



WINTER 2026



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WELCOME

Unless we are super organised, you will be reading this early in 2026 so firstly we would like to wish you all a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We hope you have all had a very enjoyable Christmas break, spent time with family and friends and are ready for the challenges of 2026. We have lots of exciting plans so if you haven't already, please follow us on facebook (don't forget to agree to the rules) for regular updates, although we will try and get a newsletter out every quarter!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas is always a little special in Tickhill and this year didn't disappoint, the community truly came together to celebrate the start of the festive season with two wonderful community events — the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On on 27th November and our much-loved annual Christmas Eve Carols Around the Buttercross.

The light switch-on was a magical evening officially marking the start of the festive season. We were delighted to welcome pupils from Esfeld and St Mary's schools to turn on the lights with the plunger bringing plenty of smiles and Christmas cheer all around.

It was fantastic to see so many stay in town afterwards to enjoy late-night shopping, organised by Tickhill Together and we hope our local businesses benefited from the extra visitors and festive atmosphere. We had some stunning and creative window displays from a beautifully unique Christmas tree made from coat hangers to a very clever spot the Christmas film with hidden clues and everything in between. It was very close but

special congratulations go to Bridgette at Lockwoods Florist Tickhill, whose enchanting woodland-themed display won the Best Dressed

Window award. The trophy will sit in Lockwoods for the rest of the year.

Once again we saw a fabulous turnout for the *Carols Around the Buttercross*, where the community gathered in Market Place on Christmas Eve joined by the Salvation Army Band and the beautiful voice of Liz Franklin led everyone into singing traditional Carols. The event was timed to follow the Church Carol service so residents were able to make both events and the evening truly captured the spirit of Christmas.

In the run-up to the event, there was even some light-hearted concern that we might have to

incorporate an abandoned vehicle into the decorations with a string of festive lights!



Thankfully, after being reported numerous times, it was moved just in time so the only additions to this years lights were the beautiful tree lit up at the end of Castle Close to bring some festive light to that end of the town. On a more serious note, the vehicles removal was very welcome, as it was a safety concern obstructing the view of drivers turning right from Sunderland Street onto Market Place.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make both events so special. Special thanks go to the sponsors of the carol sheets; Roccos, Lex Watches, The Bearded Bee Keeper and the Spa. Tickhill Library, the shops and restaurants who kindly displayed posters and copies of the carol sheets in the run up to the event, Fred Camm Recovery for so generously installing our beautiful Christmas tree free of charge, and to all the volunteers, performers, organisers and local businesses who played their part in making both events such a huge success!

DUCK FEEDER



Its finally happening! We hoped it would be in place for Easter (luckily we didn't specify which year). But after a year of disputes and back and forth with the Doncaster Council legal team assetts, a location was finally and the base has been laid. The next step is to place the order for the feeder unit itself. Assuming we meet the bi-annual ordering deadline, we expect delivery in time for installation by early spring.



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The agreed location (where there is a large slab of concrete by the bins at the Mill Dam) is fully accessible, and once installation is complete and the feeder is ready to use, we will share the information on our social media channels.

HIGHWAYS

Over several weekends in November and early December, essential resurfacing work took place to improve safety on the A631 between Tickhill Spital and Bawtry. The project included a full resurfacing of the carriageway, fresh road markings, and the installation of high-visibility reflective studs to improve night-time driving.

As part of a wider road safety review, the speed limit along this section of the A631 has now been permanently reduced from the National Speed Limit to 50mph. This change is designed to improve safety for all road users, especially around junctions and access points.

Following confusion at the spital junction new road signs have also been installed at key locations, including a warning of the new junction layout on the approach from Harworth. These clarify that the small pull-in area next to the traffic lights is for maintenance use only and should not be used for parking or waiting.

We would like to thank all residents and motorists for their patience and cooperation during the recent weekend closures. Your understanding has helped these important improvements to be completed safely and efficiently

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

There were no sessions during December, however the latest figures suggest the Community Speedwatch (CSW) initiative is having a positive impact on vehicle speeds within Tickhill.

It's important to note that comparisons with earlier months aren't possible due to changes in the way data has been recorded since the start of the year. A few stats for 2025, the Community Speedwatch team has carried out 27 sessions. Across these, 168 drivers were recorded speeding, with the highest speed noted at 49 mph in a 30 mph zone. Other important observations included 2 vehicles without a valid MOT, 2 without tax, and 1 vehicle recorded as SORN.

These results highlight the continued value of the Community Speedwatch volunteers in promoting

safer driving throughout Tickhill. The Town Council would like to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to help keep our roads safe. Your

efforts make a real difference to the community.

If you have some time to spare and would like to join our team of volunteers, please get in touch.

CPR AND DEFIBRILATOR TRAINING

We recently organised a free Defibrillator and CPR training session in partnership with the Health & Safety Training team from City of Doncaster Council, held in October at the Pavilion.

Local business owners joined council members for an engaging, hands-on session, learning how to use



the defibrillators we're lucky to have around Tickhill, as well as essential CPR skills. Everyone who attended wanted to feel confident and prepared to help in an emergency.

One attendee was a local resident whose own life was saved thanks to CPR, a defibrillator, and quick-thinking helpers — he joined the session to ensure he could give the same life-saving help to someone else in the future.

A huge thank you to Jake for delivering the training and to everyone who attended for making it such a positive and worthwhile evening!

We hope to offer more sessions in the new year, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and booking details.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

We are pleased to share an update on the land formerly known as “Land off The Paddocks.”

Although the Land Registry process can take up to six months and formal registration is still underway, the transfer documents have been completed and the associated funds for the maintenance of the land over the next few years has been received from Doncaster Council, meaning the land now legally belongs to Tickhill Town Council. We are looking for name suggestions for the land which has currently been nicknamed ‘Community Orchard’.

Thanks to a successful grant application, a total of 45 new trees will be collected as they become available, and with help from local volunteers these will be planted in January/February. The grant application also allowed for the purchase of tools and equipment needed for planting. Volunteer opportunities will be announced on our social media channels so if you have green fingers and would like to contribute to the community, please contact us.

We have secured a 3 year contract with a local business for the grass cutting and maintenance to ensure the land is kept neat and tidy and over the next few months will be carrying out local consultations to learn how residents would like the land to be used. This will need to be within the limits set by the site’s covenant so we are restricted to a degree.

We are also looking at restoration of the existing natural pond, which provides important habitat for local wildlife. Preliminary discussions with Wildscapes to investigate the extent of the pondlife have led nowhere as funding is not available but we will be requesting a survey and making further enquiries. We look forward to sharing further updates as the project develops.

BUTTERCROSS

As we reported in our Summer 2025 newsletter, 2027 sees the Buttercross celebrate its 250th anniversary. A detailed condition survey of the Buttercross was carried out last summer setting out the current state of the structure and any remedial work required.

The monument is a Grade II listed structure and following initial investigations is not registered with land registry however it is part of the Highways and we are currently in the process of trying to find out who is legally responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the monument. Not a quick easy task given the legalities but we will keep you posted.

It would be lovely to have it looking it’s best in time for a celebration in it’s 250th birthday year!

TOILET FACILITIES FOR FOOTBALL

Residents may recall the negative comments on social media earlier this autumn, when the Belles Junior Team hired the football pitch from Doncaster Council with no toilet provision and subsequently asked the Tickhill Town Council for permission to use the pavilion facilities.

As the main hall and its toilets are already hired for exclusive use during the times of the matches we were unable to allow use of the building during another group’s booking for safeguarding reasons. However it was clear a workable solution was needed so the front meeting room, which is awaiting refurbishment but has basic toilet facilities was cleared to allow temporary access to separate facilities. The Belles Junior Team are now using this room each Saturday morning.

We are now gathering quotes and exploring grant options and provision in next years budget to complete this room to improve the toilets facilities and make the room more suitable for future users.

We are pleased to have reached a practical solution that supports the team without affecting existing hirers.

