

All Saints Church

Church Tower Repair Work

I am pleased to inform that the work on the tower of the church has been proceeding so well, I'm told it will be completed early, despite the finding of a few extra stones requiring replacement. Hopefully this will mean an early removal of the scaffolding.



The total cost of this will be £32,168. Thanks to the generosity of our villagers and visitors, we have raised £3,566 in donations. A further total of £10,112 has been given to us as grants from charities, the Diocese of Leicester, and by the village. Fundraising by way of coffee mornings, a cheese and wine tasting evening, a jazz evening and a wine raffle have collected a further £1,387. This is again thanks to support from the villagers who have joined in. We are immensely grateful to all those who have donated, to those who have organised these and other fundraising events and to those who have attended them. We are particularly proud that the village as small as ours can raise so much.

The remaining £17,103 will need to be made up from our reserve fund. A year ago, we estimated that we could release up to £13,000 from this fund and still maintain an "emergency" level of finance in it for the forthcoming years. It is also anticipated that the other necessary work, including repairing the perimeter wall, refurbishment of the bells and some repair work on the chancel ceiling, will cost a further £10,000.

We are hoping to organise some further fundraising events this year, so please look out for them in Keyham News and support them as best you can by coming and bringing your friends and families.

Also, if anyone would like to donate, or would like to sign up for a regular donation to the church, however small, but who have not had the opportunity, please contact me or Eden Douglas.

**Our next service at All Saints will be
Holy Communion at 10.30am on Sunday 16th March.**

Richard chapwin@btinternet.com

Keyham Parish Meeting



Village Meeting

The Annual Keyham Parish Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 29th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**. Please make a note in your diaries. Further details in next month's KN.

Tony Johnson

Spring Litter Pick



I am arranging the next litter pick "Spring Clean" for **Sunday 23rd March**. Please could we meet at the bus shelter on Kings Lane at 11:00 am. Bags, pickers and PPE will be provided. The surrounding roads are badly in need of a tidy, in particular 'Red Bull Alley'! Any questions, just ask.

Richard S

COFFEE IN THE CHURCH

All welcome on

Saturday 15th March
11am -12.30 pm

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat,
And admire the stonework of the tower

Suggested donation £2 to Church Tower Fund

Congratulations



Tony celebrates his 93rd birthday in the D&G with his four grandchildren



Margaret and David (ex-Tanglewood) celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Village Hall AGM

The Village Hall Management Committee AGM will be held on Monday 10th March at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

John Hughes, Chairman
Keyham Village Hall Management Committee

Keyham News Deadline

The deadline for
KN April edition is
Monday 31st March
Articles and photographs to
The Lodge or keyhamnews@btinternet.com
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Keyham Village Website

MURMURATION OF AN 80'S COMEBACK

As the mornings have got brighter, and more importantly warmer over the last few weeks, the dawn chorus has become noticeable again. The old country adage about warmer nights lead to more bird song was proven 25 years ago by a University of Oxford study that concluded that after a cold night, birds were more concerned with conserving energy and staying warm rather than singing to attract a mate.

Not only is the village experiencing the return of the dawn chorus, the hedges and fields around Keyham are teeming with bird song. But rather than the songs of the wren, blue tit or robins the fields are alive with starlings from Barkby Holt to Scruptoft and over to Quenby Hall.

Back in the mid-eighties, Leicester was overrun with starlings who took a liking to Abbey Park to roost. The council tried numerous ways to try and move them on but with no success. Since then starling numbers have declined rapidly and are now on the red list of threatened species, meaning their breeding population has declined by at least 50% over the last 25 years.

This year they have bucked the trend, and arrived in huge numbers locally. Starlings begin to arrive from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe in the autumn and group up into huge numbers to roost between November and February, before dispersing to breed in April. Some of the larger roost can contain over a million birds.

It is when these large flocks come together they create a murmuration. By sheer weight of numbers they create a single fluid moving entity across the sky that morphs into a helix shape, like a coil spring or thread on a screw. It is often described as being one of the greatest sights in nature, particularly if it has a backdrop of a sunset. There are a number of reasons for these aerial acrobatics; it helps them to stay warm; find food; and provides safety in numbers, as it makes it harder for predators such as sparrowhawks to pick them off.



Although there are large groups around Keyham the population and the murmurations are centred around Rearsby and the fields of Ashby Folville and Old Dalby. The murmurations around Rearsby have featured on the national news and have attracted ornithologist from around the country. The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust described the murmurations around Rearsby as being a “once in a lifetime” event.

However this feat of natural does come at a price. The villagers constantly have to wash their cars and clean up after their noisy visitors and for the local livestock farmers they pose a real threat of spreading disease.

Steve

Michael and Rebecca in South Africa

Back in January Rebecca and I escaped the worst of the winter weather by taking two wonderful weeks of holiday in Cape Town.



Taking off from cold, dark wintry London and waking up sunny, bright summery South Africa feels (one imagines) a little bit like dying and going to heaven!



Some highlights from our time there:

Staying in Llandudno - A gorgeous spot for watching the sunset over the Atlantic - and much nicer than the other Llandudno! Climbing Table Mountain on our 5th wedding anniversary. We went up via the Skeleton Gorge and Kirstenbosch Botanical gardens... and felt we had earned our drink at the summit cafe more than those who had gone up the cable car! Lots of cycling for Michael. Walking up Lions Head to watch the sunset and the full moon rise. Eating lots of steak and drinking lots of wine (with the added bonus that the exchange rate makes it's incredibly cheap).

Michael and Rebecca

A Worthy Savour

In my bag for life
I keep a spray of silence
which is there to use
if I smell an argument
the aroma of a gossip
fumes of disappointment
any rancid sense
or the stench of anger
which if left to linger
can really spoil the day.

Beauty

Is the mystic thrill
in those magic notes
made into a harmony
the rapture of a vision
in flesh or a material
or in a set of words
meeting to be heard
all forming keys within
which unlock heart and soul.

On Duty

I am a serving soldier
in my family regiment
trained to stand in line
or in a hollow square
to defy the enemy
which we always do
in our line of duty
while ignoring any fallen
and the risk of injury
or of a sudden death
from attacking cavalry
as the brave and proud tradition
we maintain as traffic cones.

Opera

Here a voice is heard
plucking at your heart
to produce the music
resounding in your soul.

Oddly

Dog and Gun News



Keyham History

From Keyham Facebook Page and Leicester Advertiser.....

Hi Samantha, My family has quite a history with Keyham - My Great Grandfather lived in the White House where he started a foundry in the garden.

Harrisons Foundry built some cottages in the village for their workers.

My Grandfather attended the school and my parents lived there for several years - eventually selling to my grandparents in about 1980.

At the same time my uncle lived in the farmhouse behind - which has a long drive, down from Main Street (I don't know the house name) and my Auntie moved in there when they left!

See the extract from the Leicester Advertiser September 1971 on page 6. My parents are in the group photo with my two sisters. I wasn't born back then!

Regards, Bryony Walton

Jamie's Joke

Doctor gave me three months to live. So I shot him.

Judge gave me 30 YEARS!

Result!

KEYHAM NEWS

This email has been sent to all Parish Councils and Parish Meetings.

Please see attached a joint statement by leaders of the district and borough councils in Leicestershire following the Government's confirmation today that the county council elections in Leicestershire will go ahead in May and that the area is not part of the English Devolution Priority programme.



5 February 2025

For immediate release

Joint statement by leaders of the district and borough councils in Leicestershire

Leaders of the seven district and borough councils in Leicestershire have issued a statement following the Government's confirmation that the county council elections in Leicestershire will go ahead in May and the area is not part of the English Devolution Priority programme.

The council leaders said in a joint statement: "We welcome the Government's decision to continue with the county council elections this year.

"This provides a more achievable timetable to develop proposals for a future local government structure for Leicestershire and Rutland.

"Importantly, it provides more time to engage and consult with our communities about how we move forward. Your voice must be heard in this process.

"Our communities are at the forefront of our minds when planning how best to deliver services in the future, not only to make sure they feel connected and able to influence those decisions, but also retain a sense of pride in the places they live and work. That is clearly important to people.

"It will also provide more time to gather the evidence to support our proposals which we are confident will deliver savings to ensure funding is channelled towards frontline services. The district councils are working together on these plans.

"We have already made it clear that we have grave concerns over Leicestershire County Council's proposals for a single unitary council for Leicestershire. With a population of around 750,000 people and 800-square miles of countryside including many towns and villages, it would be one of the biggest unitary authorities in the country. This would be too remote, too cumbersome and inaccessible, from the communities we serve.

"For the sake of our communities, we must keep the local in local government."

ENDS

Notes to editors

The leaders of the district and borough councils are listed below.

- Cllr Terry Richardson, Leader of Blaby District Council
- Cllr Jewel Miah, Leader of Charnwood Borough Council
- Cllr Phil Knowles, Leader of Harborough District Council
- Cllr Stuart Bray, Leader of Hinckley and Bosworth District Council
- Cllr Pip Allnatt, Leader of Melton Borough Council
- Cllr Richard Blunt, Leader of North West Leicestershire District Council
- Cllr Samia Haq, Leader of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

The City of Leicester Singers

St James the Greater Church
London Road, Leicester
Saturday April 5th 2025
7.00 p.m.

Mozart Requiem

Caroline Essex - Soprano
Lindsey Ashwin - Alto
Tom Stanyard - Tenor
Andrew Ashwin - Bass
Conductor - Richard Archer
Organist - John Pye

Tickets £12 under 16s free,
From choir members, at the door or
www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk

Tickets from Claire

3 UK BLUES AWARD 2025 NOMINEE

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Doors 7pm | Music 7:30pm

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**PLEASE BRING YOUR
OWN REFRESHMENTS**

Billesdon Surgery

Patient Participation Group (PPG) Newsletter (1/2)

PPG News

As per our constitution, PPG meetings are held at least two times per year and chaired by a patient representative appointed annually by the group. At our last PPG meeting John Dyson, our current chair, felt it was time to stand down but kindly offered to assume the position of vice-chair which was vacant. Sue Swann put herself forward to fill the role of chair and both appointments were ratified by those present at the meeting. John has been an active member of the PPG since 2016 and we thank him not only for stepping in to fulfil both positions but also for his extremely valuable contributions towards the functioning of the PPG.

Practice News

- The surgery always has an **on-call doctor** available Monday to Friday on 0116 259 6206.
- Feedback on the new **call-back feature** associated with the booking of an **on the day appointment** has been positive. There is no advantage in using a landline in preference to a mobile phone or vice versa. You will be offered the choice of either remaining on the line or requesting a call-back whilst still retaining your position in the queue; a call-back will then require you to press 1.
- The practice continues to welcome fully qualified doctors who are training to become GPs. The **GP Registrars** who are currently with the practice are **Dr Kainth** (until end of March) and **Dr Rajoo** (until end of April).
- Other **staff changes** have been seen in the **Nursing, Dispensary and Reception** teams. We wish a very happy retirement to both Practice Nurse **Trish** who retired after 15 years with the surgery, and to Receptionist **Cat. Donna** left the dispensary for a change of career. A **warm welcome** is extended to Lead Practice Nurse **Lindsey** and Practice Nurse **Sylvia**, Dispensers **Cheryl** and **Joanne**, and Trainee Dispenser **Leanna** and Reception Team Lead **Tara**.
- The following **Additional Health Services** are available at Billesdon Surgery:
 - Physiotherapy
 - Clinical Pharmacist
 - Social Prescribing Link Worker
 - Mental Health Practitioner

Appointments can be made by calling the surgery on 0116 259 6206 or by speaking directly to a member of staff at the surgery itself.

Further details of these services will follow in the next PPG Newsletter, but in the meantime can also be found on the practice website at <https://practice365.co.uk/c82022/2024/07/25/additional-health-services/>

Billesdon Surgery

Patient Participation Group (PPG) Newsletter (2/2)

The Dispensary

Medicines can be dispensed at Billesdon to all patients who live more than one mile/1.6km from the nearest pharmacy.

Dispensary opening times are between 8.30am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Phone number 0116 216 7260.

Repeat Prescriptions

Please request your repeat prescriptions via the NHS App, SystemOnline or other online service provider.

Alternatively, the best way to order your prescriptions is to send an **email** to BillesdonSurgery.Dispensary@nhs.net; this mailbox is monitored throughout the day. If your query is urgent, mark your email as **URGENT** in the subject header. Please do not send non-medication orders to the above email address and note that requests sent to other surgery email addresses may delay your order.

Patients who are housebound can also request prescriptions by calling 0116 216 7260 between 11am and 1pm Monday to Friday. This line can be very busy at times so please keep trying or use the other ordering methods above.

Your prescription will be issued provided that the doctor is willing to prescribe the item requested without seeing you. The time taken to prepare your prescription allows the doctor adequate time to check your request and review your medication where appropriate. This system ensures a high standard of care.

It is recommended that orders are made **10 days** before you are due to run out.

Orders placed on a weekend, bank holiday or in the evening are not processed until the **next working day**.

If you require further supplies of medicines which may have been prescribed in the past, please allow **extra time** for this to be processed.

Allow **5 full working days** before collecting your prescription. For example, if ordered on a Monday it will be ready the following week on the Tuesday. Please avoid asking for a prescription before the 5 days are up as this causes delays in processing other patients' prescriptions.

A text message will be sent to your mobile phone when your prescription is ready, but please be aware that if your mobile phone is not on record or you have dissented from receiving text messages the dispensary will be unable to send you a reminder.

Prescriptions requested to be **sent to a pharmacy** (EPS – Electronic Prescription Service) take **2 working days** to be processed and forwarded to the pharmacy.

If you need an urgent re-supply of repeat medications when the surgery is closed, please telephone 111.