THE CLAYPOLE GROUP OF VILLAGES

CLAYPOLE, DRY DODDINGTON, FENTON, STUBTON, WESTBOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



LOCAL INFORMATION CLAYPOLE

Priest in Charge: Jon Speirs-Davies email: ion.sd@lincoln.anglican.org

Mobile: 07766 486452

Churchwardens: John Padley, 9 The Cottage, School Lane, 01636 626510

Bridget Rosewell 2 Main Street Claypole 07836 215181

Parish Council Clerk: vacancy info needed

Parish Council website: http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/claypole;

www.facebook.com/claypoleparishcouncil; www.facebook.com/

clavpoleleisurepark

Claypole C of E School: 01636 626268 www.claypoleprimary.org

Claypole Brownies- Please register at girlquiding.org.uk/joinus or contact Sarah on 07765 791882 for further details

School Hall- contact Claypole School 01636 626268

Claypole Village Hall bookings: www.claypolevillagehall.org/onlinebooking

DRY DODDINGTON Churchwarden: Dick Loynes 07899 787057

richardloynes@btinternet.com

Parish Council Clerk: VACANCY

Village Hall bookings: Brian Beddows 07552 757242

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Mike Hine, Hazelwood, Manor House

Lane, 01400 282690 email- mikehine38@hotmail.com STUBTON Churchwarden: Mike Libby tel - 01636 626028

mglibbyl4@gmail.com

Parish Council Clerk: stubtonclerk@gmail.com Village Hall bookings: stubtonyh@gmail.com

WESTBOROUGH

Churchwardens: John Lawrence, Sandalwood. Town Street 01400 281850 Mavis Arnold, Holmes Farm, Long Bennington NG23 5EB 01400 281282 Village Hall Bookings: Jane Ford 01400 281206 jane.h.ford1@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: vacancy

FENTON

Parish Meeting Website www.fentonvillage.com. chair.fentonvillage@gmail.com **Chairman Parish Meeting**

Clerk: Graham Doney, clerk.fentonvillage@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Libby Mason, Corner Cottage, Main Street, Fenton

01636 627178

DOCTORS: LONG BENNINGTON SURGERY 01400 281220

CAYTHORPE -SURGERY 01400 272215

L.I.V.E.S. Coordinator Linda Kingston 01400 272740 lfkingston@hotmail.co.uk Treasurer - David Harvey david.l.harvey@ btinternet.com

LOCAL POLICE: PC Mark Barr 07973 845128.

If you ring 999 state "Lincolnshire Police" or your NG postcode will get the Nottingham force and delay any response!

Letter from your Editor



Hello!

Definitely Spring! Driving down to Long Bennington beween banks of blackthorn bushes sparkling with white flowers against the dark stems - wonderful!

It's still a bit too cold to sit outside painting and drawing although that is what I love doing. So I take photos and paint from my iPad instead in a place where it's nice and warm. Back in the day when I used to be agent/roadie/dogsbody to my late partner's band, in the hours of waiting around I used to go with my minimal art kit, drawing people with my sketchbook hidden under a table, so it didn't freak anyone out. I have even drawn dandelions in the car park to avoid anyone thinking I was bored - and then kindly but misguidedly treating me to an account of their grandchildren - aaargh!

There are more opportunities than ever these days to scoff tea and cake in the company of your friends - both Dry Dod and Claypole have started get-togethers as well as the long established Good Neighbours scheme. That's serious cake! It's good that those working from home and those of us retired (in theory anyway!) can take a break and meet each other.

Yes, being retired is not what I thought when I considered it years and years ago when working all hours. It's just as busy as work! I know that many of my contemporaries would think the same! We have all volunteered to help our communities - or been volunteered, not sure which in some cases - and it all takes time. At least we won't die of boredom! New volunteers always needed!

Spring is the best!

Best wishes, Jane

Info for MAY 2025 EDITION By 16th APRIL please

The Ings, Town Street, Westborough NG23 5HJ 01400 281206 email jane.h.ford1@gmail.com

From the Vicarage

This Easter, our sermon series has centred on dramatic episodes from Jesus's life, like his transfiguration on the mountain and his temptation in the wilderness.

On the mountain, Jesus's face shone with a miraculous light. This echoes Moses's encounter with God on Mount Sinai thousands of years prior, when his face also shone. When Moses descended the mountain, he brought the tablets of the law. When Jesus descended the mountain, he brought nothing but himself. Rather than a list of rules for us to do, Jesus offers us himself as the model for how we might be.

In the wilderness, Jesus faced temptation, much like the story of Adam in the Garden of Eden. Adam had all he could ever want but gave in to temptation almost immediately. Jesus, however, having spent 40 days without food or shelter in the opposite of a garden, resists temptation again and again. Jesus is often called the new Adam. The first Adam models a life of do anything. Jesus, as the new Adam, models how to be our best selves.

Jesus blows apart ideas of religion as stuff we do—rituals to perform, rules to follow. The old WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelets encouraged this mindset. But a better question is: Who Would Jesus Be? His way isn't just about mere actions but about our best selves... our identity.

This Easter may you find time to ask yourself, "Who do I want to be?" Asking this question is what led me to Christ, as he shows again and again what it's like to be my best self: who my creator blessed me to be. Through all of life's ups and downs, my own failings included, I've never looked back. Have a happy Easter!

Revd. Jon Speirs-Davies

Events Calendar 2025

April

Fri 4 Westborough annual quiz for the cup

Tues 8 WI at Westborough Bridget talking about on geneaology

Fri 11 6:30: Claypole Cinema - Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets with *pop up takeaway* by George is Cooking

Sat 12 Spring Fayre & Easter Egg Hunt Westborough

Sat 19 Good Neighbours Stubton village hall

Mon 21 10:30am-12:30: Co-op Community Cuppa Claypole

Thur 24 Coffee morning at Dry Doddington village hall

Sat 26 Reconstructing the Arnolfini gown: talk in Long Ben V Hall

Sat 26 The Peel - wood fired pizzas pop up takeaway night

May

Fri 2 7pm: Claypole Cinema Club - Twisters (12)

Fri 2 5:30-8pm: George is Cooking pop up takeaway night

Sun 4 10am-1pm: Claypole Garage Sale Safari & village breakfast

Mon 5 VE Day 80th celebrations

Sat 10 Coffee morning & plant and craft stalls Westborough village hall

Tue 13 WI Westborough Pat on her glass hobby

Fri 16 Claypole School Quiz Night

Mon 19 Good Neighbours Alpaca Centre

Mon 19 10:30am-12:30: Co-op Community Cuppa Claypole

June

Tue 10 WI outing to Civil War Museum

Thurs 19 Good Neighbours Westborough village hall

Sat 28 Women in the Mediaeval English Forest fun talk Long Ben V Hall

July

Fri 4 Claypole School Summer Fayre

Sat 5 Concert of Mediaeval Music Westborough church

Sun 13 Westborough Village Fete

Sat 19 Good Neighbours Stubton village hall

Send your event dates as soon as available Let's try to avoid clashes!



Collecting used stamps

I know we get comparatively few nowadays but Bransby Horses Rescue & Welfare can make thousands of pounds from them!



Please pass stamps to Mavis Arnold or Jane Ford or any WI member

Westborough Annual Quiz for the cup!

Friday 4th April

Westborough Village Hall

7.30 for 8.00 start sharp!

Teams of up to 6 — £2.00 per person.

Westborough challenges the other villages to see if they can steal the cup out of our village!





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CLAYPOLE CINEMA CLUB

UPCOMING FILMS

Cinema Club membership costs just £10 per year for an individual & £25 for a family of 4 and you can attend as many screenings as you like for that price. Guest passes are also available.

Join here: bit.ly/ClaypoleCinema

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

PG-rated family film FOOD BY GEORGE IS COOKING

FRIDAY 11th APRIL doors open 6pm film starts 7pm

TWISTERS

12-rated film FOOD BY GEORGE IS COOKING FRIDAY 2ND MAY

doors open 6:30pm film starts 7:30pm

FUTURE DATES:

20 June: MONICA, 18 July: UNTOUCHABLE

Claypole Cinema Club is a 'social cinema' seated around tables, with beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks available to buu.

Good Neighbours



All are welcome, please come and join us

Coffee mornings are open to all, so please do come along and see how enjoyable they are.

Saturday 19th April, this month, we are at Stubton Village Hall. The time as usual would be 10.30 to 12.00 and there will be tea/coffee and

cake. The cost will be just £2 per person, and everyone is welcome.

Monday 19th May, this month we are at The Alpaca Centre, Clensey Lane, Dry Doddington, Newark NG23 5HYT. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can get. The cost will be £2 as usual, and the time will be 10.30 to 12.00.

Thursday 19th June, this month we will be at Westborough Village Hall. The time will be 10.30-12.00 and there will be tea/coffee nd cake. The cost will be just £2 per person and everyone is welcome.

Saturday 19th July, this month, we are at Stubton Village Hall. The time as usual would be 10.30 to 12.00 and there will be tea/coffee and cake. The cost will be just £2 per person, and everyone is welcome.

If you need to contact me our email is lindaandderek1@sky.com or contact me by phone on 07456 475964, you can leave your name and number, and I will get back to you.

If you have any ideas as to what you would like to do at Good Neighbours please let me know.

Kind regards Linda and Derek Drury

The March 100 club winners;:





See https://www.drydoddingtonvillagehall.co.uk/100-club which has the details and joining form if you want to take part.

Dry Doddington Community Café

When: Last Thursday of every month 10 -12.

Fancy a cuppa and a chat?

The village hall will be open on the last Thursday of every month between **10:00 - 12:00** for people to visit and socialise over a cuppa and slice of cake.

A drink and a slice of cake start at £2 and everyone is welcome.

So save the date and pop in.
Thursday 24th April

Stitches in Time: Reconstructing the Arnolfini Gown



An illustrated talk by Ninya Mikhaila

The Arnolfini portrait painted by Jan Van Eyck in 1434 is one of the best known mediaeval portraits in the world.

Ninya returns by popular request and will give insights and details of the reconstruction processes of that famous gown for the BBC programme, and will bring along the reconstructed gown to be on display during the talk.

Saturday 26th April 7.30pm Long Bennington Village Hall

Come along to your local

COMMUNITY CUPPA

It's a great way to meet new friends, find out what's happening locally and enjoy a cuppa.

21st April	15th September
19th May	20th October
16th June	17th November
21st July	15th December
18th August	19th January 2026

10:30am - 12:30pm

Claypole Village Hall, Main Street, Claypole, NG23 5BA JOIN US FOR...

CLAYPOLE'S 4TH Garage Sale Safari



Buy your map from the Village Hall & set off on a bargain hunt.
Breakfast cobs served from 9:30am

10am-1pm Sunday 4th May

Sign up for a stall here: bit.lyClaypoleSafari2025 or scan the QR code



Back up date, in case of bad weather: Monday 5th May





EVENTS

APRIL 13TH PALM SUNDAY

9:30 @ COULBY ROOM, CLAYPOLE VILLAGE HALL TO WALK A DONKEY TO ST. PETERS 10:30 SHORT SERVICE AND CAKE

APRIL 19TH EASTER FUN

ST. SWITHUN'S LONG BENNINGTON

2:30-4PM

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Winter time: Mon to Fri: 7am to 7pm Sat: 7:30 to 7pm Sun : 8am to 5pm

Farmyard Tails

Spring has sprung and our thoughts and work here on the farm turn to calving and grass growth.

We have 11 Highlands due to calve this year, we took the decision to retire quite a few last year. We have had 4 cows calve to date, 2 heifers and 2 steers so far. These are all doing very well. They are having a run around a small paddock during the day and coming inside at night.

As our fold of Highlands get older we keep a close eye on them to determine whether they are strong enough to calve the next year.

The main factor we take into account is how fit the cow is when she is feeding the calf. Some cows "milk off their backs" a term used when the cow uses her own supply of body fat to produce milk for her calf. These cows will then loose weight and body condition quickly during lactation which means they will have to be fed a high protein feed pellet to help them. Other cows stay quite chunky throughout lactation and these are considered to be a better cow and a breeding line worth keeping.

Hopefully next month (April) we will start turning the cows and any calves that have been born out to pasture.

This reduces our workload considerably which is good and means we have more time to do other jobs around the farm.

We have to ensure the difference between daytime and night time temperatures are stable as a large fluctuation can stress a calf and cause pneumonia which can in many cases be fatal if not picked up quickly. We walk around the groups of cattle at least twice a day when they are out checking all is ok. Milking problems, flys around the teats, udder problems etc all have to be addressed should they arise.

It is vitally important to get the cows out onto the spring grass as early as possible. The spring grass is lush and very high in sugars which in turn boosts milk production and calf growth.

The fields will be rolled to flatten any lumps and harrowed to pull out any dead thatch (like a grass rake but on a larger scale) this allows the new fresh grass shoots to emerge.

Some of our fields are for hay production only. We tend to use the fields near to the house as grazing fields as it's not so far to walk to check the cows.

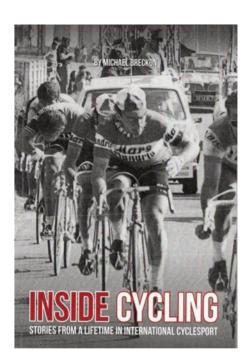
Last years Hedgehog is appearing each night for his cat food and I hope he/she will be joined by another one this year, fingers crossed.

Our Toulouse geese are laying well as are our mixed bunch of hens.

A sure sign that at last Spring is here and summer hopefully is not far behind. See you next month,

Tracey





Michael Breckon

A Lifetime in International Cycling

One of my lovely neighbours is Michael Breckon, a most unassuming man with a fascinating and great history in the world of international cycling. He has completed and self published a 230 page book about his times in this sport. There is an accompanying web site that contains images collected over 50 years of the "greats" in cycling, many of which have not been previously made public.

Michael was born in Kent and by the age of 10 lived in Harrogate, Yorkshire. In 1953, aged16, he bought a bike and thought nothing of cycling 204 miles to London overnight to join in the Coronation celebrations. After National Service he started to compete in road time trials with The Yorkshire Road Club, winning several titles and getting best results. Not having a university degree resulted in limited career options so Michael and his wife emigrated to Montreal in Canada in 1962. He got involved in organising cycling championships, planning



Belgian Emille Severyns would bring the crowd to its feet with this electrifying attack on the track. He is going at high speed on the velodrome track. Picture Maurice Jefferies routes etc as well as commentating on national TV about the sport. He became Marketing Director for Air Canada. This involved a lot of international travel - one week experiencing 16 time changes and 12,000 air miles before a national road race championship at the weekend. He also managed the Canadian Cycling Team at the

ill fated Munich Olympics.

Beryl Burton, a Yorkshire Champion dominating a time-trial.



Returning to the UK Michael was asked to create and manage the

Team Raleigh cycling team, which went on to achieve great results. In his last year of racing, at the age of 63, he managed a 25 mile time trial in 58 minutes and in a



Michael on the right training with Team Raleigh

12 hour race he cycled 220 miles. As well as being involved in Tour de France and many other prestigious cycling events, Michael found time to create routes on the UK National Cycling Network enjoyed by many people today.

Michael is now enjoying a well earned rest in Fulbeck with his wife Carole. What a life!!

Robert Prabucki

Kathleen's Kitchen

I took this to our WI Art & Craft Group & it was so popular, that there was none left. I was asked if I could put the recipe in our Parish Magazine, so here it is.

Fruit Tea Loaf (All weights & measures are approximate) Ingredients

12oz/350 grams mixed dried fruit (I used Raisins, Sultanas, Glacé Cherries & Crystalised Pineapple). Or any fruit, divided into whatever quantities preferred. **6oz/180 grams Dark Brown Sugar** (f you want it sweeter, use 8oz)

1/2 pint/300 ml of hot & very strong tea (I used Yorkshire tea using 3 tea bags, 10oz/275 grams of Self-raising Flour or Plain Flour & 2 tsp of Baking Powder Zest of a lemon (I squeezed some of the juice into the mixture after zesting) 1 large egg - beaten

Instructions

Put the dried fruit and sugar in a bowl and pour over the hot tea.

Leave to soak overnight, or if you can't wait that long, then do it for 3 hours.

Heat the oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2

Line a 900g/2lb loaf tin with baking parchment or use a loaf tin liner

Add the flour, lemon zest and beaten egg and stir with a spoon till mixed through. Bake for 60 mins to 90 mins (Ovens vary, so do it until it is well risen, firm to the touch and a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean).

Leave to cool in the tin for 15 - 20 minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to cool. Once cooled serve sliced (we had it without butter)

This freezes well - defrost the night before you need it.



News from Claypole & District Women's Institute

Further info online from Kathleen or Jane

In March was our AGM and the Usual Suspects were re-elected to their positions. You get what you deserve! Kathleen set us her usual quiz where one answer is always Elvis! President Jane thanked everyone for the fun and willingmess to help that made our little groupan enjoyable night out each month.

On Tuesday April 8th at Westborough, Bridget Castle will talk about genealogy.
On May 13th at Westborough, Pat Stopford will be describing "Fused Glass - a passion". She will also have some of her handmade items for sale.

We have agreed to support the Women's Refuge all year round, not just at Christmas. Having met one of the staff in person, at a craft get-together recently, we are now clearer about what is required all year round. Kathleen takes supplies usually around once a month. Please let Kathleen know of any donations you have.

Painting, Art & Craft mornings between the hours of 9.00-12.00 with Jane at Westborough Village Hall on the first Friday of every month:

Contact President Jane Ford on 01400 281206 Secretary Kathleen Thomas 01636 626860

Thank you

After 28 years as clerk to Westborough and Dry Doddington Parish Council it felt like time for a change and to 'retire' from the role. During this time, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with 23 councillors and most (!) of the 152 meetings.

A big thank you to all for my flowers, presentation evening and gift. It was a lovely get together, and immensely enjoyable. With best wishes to the new clerk and the Parish Council for the future.

Wendy McCallin, Dry Doddington



The Green Page

In the UK alone we have already lost around 13 species of bee, as well as 35 other species that are facing the risk of extinction. This decline affects us all, due to the fact that bees are responsible for pollinating the very food that makes our diets healthy.

But what is causing a decline in bee populations? The increased use of pesticides in farming - especially the use of neonicotinoids. However, neonicotinoids are banned in the UK and in January of this year, the government announced that this pesticide will not even be used in an emergency situation - hooray!

Although, pesticides are not the only cause of bee decline. There's also considerably less shelter for bees due to habitat loss. Not to mention, there aren't enough flowers for our bees meaning they are losing their access to food, as well as the ability to nest in these flowers.

Climate change is also hitting bees hard. The weather being wetter or drier than it is supposed to be means that bees may not get access to food as the timing of the flowers they are relying on shifts. Bees could end up becoming inactive at the time when those flowers begin to bloom. So, how can we help our bees? We have banned a harmful pesticide but there is still a long way to go until the threat for these bees is decreased significantly. Planting more flowers in your garden is a good place to start - this will encourage visitation!

Don't worry if this isn't something available to you - there's always the option of supporting local beekeepers! Keep an eye out for locally produced honey and beeswax! To leave this on a positive note - bees raised by dedicated beekeepers are healthier and more likely to withstand environmental changes!

News of Elections

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral Election and Lincolnshire County Council Elections - Thursday 1 May 2025

The scheduled election of all councillors for Lincolnshire County Council will be held on 1 May 2025, together with the first election of Mayor of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority. Polling stations across the South Kesteven District Council area will open at 7am and close at 10pm on this day.

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral Election.

Voters across the Greater Lincolnshire area, which includes the area covered by Lincolnshire County Council together with the areas of North East Lincolnshire and North Lincs, will vote for the first elected mayor for the Combined County Authority on 1 May.

Lincolnshire County Council Elections.

The election of the Lincolnshire County Councillors who represent the 14 county divisions within South Kesteven will also take place on 1 May;

The electoral divisions within the South Kesteven area are: Bourne North and Morton, Bourne South and Thurlby, Colsterworth Rural, Deepings East, Deepings West and Rural, Folkingham Rural, Grantham Barrowby, Grantham East, Grantham North, Grantham South, Grantham West, Hough, Stamford East and Stamford West.

Further information is available on South Kesteven website

Councillor Paul Wood. Tele 01400282223 or 07769038693

Email votepaulwood@hotmail.co.uk





- •Easter opening hours Reminder that the Medical Centre will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Please remember to order your prescription should you need your medication over this time.
- •Following recent feedback, we have made some GP rota changes to accommodate resilience and efficiencies for 2025. Please see our
- website for the days our GP's work.
- Wellbeing walk The next wellbeing walk will be on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 10:45am from the Medical Centre. We have welcomed 157 walkers in the last 12 months. It's never too late to join in.

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Field View, Doddington Lane Claypole

Did You Know?



St Peter's Christmas
Tree is parred down
to its trunk to become
the cross in Church on
Good Friday.

On Easter Day the cross becomes a mass of flowers to celebrate Christ's resurrection. There will be a bucket in the porch on Easter Saturday for any flowers that you may wish to donate.



Thanks in anticipation!

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Half page b/w £21

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Quarter page b/w £12.50

Eighth page colour £11

Church Service Schedule for April

Sunday 6th (Lent 5)

10:00 AMCommunionAllington10:30 AMCommunionClaypole

10:30 AM Morning Worship Long Bennington

Sunday 13th (Palm Sunday)

9:30 AM Donkey Walk * Claypole Village

Hall

10:30 AM Communion Long Bennington

6:00 PM Communion Stubton

Monday 14th (Holy Monday)

8:00 PM Compline Long Bennington

Tuesday 15th (Holy Tuesday)

8:00 PM Compline Fenton

Wednesday 16th (Holy Wednesday)

8:00 PM Compline Dry Doddington

Thursday 17th (Maundy Thursday)

7:30 PM Communion Claypole 8:30 PM The Watch * Claypole

Friday 18th (Good Friday)

10:00 AM Walk with the Cross *Dry Doddington

11:30 AM Passion Readings * Foston

Saturday 19th (Holy Saturday)

2:03 PM Easter Fun Long Bennington

8:00 PM Vigil Confirmations * Cathedral

Sunday 20th (Easter)

10:00 AM Communion Allington 10:30 AM Communion Claypole

10:30 AM Morning Worship Long Bennington 10:30 AM Lively Church Sedgebrook

3:00 PM Communion Foston

Sunday 27th (Easter 2)

10:30 AM Communion Long Bennington

Donkey Walk

We will meet at Claypole Village Hall to walk through the village with the donkeys to celebrate Jesus's festive arrival in Jerusalem. The walk will end in the church, with crafts, games, cake and other refreshments.

The Watch

A time of silent meditation and reflective readings directly after the communion celebration. You're welcome to join for as long as you would like. We will conclude at midnight.

Walk with the Cross

The walk will start at Dry Doddington, carrying a cross to reenact Jesus's final journey to his crucifixion. We will walk to Foston to emphasise the growing unity between our churches. If you would rather not walk, do join us in Foston churchyard.

Vigil Confirmations

Members of our community are being confirmed at Lincoln Cathedral, alongside others from all over Lincolnshire. If you would like to cheer on our confirmation candidates with us, then please come along.

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

Log in using, Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 810 6571 1379 Passcode: 744328 Compline each Thursday at 7.15pm. Evening Prayer on the last Sunday of the month at 5pm



Hi, Im Jordan the new owner of The Five Bells In Claypole, I would like to welcome everyone to my pub we are nestled in the heart of the community, The Five Bells Inn is back. With a fresh, inviting atmosphere, it's the perfect place to enjoy delicious, locally-sourced food in a cozy setting.

My team has breathed new life into the menu, offering a variety of hearty dishes made from scratch, with something to please every palate—from classic pub fare like burgers and fish and chips to innovative seasonal specials. The warm, friendly staff and inviting decor make it a great spot to unwind with friends or enjoy a casual meal with family.

Whether you're stopping in for a pint of craft beer or a mouthwatering Sunday roast, this pub has quickly become the go-to destination for great food and a welcoming vibe.