Solar Park but we will continue to monitor this in future meetings. [See General News on p25 for information about the next phase of the consultation.]

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11 February at 7.30pm at Dean Hole School. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Any representation to the Parish Council should be made to the Clerk at [parishcouncilcaunton@gmail.com](mailto:parishcouncilcaunton@gmail.com)

*Chris Jagger, Acting Chair*

## Caunton Local History Society

The talks below are the first of what promises to be a very interesting programme for 2026. We look forward to welcoming you. Future topics will explore Bess of Hardwick, Richard III and, in the company of Milly Freeman, we'll experience a Victorian Christmas... too soon??

### Tuesday 10 February - Do You Remember?

*Speaker: Peter Savage*

A highly entertaining, light-hearted presentation which invites audience participation. Trivia, memorabilia and a little quizzing to explore events of the last century – lots trivial, some serious, and others life-changing. Some events have had a long-term impact and all have come to be accepted, though their impact at the time has almost been forgotten. This talk was originally scheduled for March 2025 but was postponed due to illness.

### Tuesday 10 March

**"What did you do in the War, Mum?"**

*Speaker: Maureen Cooper*

Mo is a popular speaker from Nottingham Women's History group. She is a community historian and heritage manager specialising in research into the hidden history of Nottingham. Her talk in March will focus on how the women of Nottingham supported the war effort throughout the second world war.



### THE PLOUGH, CAUNTON

Traditional pub grub  
and a good selection of real ales and lagers.

Paul and Marie extend a warm welcome to all our guests!

#### Opening times:

Monday – closed unless a Bank Holiday

Tuesday to Saturday – 12pm to 11pm

Sunday – 12pm to 6pm approx.

facebook.com/theplooughcaunton 01636 639133

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**Tuesday 14 April**

**The Kings and Sherwood Forest**

*Speaker: David Speed*

David is a local historian based in Nottinghamshire. His talk focuses on the historical connections between various English medieval monarchs and the famous “royal forest” – a protected area where medieval kings, such as Henry II, King John, and Edward I, would hunt.

Brighten your winter months and become a member of Caunton Local History Society. New members are especially welcome, and attending your first talk with the Society is FREE. The cost for returning non-members is £5. Annual membership is £20. We always meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month and almost always at Dean Hole School. We look forward to welcoming you. If you would like to add your name to our mailing list and hear about talks, summer trips and local visits, please email [lynn1485@gmail.com](mailto:lynn1485@gmail.com)

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# Cromwell community news



Facebook: Search for  
"Cromwell Village Hall"

## Church News

As previously announced, we now have a regular service at St Giles Cromwell on the third Sunday of each month. This is normally a service of Holy Communion at 9.00am, however this year the third Sunday in March is Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday is one of the great events in the church's year, commemorating when Jesus led his excited followers into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week – the most solemn week in the year – when we prepare to commemorate the Crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday and his Resurrection on Easter Day.

To mark this special occasion there will be a Palm Sunday Procession – led by a donkey – from Milestone Brewery to St Giles Church for a service at 11.00am at which we will be joined by Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood.

The procession leaves at 10.45am and the bar at Milestone Brewery will be open from 9.30am serving breakfast cobs and hot drinks.

Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing as many villagers as would like to take part, joining many people from neighbouring villages for this very special occasion.

Sarah Clark  
Church Warden  
[sarahjaneclark@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahjaneclark@hotmail.com)  
07976 876459

## WhatsApp

To join the village WhatsApp group please contact 07456 668078, or ask any existing member to add you.

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# **CROMWELL VILLAGE HALL**

# **EVENTS**

## **D I A R Y**

---

### **Every Thursday**

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Legs, Bums and Tums with Lauren  
£7 per session

---

### **Every Friday**

10.30am – 1.00pm

Coffee, Craft and Chat

---

### **Friday 13 February**

7.30pm

Bingo with Brenda!

£5 for 3 games. Great prizes

---

### **Saturday 21 February**

10.30am – 12 noon

Repair Café

Bring items for repair and have a  
chat at the same time

---

### **Tuesday 24 February**

7.00pm

Parish and Village Hall Meetings



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Elizabeth Jones: [emjones.norwell@btinternet.com](mailto:emjones.norwell@btinternet.com) and 01636 636 365

Barbara Bateson: [barbarabateson@btopenworld.com](mailto:barbarabateson@btopenworld.com) and 01636 636 840

Initial enquiries about **baptisms, weddings and funerals** to the Benefice Administrator, Lorna Caddy on 01636 555082, mobile 07568 929232 or email [lorna.c.caddy@gmail.com](mailto:lorna.c.caddy@gmail.com).

## Celebrating Christmas

"A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter."

*From 'The Journey of the Magi' by T.S. Eliot*

This could have been written about St Laurence's. The festive season commenced with some very creative decorations provided by a host of local organisations all on the theme of 'They followed the star,' many highlighting the three magi. Saturday saw a steady flow of people coming to view the decorations and sample some of the festive refreshments on offer.

Sunday 14 December saw our traditional service of Nine Lesson and Carols which was very well attended with a congregation of more than 100. The service was enhanced by our local choir, Village Voices, providing a much-appreciated addition to the well-known carols as well as some special pieces prepared for the service.

This was followed on the Tuesday by the School Nativity service. They had also provided a wonderful display for Christmas in the entrance porch. Later that day, the adults joined in with our annual carol singing through the village, moving down to the

Pinfold and then into the Plough for Beer and Carols, and more fun!

Unfortunately the feeling of goodwill to all men was slightly dented by a theft of our heating oil! This meant that the Christmas Eve service was conducted with heaters and everyone wrapped up warmly. It was a challenge for everyone to think Christian thoughts of forgiveness to those responsible, but all did their best with minds on the festive

message. We would like to thank all those who provided assistance and for the sympathy and help of Robin and Jane Drury from Ossington. We are pleased to report that the boiler is now up and running again.

## In the New Year

As ever, our Holy Communion Service is on the second Sunday, 11 January. For 2026 however we have a new start time of **9.00am** followed by refreshments. Set your alarms for this new time which is to allow David to lead a later service elsewhere in the Benefice.

Fourth Sunday Worship is on Sunday 25 January. This and other such services in 2026 will

start at **11.00 am**. Because of this later start time refreshments will be served before the service commences from 10.30am. This will continue in the informal format introduced in 2025.



## **Pancakes in the Plough Friday 13 February**

We offer our grateful thanks to Mel and Linda who will once again be hosting Pancakes at the Plough on Friday 13 February starting at 6.30pm.



This is a good way of reminding us that Lent starts the following week (on Ash Wednesday), and of having an enjoyable night out in excellent company. All are welcome.

There will be the usual fantastic range of savoury and sweet pancakes, salad and chips, and a 'new' entertainment! Book by 6 February as numbers are limited. Tickets are £12.00 per person – great value for an evening of dining and entertainment.

Please note that any bookings will have to be honoured, but payment will be on arrival on the day. It would be helpful if you could bring the odd £1/£2 coin with you, although change will be available.

For tickets please contact Elizabeth Jones on 01636 636365, text 07418 008 989 or email [emjones.norwell@btinternet.com](mailto:emjones.norwell@btinternet.com). Please mention any dietary requirements e.g. gluten free, vegetarian.

## **Mothering Sunday**

Our special service will take place on 15 March starting at 11.00am. This will be in addition to our usual services. Please join us in marking this special day for all those wonderful people who look after children and have looked after all of us in the past.

## **SUPPORTING ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH Introducing a new system of contributing**

In the past, our parishioners and visitors have supported St Laurence's with donations either in cash, cheques or by paying a set amount into our bank either monthly, quarterly or annually.

Whilst we will continue to accept donations in all these ways with gratitude, the PCC has been looking at ways in which parishioners and visitors can support St Laurence's in its upkeep and ministry by using technology, such as paying by card or smartphone.

Since December you may have noticed our electronic giving machine near the entrance to the church. With this machine you can pay securely by card or phone.

We are now launching a further way in which people can donate – by scanning the QR code below or by visiting [www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/norwell-st-laurence-newark](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/norwell-st-laurence-newark).



This system allows donors to choose whether to make regular donations or make a single one-off gift. You can also add 25% to the value of your donation via Gift Aid (if applicable).

For more information on how you can help us, please scan the QR code, visit the website, pick up a leaflet from the church, or contact our Treasurer, Barbara Bateson on 01636 636840.

# Norwell community news

## Norwell Bridge Group

Happy New Year to everyone. We hope the winter is treating you well.

Our jolly Bridge Group carried on meeting and playing every Monday throughout 2025. No moaning allowed and even a celebratory rattle if anyone gets a Slam. Unusually for Bridge the meeting is pretty noisy.

However it's all been in a good cause. As a result of everyone tossing £2 each into a plastic tub each week, and of course the Spring Bridge Tournament, we have sent a total of £1,200 to Beaumont House Hospice Care. We are very pleased with that but also realise that they need millions to keep going so we will have to play some more in 2026.

*All the best.*

*Caroline and Simon Wyatt*  
(Norwell Bridge Group)

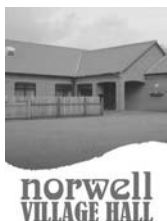
## Village Hall News

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Burn's Night. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and to those who contributed to our fundraising evening including the committee, Grant Campion the piper, Jo Dewberry and Brian Crawley for their addresses. Next month we will let you know how much we raised.

Advance notice: our next fundraising event, taking place on Saturday 21 March in conjunction with the Allotments Group, will be our popular Quiz Night. So get your team together, choose your fun name (there will be a prize for the best one) and book a slot.

The next Jigsaw exchange will be on Monday 16 February.

*Ann Gibson*  
Chairperson



## Norwell Village Coffee Morning

Since the shop has shut, the opportunities for villagers to catch up have been limited so we are running a Community Coffee morning.

**Mon 2 February and Mon 2 March**  
**10.30am to 12.30pm**

**The Pavilion, Norwell Nurseries**

£4 for tea/coffee and cake

Please come and join us, all welcome. It's an opportunity to meet people, chat and renew old acquaintances.

25% to village organisations to include the church, Parish Council etc.

We are hoping this becomes a regular event, thereafter on the first Monday of the month.



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“Norwell and Norwell  
Woodhouse Villagers”

## Norwell Diary – January, February and March

|              |               |                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 25 Jan   | 11.00am       | 4th Sunday Service at St Laurence. Beginning a Journey through the Bible: theme this month 'Awe'. Please note the new time. Refreshments served from 10.30am. |
| Wed 28 Jan   | 8.00pm        | Book Club ~ for details 01636 636337                                                                                                                          |
| Mon 2 Feb    | 10.30-12.30   | Community Coffee Morning at Norwell Nurseries Pavilion                                                                                                        |
| Mon 2 Feb    | 1.30-1.50pm   | Mobile Library ~ Old Chapel, Main Street                                                                                                                      |
| Tues 3 Feb   | 7.00-9.00pm   | Village Voices                                                                                                                                                |
| Sun 8 Feb    | 9.00am        | Holy Communion at St Laurence                                                                                                                                 |
| Thurs 12 Feb | PM            | Norwell School closes for February Half Term                                                                                                                  |
| Fri 13 Feb   | 6.30pm        | Pancakes at the Plough                                                                                                                                        |
| Mon 16 Feb   | 10.15-11.15am | Jigsaw Swap in the Village Hall                                                                                                                               |
| Tues 17 Feb  | 7.00-9.00pm   | Village Voices                                                                                                                                                |
| Thurs 19 Feb | 7.30-8.45pm   | Beck and Trent Lent Journey: Session 1 at Norwell Village Hall, committee room.                                                                               |
| Thurs 19 Feb | 7.30pm        | Heritage Group AGM followed by a talk 'Nottinghamshire's historic Parks and Gardens' by Jason Mordan                                                          |
| Sun 22 Feb   | 11.00am       | 4th Sunday Service at St Laurence. Continuing our journey through the Bible: theme 'Enjoying our Freedom'. Refreshments from 10.30am.                         |
| Tues 24 Feb  | AM            | Norwell School re-opens after February Half Term                                                                                                              |
| Tues 24 Feb  | 7.00-9.00pm   | Village Voices                                                                                                                                                |
| Wed 25 Feb   | 8.00pm        | Book Club ~ for details 01636 636337                                                                                                                          |
| Mon 2 Mar    | 10.30-12.30   | Community Coffee Morning at Norwell Nurseries Pavilion                                                                                                        |
| Mon 2 Mar    | 1.30-1.50pm   | Mobile Library ~ Old Chapel, Main St                                                                                                                          |
| Tues 3 Mar   | 7.00-9.00pm   | Village Voices                                                                                                                                                |

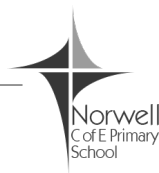


## Christmas wreaths

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously this year. Between us we have raised the magnificent sum of £820 for Beaumont House. Thank you to my kind friends who donated foliage, and a special thanks to FONS for their continued support including the gathering of much-needed greenery!

*Well done to everyone. Sue*

# Norwell CofE Primary School



It's amazing to think that we are almost at the end of our first Spring half-term. The last few weeks have flown by, and the children have enjoyed all their learning during the start of this year!

Key Stage 1 visited Perlethorpe to learn all about Victorian schooling, which brought their topic to life and hopefully made them grateful to be in education now!



Norwell C of E Primary has become an academy and is now part of The Minster Trust for Education. We look forward to offering pupils and staff new and exciting opportunities. We remain part of the Tuxford Family of Schools with Tuxford Academy as our secondary feeder school

and, as such, we continue to make the most of the opportunities they offer us. As part of this partnership, our Year 5 children had a wonderful afternoon of Sports Hall Athletics, and some children are looking forward to going trampolining at Tuxford next week.



Year 5 and 6 children also had an amazing time at Young Voices at the Arena in Sheffield. Going with their peers from St Matthew's in Normanton and Dunham gave them the opportunity to make new friends and renew those friendships they have already made. All the children sang and performed brilliantly, singing a range of songs from Phil Collins and Wicked!

Please remember that we have two INSET days in February. These are: Friday 13 and Monday 23 February.

Half term is from Monday 16 to Friday 20 February.

Best wishes.

*Kathryn King*  
Head Teacher

## BOOK CLUB

This month we are reading "In Memoriam" by Alice Winn. The story of public schoolboys going off to be slaughtered in the WW1 trenches has been told before, but at the heart of this novel is a moving love story between two young men, which, of course, was forbidden at the time.

It is Alice Winn's first novel and her writing has been hugely praised, even by those who were reluctant to read another book about the First World War! The Book Club will meet to talk about it on Wednesday 25 February.

*For more information about the Book Club please contact Helen on 636337.*

# Norwell Parish Heritage Group

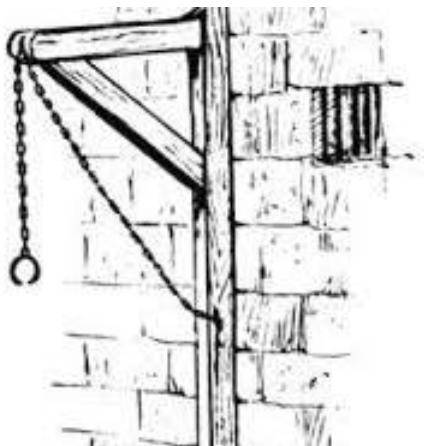
The Group celebrates its 20th anniversary this month, having held its first meeting in February 2006.

On Thursday 19 February we'll be meeting in Norwell Village Hall at 7.30pm. The meeting will start with an AGM. We'll be looking at the future of the group and the feasibility of continuing as we are. If you value all that has been achieved over the years, please do come.

The AGM will be followed by a talk by Jason Mordan about Nottinghamshire's Historic Parks and Gardens. Jason is the Senior Practitioner for Historic Buildings at Nottinghamshire County Council and has worked with us generously over the years. He is also the lead in a project with Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust to research and record historic gardens in the county. At this time of year it will be enlivening to find out about green open spaces.

We also meet on Thursday 19 March when Emily Gillott will be talking about Gibbets and Gallows in Nottinghamshire.

***WARNING: the talk contains discussion about the corpse, execution, injustice, and peculiar magic/medicine related to gallows corpses!***



## Advance notice

### Norwell Heritage Walk – Part 2

We only got halfway through Norwell on our Heritage Walk in September, so we are continuing on the afternoon of Saturday 11 April, when we'll be walking from School Lane westwards to the Plough and Palis Hall. There will be plenty to see. If you are interested in joining the walk please contact Michael and Elizabeth Jones 01636 636365 or [emjones.norwell@btinternet.com](mailto:emjones.norwell@btinternet.com) or 07418 008 989.



## THE PLOUGH NORWELL

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Monday             | closed      |
| Tuesday – Saturday | 6pm onwards |
| Sunday             | 12-2pm      |

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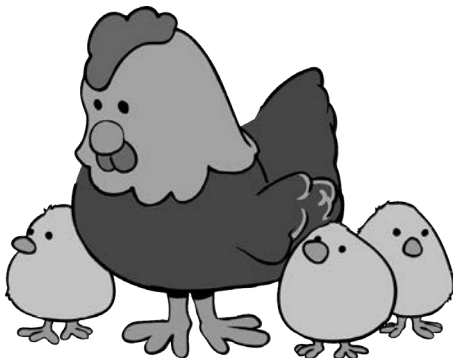
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## From the Church

Works continue at Holy Rood, with some of the internal scaffolding having been taken down following the completion of the ceiling redecoration. It is now the turn of the walls to be the focus of attention, which hopefully means that the light at the end of a very long tunnel has finally been spotted!

In the meantime, monthly services continue to be held at the Hut. With the new scheduling in place, this month's service will take place on Sunday 8 February at 11.00am. Rev. David looks forward to welcoming everyone at the Hut.

## Richard Weaver – a long life well lived

It is very sad to have to report the recent death of Richard Weaver at the great age of 94 years. Although he hadn't lived in the village for many years, his heart never really left Ossington.

Richard (or Dickie as he was known to many) was born in Ossington, one of six children of Head Gardener Arthur Weaver and his wife Beattie. He attended the village school in Ossington before it was demolished to make way for the wartime airfield. Dickie was very proud to have 'passed for the grammar school', travelling on the bus each day to the Magnus in Newark. Here his love of cricket was nurtured, with Dickie later playing for the Ossington village team.

Subsequently Dickie did his national service with the RAF, some of which was in Egypt. On his return he spent his working life with the National Westminster Bank, a career that gave him the necessary skills to be Treasurer to the Parochial Church Council for many years and to be involved with the management of the Hut. He organised village whist drives, kept the PCC accounts, mowed the grass in the graveyard and looked after pest control, amongst many other things. Until very recently he was still performing quite a number of those functions!

Dickie was a lifelong attendee of Holy Rood church, a committed villager, and a strong family man, despite never having married. He attended virtually all village functions and events, famously in charge of any raffles, and always had a story to tell, often bringing newspaper cuttings and memorabilia to share from his huge archive.

Richard always had time for a chat, and enjoyed welcoming new people to Ossington, giving them a flavour of village life from his encyclopaedic knowledge. It is almost unthinkable that it will no longer be possible to 'ask Dickie' about aspects of Ossington life over the last 90 years or so. Richard was a true gentleman and will be very much missed by so many.

RIP Richard

## Ossington Luncheon Club

Home-made lunches are the order of the day at the monthly Luncheon Club at the Hut. All are welcome to come along for a meal in good company at 12.45pm on Monday 23rd. Please book with Mary Brown (01636 821029 / marybrown3@hotmail.co.uk) so she knows how many she is catering for!

## Ossington Coffee Morning

February's Coffee Morning will take place on the last Saturday of the month (28th) between 11.00am and 1.00pm. Do drop in for a hot drink and homemade cake! Residents from neighbouring parishes often join us as village organisers have tried not to clash with functions in adjacent parishes (e.g. Laxton has its monthly coffee morning on the third Saturday of the month, 10.00am-12 noon in the Village Hall, to which Ossington residents are very welcome).



Facebook: Search for  
"Ossington Village Group"



The Potting Shed meets at St Nicholas' church, Tuxford, NG22 0LJ, every Sunday afternoon at 4pm.

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Tuesdays - We gather to pray on Zoom from 8 - 8:30am

Wednesdays - **Rooted Youth** meet at 6.30 - 8pm every week during term time

**Little Seedlings** runs 9.30-11.00am on the first Wednesday of each month.

Saturdays - breakfast at Starbucks in Newark (7:30am) and Costa in Ollerton (8am).

More details can be found on our website: [www.thepottingshedchurch.org](http://www.thepottingshedchurch.org) [whats-on](#)



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# Ossington community news (continued)

## Farewell

This is sadly my last month as the collator of Ossington's news for the Parish Magazine. I have enjoyed helping the village in this way. Despite the rise of social media, there is still a place for village news to be disseminated to all residents in an easy-to-access form for everyone.

Thank you to all the people I have badgered for information about village news and events over the years. I'm not far away, so will continue to support village events whenever I can.

I am very pleased that an excellent replacement has been found. Liz Carney-Marsh has volunteered to be your contact going forward and will collate the Ossington information to send on to the General Editor Christopher Senior. Please help Liz by letting her have details of news and events by the 15th of each month at the latest.

Many thanks!

Janet Carr [jecarr@live.co.uk](mailto:jecarr@live.co.uk)

## A Baton Passed

Well, after many years of serving Ossington as both Clerk of the Parish Meeting and looking after the entries for the Parish Magazine, Janet Carr is handing the baton over to myself. What huge boots I must try and fill! I will do my very best to serve the wonderful community of Ossington with the same dedication as Janet has. Thank you, Janet, for all you've done for the village and its residents throughout the years.

For those whom I haven't met yet, I'm Liz Carney-Marsh. Angie and I have lived in the village now for over two years, and we have never felt so welcomed and part of a community. I think this sense of belonging

is what made it an easy decision for me to volunteer to continue Janet's great work. I am currently an editor for a children's publisher and spend my day creating children's books. (It's a hard life!) Luckily I get to do this from home in Ossington, which makes it the most perfect way to spend a day.

I appreciate you all bearing with me whilst I master the ropes! Feel free to be in contact with any information, questions or articles and announcements for the Parish Magazine. You can email me on [liz@carneymarsh.com](mailto:liz@carneymarsh.com) or telephone and leave a message on 07703 334437.

Thanks again Janet for all you've done, and for entrusting me to carry it forward.

With warm wishes, Liz

## **General Editor, Christopher Senior writes:**

On behalf of Executive Editor Elizabeth Jones and myself, thank you Janet for your immense and invaluable contribution to the magazine for very many years – not just in providing news for Ossington residents but also a wide variety of general news that is relevant and of interest to all our readers. It has been a pleasure working with you, and we wish you well for the future.

Finding people to fill key volunteering roles is not without difficulty, so we are delighted that Liz Carney-Marsh has stepped forward, and we welcome her warmly to the magazine's editorial team.

## Mobile Library

Details of the service and complete timetables:

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### Cauntton (on Route 1)

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### Cromwell (on Route 11)

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**Tuesdays: 3 February, 3 March, 31 March, 28 April, 26 May, 23 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December, 5 January 2027.**

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### Norwell, Ossington and Moorhouse (on Route 10)

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Ossington Speaker's Cottages 2.00-2.10 pm

Moorhouse Thoroton, Weston Road 2.20-2.30pm

**Mondays: 2 February, 2 March, 30 March, 27 April, 22 June, 20 July, 17 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 7 December, 4 January 2027.**

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## Great North Road Solar Park – development update

Responses to official questions concerning aspects of the planning application raised by the Planning Inspectorate, mainly with the developer but also with other or all interested parties, were submitted by the deadline of 16 January.

The Inspectorate is currently considering all the responses before conducting another round of Issue Specific Hearings. These are to be held in the week commencing 3 February, this time at the YMCA, Lord Hawke Way, Middlebeck, Newark.

Later in the month, during the week commencing 23 February, the Inspectors will be visiting various sites included within the planning application to gain a better idea of the extent and implications of the proposed development.

Further details can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website at <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010162>

*Janet Carr* [jecarr@live.co.uk](mailto:jecarr@live.co.uk)

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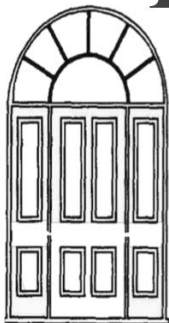
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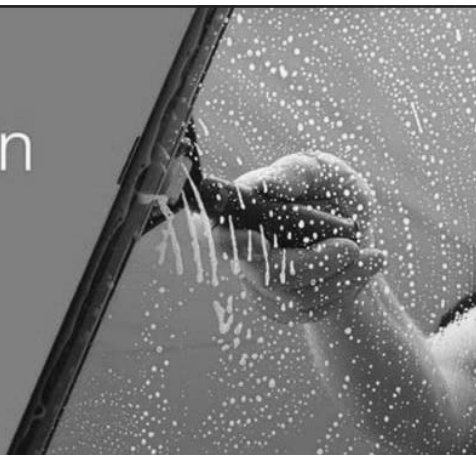
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