



February 2009

Roundabout

Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves

Roundabout is delivered free to every address in the parish

Editorial policy

Roundabout aims to promote local events, groups and businesses and to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community. We avoid lending support (in the form of articles) to any social, political or religious causes, and we reserve the right to amend or omit any items submitted. The final decision rests with the editors.

While *Roundabout* is supported by Woodhouse Parish Council, we rely on advertisements to pay production costs, and we accept advertisements for local businesses as well as those that publicise charitable and fund-raising events. Brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free.

Copyright in any articles published is negotiable but normally rests with *Roundabout*.

We apologise for any errors that might occur during production and will try to make amends in the following issue.

Roundabout needs *your* input. For guidelines on submission, please see inside the back cover.

Management and production

Roundabout is managed on behalf of the community and published by the Editorial and Production Team comprising Richard Bowers, Evelyn Brown, Anthony Lenney, Alison Littler, Rosemary May, Grahame Sibson

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*Deadline for submissions to the March 2009
issue: Tuesday 10th February*

*Email to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk
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Content editor for March issue: Alison Littler

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Editor's note

Welcome to *Roundabout's* first issue for 2009 and, while we sometimes routinely wish each other a happy new year, already it looks like most of us will be in for a difficult year as the recession starts to impact more widely on our lives. This will certainly be a year in which our community spirit will be needed even more as we look out for the welfare of our neighbours and friends.

But we also have a lot to look forward to in our villages this year. As well as our usual seasonal events – fairs and jumble sales, the Open Gardens in June, and the Horticultural and Craft Fair in September – there is a new event in the calendar for the May Bank Holiday. It is a 'challenge event' for walkers and runners that will take place around the Charnwood countryside. Organisers hope it will bring in participants from outside our locality and also become a regular event in the future. Coming up there are also public meetings on planning and housing issues, entertainment events in the Village Hall, meetings of clubs and new classes.

As *Roundabout* also goes online this year (we have a page on the parish website), the *Roundabout* team always looks forward to hearing from new contributors and volunteers, or from anyone with ideas for articles, as well as news about what's on for your club or group.

Alison Littler

Parish Council news

On the Council's behalf, Chair David Barker QC wishes all residents a happy new year.

Charnwood planning developments

Council responded to Charnwood Borough Council's important Core Strategy to 2026 with the following points:

- limits to any development in Woodhouse Parish could disadvantage younger and older people who need accommodation;
- too much backland development would alter the character of the villages;
- since Parish villages were considered as not sustainable it would be best to encourage housing where sustainability can be achieved.

Parish Council budget approved

The next financial year's budget was approved in December and the precept demand of 4.5 per cent, in line with last year's, was submitted to Charnwood BC in January. Anyone can inspect the budget and, indeed, any of the financial reports Council receives. Annual statements are on display on the board inside the Village Hall.

Tribute to Lady Martin

Among many other duties in and around our community, Lady Martin, who died in December, served on the Parish Council for 41 years. In paying tribute to her at the December meeting the Chair said, 'our late colleague was, in terms of bearing, manners, habits and sentiments a true lady. We will miss her greatly.' The whole Council attended her funeral at St Paul's Church on 10th December. The tribute is currently on Council's website and filed with the minutes.

Christmas trees

For those curious to know the origin of the Christmas trees on public display in the villages, Cllr Les Pole donated the trees at the churches and Mr Morritt from Bradgate Trees kindly donated the Village Hall tree – thanks to both of them and to the volunteers who decorated the trees.

Crime

There have been few crimes in our Parish in the last couple of months, thanks to Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers and local police, but people must never relax their guard. Details of crimes are always noted in Parish Council Minutes. District Councillor Mr Snartt, who chairs the Charnwood Crime and Safety Partnership, will give out some handbag alarms to members of the Evergreen Club to help prevent purse thefts. House burglaries are rising across Charnwood, so if you see anything suspicious don't hesitate to call your local NHW or the police.

Allotment fencing

Replacement of fencing to the Woodhouse Eaves allotments alongside the Bird Hill garages block remains unresolved as Charnwood BC reports that all improvement works are suspended owing to budget reductions. However, fly tipping can be cleared by reporting it either to the PC Clerk or direct to Charnwood BC Cleansing Department on (01509) 634 563.

Traffic speed

Council responded to proposals from Highways to reduce speed on Church/Brand Hill and Forest Road/School Lane, following the second Community Speed Watch in the autumn. Highways carried out before-and-after covert speed monitoring to confirm where the main problems are. There will soon be a meeting with Highways and Traffic Watch Group to discuss these, although Highways say that budgets are stretched. Work to slow speeds at the accident-prone Beacon crossroads has started and a 50mph limit will be placed on Joe Moore's Lane at the Roecliffe crossroads. A request was made for gritting on Deans Lane and Council sent a support letter to Highways for Swithland's efforts to have Leicester Lane regularly gritted.

Council-sponsored events at the Village Hall

Centre Stage

Council underwrites Centre Stage productions and receives half of any profits. The next event on 24th February, 'Swingers in Suspenders', is a cabaret taking a musical journey through the 1930s–1950s. Richard and Sian Mòllart are the organisers and will advertise the event soon.

Spark Children's Festival

Following last year's successful performance (around 100 children and their carers attended), the Council has invited the Festival to bring another one on 31st May. 'A Stitch in Time' is for children aged seven years and over and is described as 'an enchanting story told through the contents of the objects in a grandmother's sewing box and grandfather clock chimes'. As before, younger siblings will be admitted free. Tickets and details will follow later.

Next meeting – Monday 2nd February in the Village Hall

Meetings normally start with Planning matters at 7.00pm but if there are only a few to consider, then the start is 7.15pm. All welcome.

Ann Irving, Clerk to the Council

Affordable homes – Woodhouse Eaves

Last summer's housing survey identifies a local need for around six affordable homes. A public meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 23 February at 7.30 pm to explore ways of delivering these in the context of a possible problem site in the village.

Parish Plan Group

Phillip John Marsden

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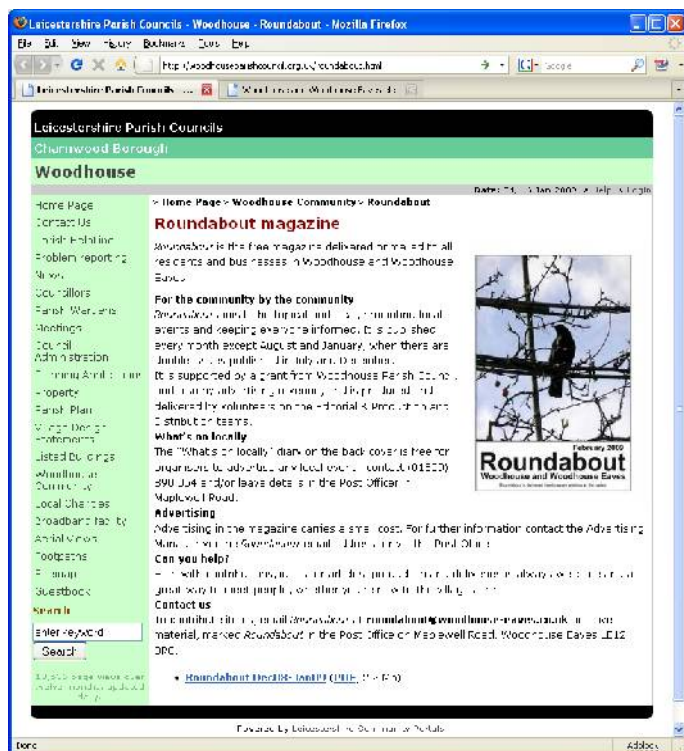
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News in brief

Roundabout goes online



Roundabout now has its own page on the Woodhouse Parish website and you will find there a PDF of this issue.

In the coming weeks we hope to upload the archive going back to 2006.

You can read the magazine online and enlarge the text if you wish, or you can download a copy.

See www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/roundabout.html

Development of Charnwood Forest

As both our villages are within the current boundary of Charnwood Forest, readers may be interested to know more about how it is to be developed. Rosemary May attends the meetings for the Parish Council and Council has responded to some of the plans, mindful of the balance between increasing tourism and its associated traffic – one proposal is to develop it as a Regional Park. There is also a website which shows the plans at www.leics.gov.uk/charnwood_forest

Ann Irving

Countryside watch

Sue Thorne reports that there have been some distressing and serious occurrences of violent attacks on horses in both villages and urges all residents who are out and about to be especially observant. She also urges horse owners to be especially vigilant, locking up more carefully than usual, not leaving horses out at night wherever possible, and visiting them twice daily to avoid several hours of suffering if they have been harmed.

Ed.

An appreciative reader of *Roundabout* writes ...

At the end of 2008, members of the Roundabout Editorial and Production Team were disappointed at the lack of interest in attending the Annual General Meeting. Our editor Evelyn Brown wondered whether this meant readers are so happy with Roundabout they don't want changes, or that we don't have many readers at all! Nick Knight has added his voice to those of others expressing their appreciation for the magazine (see December/January Roundabout). Ed.

'I've helped produce and edit quite a few magazines and newsletters in my time and Evelyn Brown's comments about the poor attendance at the Open Meeting on September 26th in last November's issue of *Roundabout* prompted me to write to reassure you that there is at least one person in Woodhouse Eaves who reads it from cover to cover and appreciates your efforts in compiling it!

'I recently bought a house in the village and, after ten years living in a residential suburb of Leicester where the local media consisted of poorly produced trade advertising leaflets, I was surprised and delighted by the variety of informative and high-quality local publications that flopped onto the doormat. Like *The Forest* and *The Beacon*, *Roundabout* offers a window onto the impressive variety of services and products offered by enterprising local businesses, but *Roundabout* also offers a more personal window onto the people in the community themselves, a valuable community forum and a platform.

'It can be deeply frustrating to produce a publication for a community who seem reluctant to engage with the process but, in my experience, it's pretty much always like that. As an editor you find yourself having to anticipate what people will be interested to read most of the time. Actually asking usually elicits either an embarrassed silence or a list of ideas that make everyone's life much more difficult. Sad but true. Keep up the good work!

Nick Knight

Flood planning

A new scheme for preparing for flooding in Leicestershire has been set up with community wardens working with residents to identify issues in their area, help to prepare for flooding and act as a link with public authorities and emergency planners.

The wardens are generally members of community groups or neighbourhood watch representatives and receive special training for the role. Over the coming months they will visit homes and businesses in their

area, distributing leaflets and providing practical advice, and will be particularly interested to hear about vulnerable people and buildings, as well as any specific problems that might worsen a flooding situation.

The scheme has been set up by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Forum (LRF), and includes the emergency services, NHS, local councils and other agencies that handle emergency situations in the county.

For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a warden, visit www.localresilienceforum.org.uk, call 0116 305 6101, or email emergencymanagement@leics.gov.uk

from *Leicestershire Matters*, publication of
Leicestershire County Council

Business listings for our villages

There is a new website that lists businesses throughout the Loughborough area, including surrounding villages. You can select a particular village from the map and see a list of businesses located there and a link then takes you to details of the particular business. Bearing in mind that not all businesses have a 'shopfront presence' in the village, it is worth having a look and seeing the range of services available – take a look at www.charnwoodbusiness.com/villages.html

The character of Woodhouse Eaves – appraisal

A draft appraisal for Woodhouse Eaves Conservation Area was considered at a public meeting on Monday evening, 19th January, at the Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. We hope to have a report on the meeting for the next issue of *Roundabout*, meanwhile the draft appraisal is on the website at www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/woodhouseeavesconservationarea See also 'Fascinating facts about Woodhouse Eaves' on p.17

New name for the NHS

Primary care trusts (PCTs) throughout the UK are going through the process of changing their names and in Leicestershire the new name will be NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland. Catherine Griffiths, Chief Executive, has said that 'This is part of a national move to change the names of PCTs. We realised that people don't really know what a PCT is, so we hope the new name will describe us more clearly.' Note, however, that the PCT's website address has not changed yet and is still www.lcrpct.nhs.uk

Speak out on school admissions

Every year councils seek views on their school admissions policies from parents, carers, members of local community groups, early years providers, or any member of the public. This year's consultation period ends on 28th February, after which all comments will be taken into account and any proposed changes will be considered by the County Council's Cabinet in April.

A specific issue in this year's consultation includes consideration of which address is used for school placements when children live in two different catchment areas because their parents do not live together. Also up for consultation is whether to guarantee catchment area requests for mid-term transfers, even if a school's admission limit has been reached. Comments are particularly welcomed from parents and other groups with a local interest.

Voluntary aided schools (e.g. Church of England) are also carrying out their own consultations on admissions policies – details are available from individual schools.

To find out more about the consultation go to the County Council's website at www.leics.gov.uk/consultation_admission2009 To give your views, contact Andy Darvill in the Children and Young People's Service on 0116 305 6324 or email adarvill@leics.gov.uk

Evelyn Brown

Green resolutions for 2009

The Energy Saving Trust suggests that now is a good time to find out more about ways to save energy this year as well as the time to cast a critical eye over how we use (and even waste) energy in our day-to-day lives. Their top five green resolutions for 2009 are:

- ditch those plastic bags (and invest in re-usable, light-weight cotton bags)
- swap your current light bulbs (for energy-saving ones)
- insulate your home
- say goodbye to standby (on TVs, DVD players, computers)
- turn down your thermostat, and
- review the changes and progress you made in 2008.

For more information, see www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Keep warm, keep well

At the end of 2008 and the beginning of the new year we experienced many consecutive days of freezing temperatures across our region and although the rain has returned, bringing milder temperatures, a cold snap could happen again during winter. Some older people will have been eligible for Cold Weather payments during January to help pay for the cost of additional heating during periods of very cold weather. Older people who are eligible for these payments receive them automatically if the average temperature is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days.

You may also be eligible for a Cold Weather payment if you receive benefits such as income support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or Pension Credit.

Age Concern have commonsense, practical tips designed to keep all people (including the elderly) warm and well whenever there are such cold snaps. They urge people to:

- stay indoors if you can
- wear several thin layers of clothing rather than one thick layer
- wear appropriate headwear – the main source of heat loss is through the head
- remember that food is fuel and help keeps you warm, so having at least one hot meal a day, and hot drinks regularly throughout the day are important
- move around to generate extra body heat, so any kind of activity will help keep you warm
- try to keep a temperature of 21°C (70°F) in all rooms during the day, or at least keep the living room warm, and warm the bedroom and bed
- set central heating to come on before you get up and off when you go to bed
- ensure your home is properly insulated.

Further information about wellbeing in times and of cold weather is available in the Department of Health's 'Keep Warm, Keep Well' guide on the Department's website under 'Older people' at www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/ or see www.ageconcernleics.com or ring 0116 2992 233.

Ed.

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Woodhouses May Day Challenge

Two years ago I decided I needed to extend my normal exercise from two 'dog walks' a day to something a bit more testing. I used to do a lot of running when I was younger but a recurring knee problem suggested that this was no longer a good idea. I noticed that walking did not have the same effect on my knees, so it seemed a better option.

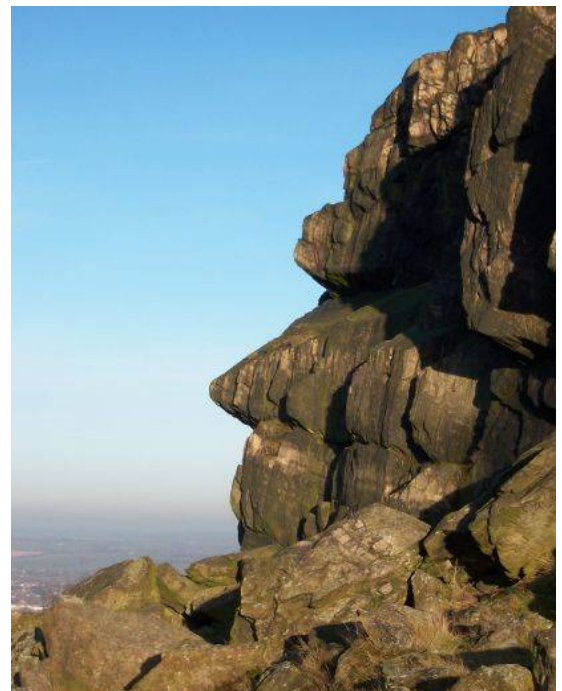
While chatting over a beer one night with a keen local runner, Steve Lowsley, we somehow convinced ourselves that we could complete the Lyke Wake Walk, which is a very arduous route that crosses the North Yorkshire moors. The distance is in excess of 40 miles and the route has to be completed within 24 hours to be recognised as a success. Therefore, Steve and I embarked on a training programme that would allow us to be fit enough to complete the walk.

Idea for a challenge event

During the many hours we spent walking, I kept bouncing the idea off Steve about the feasibility of organising a challenge event based around Woodhouse Eaves. We decided to enter a few long-distance events before and subsequent to the Lyke Walk (which, by the way, we eventually completely successfully!), and we picked up many good tips and ideas along the way. So much so that our experience convinced us that we could organise something similar and, in the process, raise funds for local good causes.

I remember years ago that the village used to host May Day events that seemed to bring the village together and so, in deciding on a date, we thought it would be really nice if we could reproduce some of that village atmosphere that sometimes seems so lacking these days. We decided on the May Day bank holiday for our May Day Challenge event, Monday 4th May.

The main event is a circular route of 13.5 miles through the Charnwood countryside, both for walkers (leaving at 8.30 am) and runners (leaving an hour later). Starting in Woodhouse Eaves, it extends north to Dean's Lane, around Beacon Hill and Broombriggs Farm to the west, Swithland



Old man of Beacon Hill, part of the Challenge route

to the east and Newtown Linford in the south.

It is a fully supported event with refreshment stops and provision for transporting any retirements back to the village. It takes in all the well-known local beauty spots that we are so lucky to have in the immediate locality and will be very appealing to entrants who are not familiar with the area.

For those of you who prefer something a little less strenuous, we have organised a shorter walk of 3.2 miles. This is a sponsored walk and will also be ideal for families with younger children – every finisher will receive a medal.

Sponsorship and support

We have gained sponsorship and support from a number of local businesses, as well as the Parish Council, which has waived the charge for use of the Village Hall as the starting point and which will be consulted on local causes to receive money raised.

We have been very fortunate that several people with the same enthusiasm and keenness for the event have volunteered their services, including producing the excellent website. It is safe to say that we will require many more volunteers to help on the day. These roles will include traffic and checkpoint marshals, car parking, registrations, and so on. If you have a desire to help in any way, even if only for an hour or two, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us via the website (address below), leave a message at the Post Office, or email enquiries@woodhouse-may-day-challenge.co.uk

Website

We have created a website for the Challenge at www.woodhouse-may-day-challenge.co.uk The website contains a map of the route, entry forms for downloading, details of sponsors and even a selection of photographs from the route that we hope will entice people from outside the locality to participate. Entry forms can be obtained from the village Post Office and returned there once completed.

Join in this village event!

We're excited about what we hope will be a very successful day for the village and for Charnwood, and we're looking forward to this event being repeated in future years.

Andy Selby

New Heritage Warden

My name is Emily Lloyd and I have recently been appointed by the Parish Council as the Community Heritage Warden for Woodhouse Eaves. I have now lived in Woodhouse Eaves for two years and although I am originally from Leicestershire, I have moved around a lot in the past because of my university studies and my various jobs. My husband and I relocated back to Leicestershire in November 2006 to be closer to family for the arrival of our daughter. Woodhouse Eaves was at the top of our list for places we would like to live.

It was a great privilege to be approved as the Community Heritage Warden for Woodhouse Eaves. I have always had a passion for the natural world and studied environmental biology at university, and I am currently studying part time for an MSc in wildlife biology and conservation. I'm a qualified teacher and am hoping to work with local schools in the near future to offer a series of lessons and activities to give local children a chance to learn more about the wildlife and natural history of Woodhouse Eaves.

Emily Lloyd

Fascinating facts about Woodhouse Eaves

The Woodhouse Eaves Character Appraisal document (see p.11) contains some fascinating historical facts about Woodhouse Eaves. Although only recognisable as a village since late Georgian/early Victorian times, there is evidence of early Bronze Age activity on Beacon Hill and the Romans quarried Swithland slate. Episcopal registers of 1209–1235 show that the village was part of the Manor of Barrow upon Soar at that time, and the Bull's Head Pub is believed to have originated around 1660 as a farmhouse.

In the early 1800s Woodhouse Eaves consisted of about 80 houses located within the surrounding forest occupied mainly by framework knitters but including some slate-workers. Today around 1700 people live in Woodhouse Eaves, and 2100 in the parish as a whole. In 1844 there were 158 knitters living in Woodhouse Parish. By this time the village of Woodhouse Eaves was part of the Beaumanor estate and much of the Victorian building, including the slate-workers' cottages at the bottom of Maplewell Road, result from the energy of Sophia Perry Herrick, wife of William Perry Herrick who inherited the estate in the 1830s.

Listed buildings in Woodhouse Eaves

In 1920 the Beaumanor estate sold off a large number of buildings including two blacksmiths' shops, a butcher's shop, a grocer's and a baker's, in

addition to 80 properties, mostly freehold cottages. Today there are more than 20 Grade II listed buildings in Woodhouse Eaves including cottages opposite the Bull's Head in Main Street, cottages on Church Hill, The Brand on Brand Hill (plus its stable block, pig sty and a summerhouse), the church and vicarage, and the Maplewell Road slate-workers' cottages. Other listed features include the village pump on Main Street, the lych gate to St Paul's Churchyard and two parish boundary stones at Longdale Cottage on Brand Hill. The latter are relics of the parish of Longdale, a small parish merged with Woodhouse Eaves at the end of the 19th century.

Fascinating details

It appears that Woodhouse Parish has a wall-mounted letter postal box from every reign since their introduction. The box at the junction of Main Street and Beacon Road (opposite the Bull's Head) is Victorian; the boxes on the wall by the Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall and on Brand Hill, near Swithland Court, date from the reign of George VI; while the one in the entrance wall to the Post Office is from the current reign of Elizabeth II. That leaves wall-mounted boxes dating from the reigns of Edward VII and George V? Does anyone know where these can be found? If you do, let *Roundabout* know and we'll pass on the information in the March *Roundabout*.

Evelyn Brown

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From Woodhouse to Wimbledon

A January weekend of sub-zero temperatures seemed hardly the most



appropriate time to be talking tennis with Katie Boulter, Britain's Under-Twelve Female Tennis Champion and her parents, Sue and David, who have lived in Woodhouse for over ten years. Just before Christmas they returned *en famille* from an intensive eight-week training and practice schedule in Florida followed by competing in the Orange Bowl. This is the world's premier junior tennis tournament and out of an entry of 256 girls in the under-twelve section, Katie progressed to the last sixteen before being defeated by the USA number one who, in turn, was overcome by the eventual winner from Holland. Not too bad, it seemed to me, for someone who

started out as a five-year-old at Charnwood Tennis Club and can still be seen occasionally practising on our courts in Woodhouse Eaves!

Family support for a champion

When it comes to tennis, there's something dynastic about Katie's background. Her grandfather represented Leicestershire for several years and her mother is a former County, National and Veterans GB Champion. I began to develop a certain sympathy for David, Katie's father, who claims no special prowess in the sport! Winning has certainly been Katie's forte from the time she started out playing 'Mini Tennis' to national titles at the age of eight and every year subsequently. She first represented her country at Wimereux in northern France when she was eight and in 2007, when she was still only eleven, she won the Lemon Bowl tournament in Rome, for Europe's top under twelve girls. I spoke to her the day before she set off for Corby to play in the Sixteen Counties tournament and learned the day afterwards that she had won her age group there as well. (By the way, Katie has played hockey at Junior County level, too!!)

It appears there are important European competitions every other week, particularly in the former Eastern Bloc countries and in 2009 Katie will be doing the rounds in the category for younger entrants. She is coached by Nick Gaviano from the USA who also coached Laura Robson, Britain's Junior Wimbledon Champion of 2008, and hearing details of the training and fitness regime she has recently undertaken in Florida leaves me in no doubt as to her determination and commitment. Although she receives a small grant from the Lawn Tennis Association's Matrix Fund, the family have invested heavily in Katie's career and the Boulters have together decided that in order to develop her tennis potential to the full, Katie will not go back to school but will receive appropriate private tuition here and abroad.

On the way to Wimbledon

I'll be very surprised indeed if we don't hear much more about Katie's sporting successes in the future. I may have a vested interest in hoping this is so: Katie tells me that, assuming she remains free of injury, she could be playing Junior Wimbledon in three or four years and the tournament proper a couple of years later. I put in a request for tickets when she first appears on the Centre Court and I wasn't turned down out of hand ... even when I suggested that I detected a slight American accent creeping in to her response to my questions.

To me there is something gladiatorial about tennis and the way true champions are able to exploit ruthlessly the weaknesses of their opponents and I was particularly keen to ask Katie about her heroes – those she really admired as tennis players and as people. She mentioned three: Justine Henin, Andre Agassi and Roger Federer, all of whom are, or have been, champions but who seem also to be calm, self-possessed and essentially agreeable – qualities that are abundantly evident in Katie herself. I'm sure we all wish her success in the coming years.



Tony Lenney

Woodhouses' Fellowship

The Woodhouses' Fellowship have met twice since the last *Roundabout*, in December and already in January this year.

In December our guest speaker was local farmer, Richard Reynolds, who gave us an overview of farming in the past year, highlighting that livestock prices had increased significantly whereas cereal prices had decreased, and the impact that record oil prices had on both vehicle running costs and fertiliser prices.

Did you know that the UK imports over 1 million litres of milk per day and that the UK is now only 60 per cent self-sufficient in food supply?

Richard then entertained us with a quiz asking us to name fourteen items used on a fairly regular basis on the farm. Answers ranged far and wide with some descriptions quite eye-watering! The quiz was won by Diana Barker who managed ten correct replies.

Our first talk of 2009 in January was given by our Chairman, Bill Avery, now 89 years young, who recently received the Annual Parish Award for services to the local community. Bill gave a most entertaining talk about his working life, the various jobs he has had and his life in Woodhouse Eaves where he has now lived for the last 26 years.

Bill has always been interested in engineering and he recollected helping an early next-door neighbour who was a blacksmith. This involved repairing tools left overnight by men excavating fuller's earth and also shrinking metal rims onto wooden wheels. His first job, when fourteen years old, was matching veneers for radio cases and he was fired when he advised the company he had got another job. This new job, in 1934, was with the East Surrey Traction Company, maintaining buses, and in 1935 he moved to Monotype Corporation where he became involved with all aspects of precision metal grinding.



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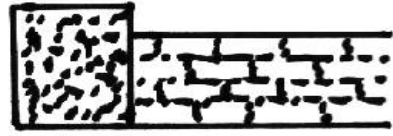
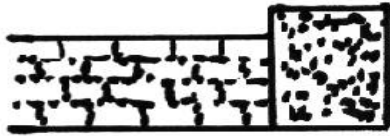
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Across from St Paul's

The Churchyard Gates Are Missing!

Can you help fill this space please!



We had to remove them because they had deteriorated so seriously they'd become too dangerous to leave in place, and, in fact, were beyond repair.

We are now working to replace them at a cost of £4,200

If you would like to support us in this, I would be really grateful. Any donations, cheques payable to 'PCC of Woodhouse Eaves', with a note 'for new churchyard gates', should be sent to Canon R. Anne Horton, The Rectory, Main Street, Swithland, Leics. LE12 8TQ. If you are able to gift aid your donation, please ask me for a gift aid form and I will gladly send you one. (Parish telephone/voice mail: 01509 891 163). The great thing about gift aid is that the Government adds an extra 28p for every £1 donated!

I do thank you for your continuing support.

Canon Anne Horton



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This position, involving the manufacture of breech blocks for Bren guns, lasted until 1945 when Bill was called up to the RAF, where, in view of his engineering expertise, he was nominated to be a cook! During this time, Bill met his wife, who was a sergeant and Bill, as a lowly 'erk (a term for the lowest rank in the RAF) had to be in civvies to go out with her!

He then worked at Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick in Lancashire, managing their grinding shop from 1954 to 1965 and then moved to TJB Engineering, Leicester, where his knowledge of machining titanium was paramount. Bill still retains a relationship with this company and lived at Cropston for 22 years before moving to Woodhouse Eaves.

Meetings are open to all and we meet in the Village Hall the first Tuesday of each month – everyone is most welcome.

Stuart Tyler

Local History Group

The weather does not seem to be on our side lately as, once again, the rain came down to coincide with our December meeting.

Nevertheless this did not deter a large audience from arriving to listen to a fascinating talk by Jo Carter, who told us all about celebrating Christmas Victorian style, dressed in an attractive period costume.

Jo was once a tour guide at Warwick Castle where she was involved with organising their Christmas celebrations, which gave her an insight into how the Victorians celebrated the festive season. For example, presents were given as today, but mostly only small ones; many were home-made, and they were not normally wrapped. Jo had brought along a large selection of items connected with Christmas.

The more important part of the festivities was 'eating'. The dining table was very highly decorated, so much so that it was sometimes impossible to see who was sitting opposite. The tablecloth had to be white, and reached right down to the floor ensuring that the table legs were not 'indecently exposed' to the genteel sight of the diners!

It was in the Victorian period that Christmas trees and Christmas cards became fashionable, an idea that was started by Prince Albert. Again many of the cards would have been hand-made.

The second part of our Christmas meeting was a musical quiz about various past BBC radio and television theme tunes. 'Housewives Choice' failed to be recognised, but 'Dick Barton – Special Agent' gained almost 100%, while everyone joined in singing 'Muffin the Mule'. Those were the days – who needs the 'X' Factor?

Brian Axon

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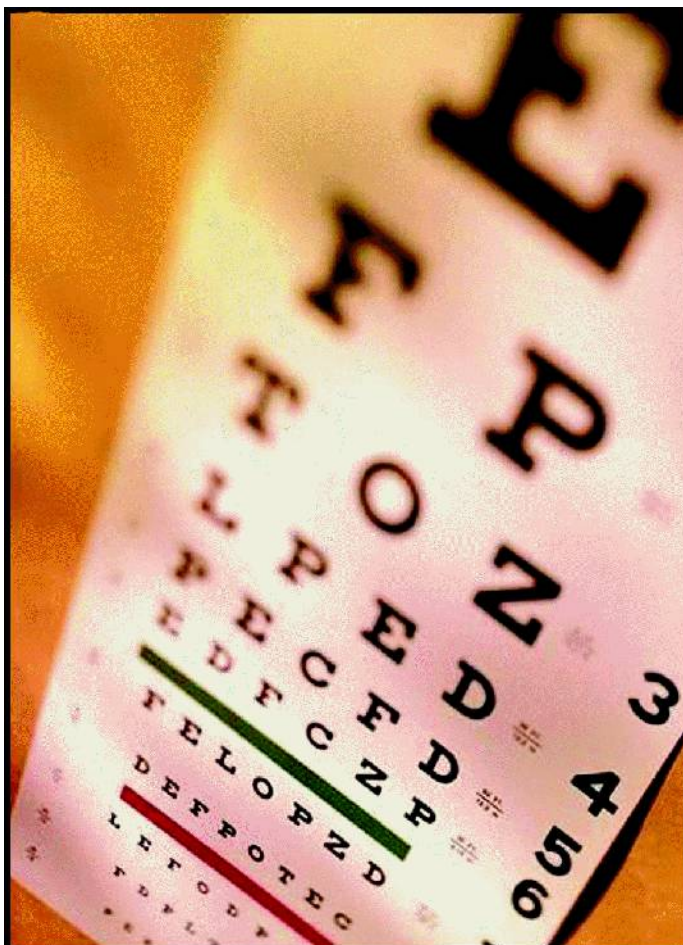
Cricket

At the recent AGM of the Cricket Club Andy Simpson was unanimously appointed President in succession to Don Bennett who is standing down after 10 years in the post. The other change in the administrative side is significant as Louise Stovell takes over as Treasurer – the first time in living memory that a woman has served on the Committee.

On the playing side Steve Markley remains as 1st XI captain with Paul Oliver as his vice captain. The 2nd XI will be led in Division 1 by Malcolm Stewart, who will be supported by Martin Palmer. The only other change of officials is in the Thursday 2nd XI where Chris Evans takes over the captaincy from Bruno Rost.

The club have started winter nets. These are held from 8.00–9.00 pm every Thursday at The National Academy, Loughborough University. Anyone interested in coming along should contact Don Bennett on (01509) 890 828.

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The last word ...

Newspaper headlines never fail

Sub-editors may work under extreme pressure, but what were they thinking of when they wrote the following?

Kids make nutritious snacks

Eye drops off shelf

Stolen painting found by tree

Squad helps dog bite victim

Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says.

If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while

Plane too close to ground, crash probe told.

Cold wave linked to temperature

– from *The Graphic, Newbold Verdon & District Monthly Magazine*, January 2009, p.12

Will future parking be perfect?

Mobile phone 'anthropologist', Jan Chipchase, asks in a *New Scientist* blog, 'when self-parking cars become the norm, will they all be indistinguishably perfectly lined up? Or will different brands park in identifiably different ways?'

– from *The New Scientist*, 12 January 2009

www.newscientist.com/



OK ... So how do I get in?

When is a date not a date?

The Onion recently reported on a warning that the next 9/11 could in fact occur on a different date.

The warning, 'based on intelligence gathered by field-agents, found that a future 9/11 might take place on an entirely new month and day, including 4/24, 6/13, or even 10/12 ... [and] ... the nation could realistically find itself in the midst of a 5/25 scenario, as well as a potential 3/14 situation in the months to come.' *The Onion* reports that '8/28, 6/19, and 11/7 were also cited as possible 9/11s.'

– from *The Onion: America's Finest News Source*, Issue 45-02, 10 January 2009

www.theonion.com/content/news/terror_experts_warn_next_9_11

Odd spot

Berlin police officers arrested each other as robbers made off with the cash after holding up a bottle shop. Plain-clothes policemen arrived at the store minutes after the hold-up but were arrested by uniformed officers seconds afterwards. The crooks escaped.

– from 'Odd Spot', *The Age*, 12 January, 2009

Contributions of light-hearted and interesting items like these are welcome. Ed.

Contributions to *Roundabout*

We publish items of interest to the communities of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves, such as news of local events, groups and businesses in accordance with the editorial policy (see inside front cover). We do not publish notices of births, deaths or marriages. We accept advertisements from charities and/or other fund-raising organisations. We can also write up people's stories for those who prefer to talk, rather than write. Most articles are under 600 words and we think they should be!

Format: electronic copy in 'Word' is most useful, although we accept hand-written items that are legible.

Pictures are welcome: digital if you have them, otherwise prints.

Adverts: brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free, but requests for further publicity, even for charities, will normally incur a charge per issue of £7.50 for a quarter page or £15.00 for a half page. Full-page advertisements are not normally accepted, but this is negotiable. Contact the advertising manager, Grahame Sibson, on (01509) 891 629 or via the methods listed at the bottom of the page.

What's on: contact Eric Allsop on (01509) 890 054, or *Roundabout* at the address below.

Copy deadline: please see the bottom of page 3.

Send any material for *Roundabout* by:

E-mail: roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

Hand or post: *Roundabout*, Woodhouse Eaves Post Office, 45 Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8RG.

What's on locally in February

Mon	2 nd	7.00 7.30	Parish Council Plans Committee Parish Council meeting	Village Hall, anyone may attend
Tue	3 rd	7.30	Woodhouses' Fellowship	Village Hall
Mon	9 th	7.30	Local History Group, 'History of your house', Pat Grundy	Methodist Church
Wed	11 th	6.15	Welbeck College open evening Book asap (01509) 890 050	Welbeck College
Sat	14 th	8.00	New Orleans Traditional Jazz with 'Blue Garden Jazz Band' £7.50 from Woodhouse News, Main Street or from (01509) 890 995	Village Hall
Wed	18 th	7.30	Women's Institute, 'Smarty pants', Audrey Matthews; Competition, 'Fancy knickers'. Open meeting.	Village Hall
Thu	19 th	7.00 7.30	Woodhouses Garden Club AGM 'My life on Bradgate Park', D. Haimes	Village Hall
Mon	23 rd	7.30	Public meeting to discuss affordable housing in Woodhouse Eaves	Village Hall
Tue	24 th	7.30	Centre Stage: 'Swingers in suspenders', 1930s–1950s swing musical cabaret. Tickets £8, children £4 from the Post Office or (01509) 890 721.	Village Hall
New classes				
Tue	pm	7.30– 9.00	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex
Thu	am	9.30– 11.00	Rosemary Conley, Diet and Fitness Club	Village Hall

The Evergreens meet fortnightly on Tuesdays, 3rd and 17th February, 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Looking ahead: Thurs 5th March, 7.00 pm, Charnwood Area Forum (covering Woodhouse Parish) at Woolden Hill Primary School, Anstey. Details www.leicestershireforums.org/mount

Sat/Sun 6th/7th June, Open Gardens, in aid of St Paul's Church.