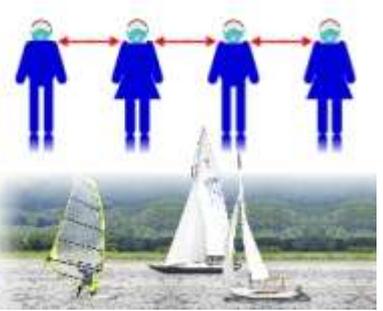




# VILLAGE LINK



## OPENING UP FOR SUMMER!

As we all begin to spread our wings and look forward to getting out and about, here are some dates for popular outdoor events for your diary.

Spring and Summer are 'Open Garden' seasons. Guilsborough kicked things off on **Sunday 9th May** with its 'ticket only' event (see photo right and report on page 12) and Cold Ashby Bowls Club hosted a '**BIG BOWLS WEEKEND**' on 28-30 May.

Coming up

Cold Ashby is putting on its delayed 30th anniversary show on 17th and 18th July, which includes the usual delicious cakes and refreshments, as well as fruit and veg stalls. See page 3 for details. Why not make a day of it and combine it with the Hollowell Fete and Flower Festival (details in the rainbow advert alongside and on page 15).

Cottesbrooke Hall is hosting outdoor theatre from 'Slapstick Picnic' who are performing The Importance of Being Ernest on 7th July. Cottesbrooke village is also welcoming visitors to its Open Gardens on Sunday August 15th and will be offering cream teas (subject to any restrictions at the time).

For details see page 5 >>



Guilsborough Open Gardens

ENTRY - ADULTS £3 & UNDER 16'S FREE  
For more information, please call 01604 740796 or email: hollowellaff@gmail.com

### Inside this issue:

Cold Ashby	P3-4
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### WHAT'S ON

#### JUNE

- 4th Tennis Coaching Guilsborough
- 12th Creton Walking Group
- 30th Thornby Village Hall AGM

#### JULY

- 3rd Hollowell Sailing Club Open Day
- 7th The Importance of Being Ernest, Cottesbrooke Hall
- 13th Creton PC meeting (Zoom)
- 17-18th Cold Ashby Open Gardens
- 17-18th Hollowell FAFF
- 18th Tennis Open Morning and Coaching Guilsborough
- Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings—Tennis Guilsborough
- Monday mornings MMM Guilsborough
- Tuesdays Uplands Outdoors Tots



### Hollowell Sailing Club Open Day Saturday 3rd July 2021

If you are looking for a fun outdoor activity that you can pursue on your own, or with family and friends then look no further than Hollowell Reservoir for all the options!

On-the-water activities on offer at Hollowell Reservoir include dinghy sailing, windsurfing, and stand up paddle boarding, radio-controlled model yachting, rowing and sculling. Visit our website to find out about our Tuesday evening Try Sailing sessions and many other events for a fun chance to get on the water with qualified instructors.

The Royal Yachting Association award winning club is fully equipped to follow the roadmap for the return to boating activity in England. Having practiced training in bubbles and self-managed racing during 2020, everything is now set to welcome newcomers and get out on the water in 2021.

Continued on page 14 >>

# Creaton Village Shop

Creaton Village Shop

OPEN

www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk

**OPENING HOURS**  
 Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 12.30pm  
           1.30pm - 6.00pm  
 Sat/Sun: 8.00am - 12 noon

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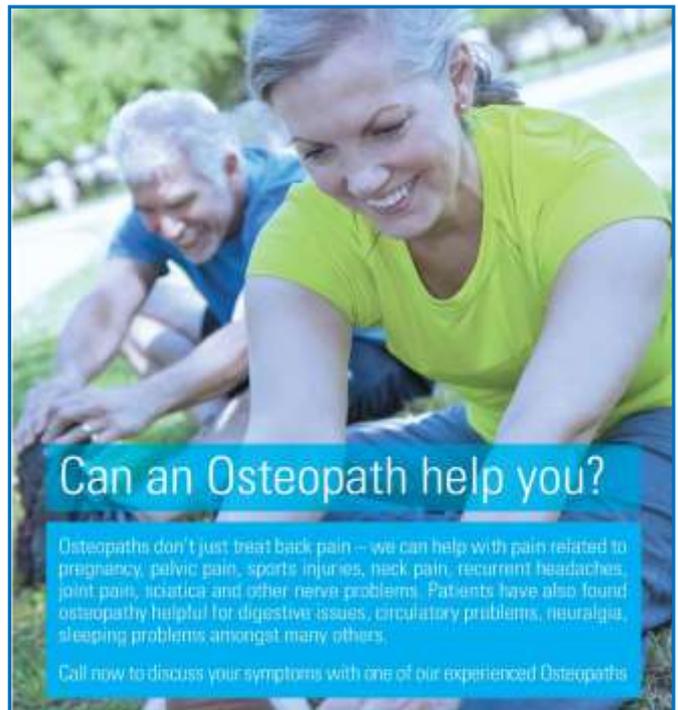
Creaton Village Shop is a community enterprise, run largely by local volunteers as a valuable community asset.

We source products from around 30 local suppliers!

f

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[www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk)

t



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## VILLAGE LINK

is a bi-monthly publication delivered free of charge to households in Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Teeton and Thornby. It is produced and distributed by volunteers. Due to restrictions of time and space there is no guarantee that copy submitted will be used. All funds received from advertising go towards printing costs.

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Wherever possible please email your contributions to [editorial@villagelink.org.uk](mailto:editorial@villagelink.org.uk). This saves considerable time re-typing information! When providing hard copy materials, please post to Angela Hubbard, The Old Sun, High Street, Guilsborough.

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**Cheques payable to 'Village Link'**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**  
Sunday 4th July 2021

Disclaimer: the publishers cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. They cannot be held accountable for the accuracy of advertisements appearing in this newsletter, nor for editorial information sent to them or published by them.

**In aid of St Denys Church**



**COLD ASHBY**

**WELCOMES**  
**ALL VISITORS TO THE**

**OPEN GARDENS**  
**WEEKEND**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**2pm - 6pm**  
**£5.00 Admission - Under 12's Free**

**12 Wonderful Gardens**

**Plant and vegetable stall**  
**Photographs by Fiona Gunn-Stokes**  
**Take away tea and cake in grounds of Cold Ashby Hall**  
**Plenty of free car parking**

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**For further details visit [www.opengardens.co.uk](http://www.opengardens.co.uk)**

## OPEN GARDENS ARE ON!

As you can see from our advert above, we are, this year, holding our annual event after an enforced break in 2020, which would have been our 30th year.

And this year's event will look slightly different from normal. We are aware that by mid-July all Covid restrictions should be lifted, however we want to ensure that all our visitors feel comfortable. So we will still have at least 12 gardens open but will be encouraging social distancing whilst moving around them.

We also plan to have fewer stalls, and teas will not be served in a congested village hall but as a takeaway in the grounds of Cold Ashby Hall.

We trust these changes will not stop you from coming and we look forward to giving you all a warm welcome.

# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## BELL RINGERS HONOUR THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On Saturday 10th April, following the death of HRH The Prince Phillip, the tenor bell at Cold Ashby was tolled half muffled by Rhyan Murphy, one of the Cold Ashby ringers. He rang 99 strokes to represent the Duke's age, as is traditional.

Following the advice of the Central Council for Church Bell-ringers and in line with Covid regulations, on Saturday 17th April, prior to the funeral service at Windsor, the tenor was rung again for half an hour at 2.30pm. During this time the Duke's age was tolled and we also rang the Nine Tailors.

For hundreds of years it was considered appropriate to ring a passing bell when someone was actually dying, in order to protect the soul from the devil or spirits while on its journey. This tradition changed slightly over the years so that tolling now takes place after death.

This tolling is commonly known as the Nine Tailors and was made famous by Dorothy L Sayers in her 1934 novel which was later adapted by radio and television. The name is thought to be a corruption of the Nine Tellers or maybe tollers.

Traditionally nine strokes of the bell are rung in three groups of three, with a longer pause between each group. Six strokes represent the death of a woman and three strokes are rung for a child. These are then followed by the strokes to represent the age of the deceased. The first three make you stop and take notice, then it is obvious whether it is a man or a woman and finally the age often tells you that old Mrs so and so has died! An early form of WhatsApp perhaps?

Bells all over the country were tolled by ringers at this time and made a sombre yet haunting sound. The tenor is usually the

biggest and deepest sounding bell in the tower and in Cold Ashby it weighs six and half hundredweight and is tuned to the key of A. In contrast the tenor in the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle is twenty-six hundredweight. It was being rung at the same time by another skilled bell ringer.

During normal non-Covid times it would be usual to ring a full peal or a quarter peal to mark the occasion. Nowadays, we are ringing on a virtual platform known as Ringing Room. On Tuesday 13th April I rang a quarter peal with some other ringers from other areas in memory of the Duke.

*Ringling Room, Eastern Counties*

*Tuesday, 13 April 2021 in 58m*

*1280 Cambridge Surprise Major*

*1 Andrew M Reeve (Kings Langley)*

*2 Liz Reading (Cold Ashby)*

**3 Vicky LeFèvre (Felsted)**

*4 Diane Faux (Stamford)*

*5 Julie Grimwade (Tewin)*

*6 Liz Griffith-Jones (Henham)*

*7 Alistair Donaldson (Market Harborough)*

*8 Richard Sales (St Albans) (C)*

*To celebrate the life of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.*

We hope to be able to resume bell ringing in the not-too-distant future and would be delighted to welcome anyone who might be interested in learning this ancient art. Please do get in touch.

Liz Reading



## THE RED LION, THORNBY

OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY, ALL DAY, 12-11 PM

KITCHEN OPEN 12 - 2 PM FOR LUNCH & 6 - 9 PM FOR EVENING MEALS

SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED 12 - 3.30 PM

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## Cottesbrooke Hall Gardens

Cottesbrooke Hall has reopened the gardens for visitors, a sure sign that things are returning to some sort of normal. My first visit of the year was full of anticipation, partly to see some familiar scenes and partly to see the handiwork of the new Head Gardener, Jenny Barnes. And I was not disappointed. Whilst the borders are still waiting to begin their summer show, a lot of work is going on. The wisterias are showing their colours, the tulips are eye-catchingly bright but the real interest was on the roses on the walls. Over the winter the roses have been released from their stays and re-applied in sweeping curves, a skeleton of circles now beginning to be hidden under the bursting green of new leaves. I cannot wait to see the results in flower. The wild garden always looks good and in the spring sunlight the fresh leaves sang out across the narrow valley.

*Bandhu*

## A Letter to Cottesbrooke

The bonds of friendship and neighbourliness, love and thoughtfulness in our village became even more apparent during the Lockdown, here in Cottesbrooke. Everyone always has been thoughtful and helpful since we moved to this village but during the pandemic it became even more apparent.

So, to you, in Cottesbrooke, thank you – for going out of your way to make sure your neighbour had milk for tea or bread to eat, and much more, like yoghurt. And Mr Postman, your wonderful happy smile was the only one we saw for a while. Stay strong. God bless you.

Love from a Senior Resident

PS

Wildlife and insects too are in abundance: pheasants, badgers, woodpeckers, blackbirds, **bumblebees**. Although the fox hasn't been seen?



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# CREATON NEWS



Creaton  
Playing Field  
Association  
Charity No. 1085011



It was great to see an enthusiastic and energetic group of village volunteers give up a little time on a sunny Friday evening to help with essential maintenance on the village playing field. We are a very small committee and rely on outside assistance to keep the field and its equipment in a safe and reliable condition.

**The old saying "Many hands make light work" certainly rang true** and it was very encouraging to see the amount of work we all got through in a short amount of time and the results were soon very evident.

We are planning to hold further work party events in the coming months as we strive to keep standards up on the field. A new shipment of bagged chipped bark will be delivered soon and we will be looking for help to empty and spread the contents across the safety surfacing. The surface, which helps to reduce the risk of serious injury from falls, needs to be in good condition **which I'm sure you will agree is important.**



We are always looking for new helpers so please look out for notices or make yourself known to one of the committee members.

Mark Woollven, Treasurer

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DOGS MUST BE ON A LEAD AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON THE FIELD

## Creaton WI

We continue to hold monthly meetings on Zoom, with guest speakers, but are looking forward to getting together again, in small groups, for coffee and chat on the playing field once the weather improves.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May our Zoom talk was "Love and Romance in Art" by Grainne Purkiss. If you would like to join us, or would like more information about the WI, please contact Daphne Clark, President, telephone 505546 or email [wicreaton@gmail.com](mailto:wicreaton@gmail.com). You can also find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/wicreaton](http://www.facebook.com/wicreaton)



## Creaton Singers

How lovely to be singing again, albeit on mute! The Creaton Singers are having great fun singing all their favourite songs, thanks to Glennis and Tony Ambrose. It is not as good as being together but far better than not singing at all!

One day soon the Creaton Singers hope to meet up in person and put together a programme for a concert for you. If you enjoy singing, why not join our group once we are back together? We meet on Tuesdays at 7:30pm until 9pm. Interested? Phone Jane on 505610

## The Creaton Walking Group

Having temporarily renamed themselves **Noah's walking group, we**

have changed the name again to the Volleyball / Ice Hockey walking group! Those of you up on sport will know that those 2 teams have 6 players!

So, it was with great delight that the walkers set off from Welford in April to walk to Sibbertoft via Sulby reservoir and back in a big loop. The sun shone and the lambs were scampering in the fields. Such a joy!

If all goes according to plan, by the time you receive the Village Link the walkers will have walked from Lamport and enjoyed a delicious lunch outside at the Swan.

Walks take place on the second Saturday of the month. Meet at Creaton lychgate at 10am for an 8 mile walk, hopefully now ending with an optional pub lunch.

Next walks are on:

Saturday 12 June

Saturday 10 July



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BASED IN CREATON



## Flowers in the Field



As I child I used to walk the country lanes around where I grew up, oblivious to the detail of my surroundings. My mother would point out a flower here, another there and tell me their names. Somehow these never stuck, probably because I was more interested in getting to the end of the walk for to play with my toys.

Some time later - well a considerable time later - I now walk round the fields in this lovely part of the country and regret not paying attention to the names, and mourn the loss of so much in the hedgerows,

on the verges, in the meadows. As I walk the fields I count the varieties I see, take their picture and then back home, look up what they are called.

In one field, I have seen Jack-by-the-Hedge, red campion, dandelion, buttercup, cow parsley, hogweed, white nettle, forget-me-not, bugle, violet, all by the middle of May. What joys are to come in the summer months? Find a field, count the types and let us know what you have seen.

*Bandhu*

## Creaton Village Shop

If you visit the community village shop in Creaton on the A5199, you will find it staffed by volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life. Our volunteers are amazing; they are a tremendous asset to the shop and play a big part in its success.

But we need more help from people who could spare some time during the working day. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare in the week and feels they would like to volunteer we would be very grateful to hear from you. Not only is it a community project, but it is also fun and a great way of meeting new people. There is always support from the Post Office staff so no one is expected to shoulder unwanted responsibilities.

If you feel that you could help or just would like to find out more please contact Claire Morrell: [Clairemorrell1@gmail.com](mailto:Clairemorrell1@gmail.com)  
We would love to hear from you.

## Creaton Relief in Need Charity

**Creaton Relief in Need charity (formerly Benyon's Charity)** has been granting funds to children and young people in Creaton since 1872. If you need financial assistance for educational or wellbeing issues, assistance may be available.

Please apply in writing to The Trustees, The Red House, Hollowell Road, Creaton, or Email [phil@creaton.me.uk](mailto:phil@creaton.me.uk)



**COTTESBROOKE**  
HALL & GARDENS

**Gardens only open currently**  
**Hall & Gardens open from Thursday 1 July**

Please visit our website for more information & updates  
[www.cottesbrooke.co.uk](http://www.cottesbrooke.co.uk) 01604 505 808

 cottesbrooke  cottesbrooke.estate

**Also, from the creators of The HandleBards, we are pleased to announce the touring theatre production of**



**ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY**

Over tea and cucumber sandwiches, we ask that you prepare to witness the impossible - the entirety of Oscar Wilde's classic play of manners, affairs and handbags, being performed by just two rather dashing entertainers!

**DOOR OPEN 17.30 SHOW STARTS 19.00**

This is an outdoor production  
Please bring your own chair or blanket and picnic

For tickets and more information, please visit:  
[www.slapstickpicnic.com/ticketlistings/cottesbrooke](http://www.slapstickpicnic.com/ticketlistings/cottesbrooke)



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[www.willsdirectnorthampton.co.uk](http://www.willsdirectnorthampton.co.uk)

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# CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

## Creaton Parish Council Contact Details:

Parish Clerk: You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on [creatonpc@gmail.com](mailto:creatonpc@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01604 740862.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the village website [www.creaton.org.uk](http://www.creaton.org.uk)



Meetings are held bi-monthly at 7.30pm. Due to the expiry of government provisions allowing virtual meetings, future meetings must be held in person so they will no longer take place via Zoom. Please check the parish council website for details of future meetings and agendas.

## Parish Council Meeting dates 2021:

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. The dates for 2021 are: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021; 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021; and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021. These are subject to change depending on government guidance.

## Planning Applications:

Please look on the Daventry section of the West Northants Council website for full details of all Planning Applications.

## Dog Fouling

We would like to remind residents to please keep your dogs on leads when walking across the playing field and please pick up after your dogs.

Residents can report incidents of dog fouling or out of control dogs directly to the dog warden via the West Northants Council website.

## Fix My Street

Residents are reminded to report any problems with roads or pavements via Fix My Street:

<https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>

## THANK YOU!

Following his decision to step down, the parish council would like to thank Geoff White for his invaluable contribution during his time as a parish councillor. Geoff had the responsibilities of overseeing the mowing in the parish and the burial ground in addition to being the parish council's point of contact for Creaton in Bloom. As well as chairing the planning committee he also gave up his time to put the lights on the village Christmas tree each year and more recently stained the bench on the Green and the VE Day Bench.

## Bus Timetable

There is now a bus timetable in the village shop window. The new route now provides a service to Brixworth allowing residents to use the library and the other shops in Brixworth. It is also possible to connect to the X7 which provides a service to Leicester and Milton Keynes.

## VE Day Bench

We are delighted that the new bench to commemorate VE day has been installed and look forward to it being enjoyed by residents for years to come.





**CREATON PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**



Do you want to make a real difference in your community?  
Want to turn your ideas into actions to improve your area?  
Do you have a couple of hours to spare each month?

**If yes then why not apply to be a Councillor?**

For more information contact the parish clerk at [creatonpc@gmail.com](mailto:creatonpc@gmail.com) before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021

# CREATON NEWS

## From the Village Link postbag...

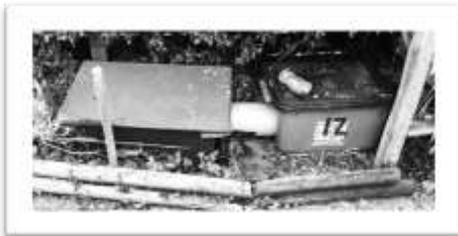


Hi Hedgehog here

**I live in Paul & Mary Pryor's garden in Creaton. The box on right is my bed and on the left is my dining room. I have lots of hedgehog friends in Court House Close and we often have midnight suppers here but I do come out in the day time as well. I got Paul to write this letter and take these pictures as I don't know how to use the iPad**

Yours sincerely

H Hedgehog



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For further information contact Carrie on:

07974 394877 [carrie@carriebillings.co.uk](mailto:carrie@carriebillings.co.uk) [www.carriebillings.co.uk](http://www.carriebillings.co.uk)

## Creaton United Reformed Church

### Sunday Worship

Creaton URC together with the congregations of Long Buckby, Crick and Kilsby URC's will continue to hold Services on Zoom at 11am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in June.

### GOOD NEWS

COVID 19 Government restrictions permitting, we are looking forward to resuming Sunday Worship in Creaton United Reformed Church on Sunday 4th July

### Sunday Worship June (on Zoom)

11am 6th

11am 20th *This will be our Minister Elizabeth's last service*

Sunday Worship July (to be resumed in Creaton URC)  
Worship Leaders for July to be confirmed.

11am 4th

11am 11th

11am 18th

11am 25th

### Farewell to our Minister

At the end of June we say farewell to our Minister Rev. Elizabeth Kemp who is retiring. For the past 5 years Elizabeth has served as Minister for the North West Pastorate which comprises of 4 URC Churches namely Creaton, Crick, Kilsby and Long Buckby.

We thank Elizabeth for her Ministry to us over the past 5 years, particularly during the past 15 months with the difficulties of arranging and leading worship on Zoom and ministering to the 4 Churches in the group during the COVID 19 pandemic. Our best wishes go with Elizabeth for a healthy and happy retirement and God's speed as she moves to another area of the country.

### For the future

We are all looking forward to July when our Church will open its doors for Worship again.

Hopefully it will not be too long after when we shall be able to re-open Poppies Coffee shop.



# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## GENERAL FIELD AND CRICKET NEWS

How often is the Guilsborough Playing Field used? A lot! In April with the return of football and start of cricket, the Field was used on 18 days for games or practices by adults and juniors from the ages of 10 to 50.

In May, 21 games and practices are booked so far, with adult cricket on a Saturday. At other times, many juniors use the Field for informal football practices, and fathers with sons/daughters are often seen using the cricket practice nets. On the last Friday in April, 35 juniors were at cricket practice, using the practice nets, the new cricket cage and the artificial wicket.

The repaired irrigation system around the cricket square has unexpectedly (April showers?) been called into action and is working well, with 4 sprays working in sequence at each corner of the square. Irrigating the square is needed for grass growth but also minimises the risk of cracks appearing at the wicket ends, which results in an irregular ball bounce, that does not give confidence to the younger cricketers to play attacking strokes. The GPFA welcome and thank Joseph Manning, 17, who is helping prepare wickets (cutting, rolling, marking), and is learning his trade from Jim Pye.

The GPFA, a charity, has once again been unable to raise funds from its normal activities in 2021, for the £10,000-12,000 annual operational cost, and therefore welcomes any suggestions and help from those who may have access to funds from organisations and companies, locally and regionally. Sponsorship related to promotional advertising at the Field, would also be considered. There is no annual stipend received by the GPFA, except from the user clubs, and so it relies a great deal on annual fund raising.

## FOOTBALL NEWS

Football started again on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and there have been over 10 matches at Guilsborough. There are 3 teams playing at Guilsborough in the Northampton leagues. All of the matches have been arranged by the league on a friendly basis rather than league or cup matches. The pitch has been good and the weather has been dry and it's been great to get back to youth football in better weather than we are used to. Football is expected to continue until mid-June.

## FINDING THE PLAYING FIELD

Visitors to GPFA will be pleased to note that the playing fields can now be found using Google Maps so hopefully that will help with navigation.



## Guilsborough Tennis Club

at Guilsborough Academy



Play has been underway in April and May, with well attended Club Nights on a Tuesday from 6pm, and Club Mornings on a Sunday at 10am.

We have had really useful coaching sessions with Bobby Brooke, once a month, at the Club Mornings which are sociable and enjoyable, as well as instructive play. Further sessions are planned for 4th June and 18th July.

OPEN MORNING  
SUNDAY 18th JULY at 10.00 to 12 Noon

Bobby Brooke will be coaching, so do  
**come along and see if you'd like to join**  
Guilsborough Tennis Club

We have Family, Individual or Student categories of membership. All enquiries to Sarah either by phoning 07917 608238 or email: SarahDalzell57@gmail.com.



*The Families of the late Bryan Chelton Brown of 5 Pells Close would like to thank everyone for their support and kind words during this difficult time. They also express their gratitude on the day of the funeral to all those who stood outside and paid their respects as the cortege passed by.*

**A total of £1078.15 was raised in Bryan's memory for Guide Dogs for the Blind.**

## COMMUNITY OIL BUYING GROUP

The oil buying group is doing very well, the sum raised to date being around £450. This money will be available for a community project within Guilsborough.

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Nortoft Traffic Speed Analysis

Following residents' concerns regarding Nortoft traffic volumes and speeding at peak times, the Parish Council arranged for Traffic Monitoring and Analysis. The road was monitored between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, from a device located close to Rose Manor, that recorded traffic speed and vehicle type in both directions.

Vehicle type	Count Both Dir	Average speed	Max Speed	30 or under	31-35 Mph	36-40 Mph	41-50	51-60 Mph
Motorcycle	4016	27	59	15832	2690	347	79	2
Car	14855	25	59					1
Truck & Coach	80	19	25	80	0	0	0	0
Long Truck	4	16	25	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18955</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>15916</b>	<b>2690</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3</b>
% Total				83.5	14	2	0.5	

The summary shows that in excess of 97% of traffic travels below 35 Mph and on this basis the Police would not consider incidents of speeding to be significantly high to warrant further action.

Whilst speeding does not appear to be a major issue in Nortoft, the Parish Council recognises that the volume of traffic at peak time can still cause disruption, resulting in vehicles regularly mounting the pavement. We will continue to review the traffic flow and work with Highways to ensure this road is made as safe as possible.

There is currently a study being completed by Highways in West Haddon that is analysing the impact of the use of voluntary 20 mph speed signage. If the results indicate a sustained reduction in traffic speed, the Parish Council will review with Highways the selective introduction of new signage in Guilsborough.

The Parish Council encourages residents to report traffic violations directly to the Police.

### PLAY PARK PROJECT— CAN YOU HELP?



The play equipment in Guilsborough's park needs replacing and the Parish Council is now able to commit time and funds to support a group of parishioners keen to be involved with this project. Would you like to be involved? Do you have ideas for our village playground? The Parish Council has **£5000 to donate as a starting block for the** project and with willing volunteers we could have

a smart new play ground by summer 2022 or perhaps sooner! If you are interested please contact Tony Hart at the2harts@btinternet.com or 07917 101008 .



### COVID QUILT SUCCESS

The Covid Quilt is now finished and can be seen hanging in the Village Hall. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this lovely piece of art.

Nia combines several classic movement forms from Martial Arts, Healing Arts and Dance Arts to stimulate and **improve the body's** co-ordination, mobility, agility, strength, flexibility and stability. Moving barefoot, we raise our awareness of exactly how we are moving from the ground up. We step into each Nia class to experience a movement journey through Nia's 52 moves.




## Guilsborough Village Hall

Nia 4 class series starts  
Wednesday 19th May 10.30 - 11.30am

£24 for 4 weeks  
carol.nia@outlook.com 07748004468

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



## PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are fully back into the swing of things this summer term and it is so wonderful to see all the pupils engaged in their learning once again.

The children have particularly enjoyed getting back into their music lessons and Pacesetters sports clubs. Our Year 6 children **have started their Young Leader's award in PE, and as part of that are planning and then teaching their own PE lessons with full support from Mr Nick our Pacesetter coach.**

Our School Councillors had a very informative meeting this term, during which they discussed different ideas they have for making our school even better. We continue to listen to our pupil voices and thank them for their wonderful ideas and dedication as leaders.

Our Nurture Group is also working very hard to tidy up our Peace Garden and the wider garden areas around our school. If you have any donations of plants we would be very grateful. This term we have lots happening including Parents evenings, Year 6 in school residential, our PTA finger knitting fundraiser **and so much more. It's such a great feeling to back together as a whole school again.** We also look forward to welcoming our new children who will be joining us in Reception in September. Please remember to follow us on our website [www.guilboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.guilboroughprimary.co.uk), or through our Twitter profile - @guilboroughpri and YouTube channel.

# MMM



## Monday Morning Meet

Guilborough Village Hall  
9 – 11am every Monday  
Starting for all - **17th May**  
(excluding Bank Holidays)

All welcome, baby – OAPs.  
Baby & toddler toys for youngsters.  
Meet for a chat, knit, hot drink & cake.  
**Only £2/adult** - includes refreshments.  
Children are free.

We will need to adhere to government guidelines during the session eg. table service, rule of six, masks when not seated or drinking.  
For more information contact: Janet 01604 740640

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Now things are opening up we thought you may like to know what is taking place in the village hall.

Monday:

Morning MMM Afternoon Bowls

Early evening - Brownies - when able to meet again.

Monthly Parish Council

Tuesday:

9.30 - 10.30am Pilates

6 - 7 pm Nia Dance Class for June

7.30 - 9.30pm GMADS occasional weeks.

Wednesday:

10.30 - 11.30am Nia Dance Class

6 - 7 pm Pilates weekly 7 - 8 pm Guides alternate weeks.

3rd week - Stitching Bee afternoon & evening

Thursday:

7.30 - 9.30pm GMADS occasional weeks

Friday, Saturday & Sunday:

Stitching Bee Workshops - various dates through autumn.

There is availability for fundraising, parties etc.

The village hall has been painted during the last 12 months and is looking very smart.

Bookings: Either via website: [https://](https://www.guilboroughvillagehall.com)

[www.guilboroughvillagehall.com](http://www.guilboroughvillagehall.com)

Or 07342 382706

## NGS OPEN GARDENS SUCCESS



People were very happy to be out and about in a near normal atmosphere. Delicious cakes at Dripwell, **Lady Lowther's famous plant sales and it stayed dry!** **A total of £1680 was raised for the National Garden Scheme's nursing charities and £504 for Guilborough Church.**

# HOLLOWELL NEWS

## BIRDING NOTES



Walking up the eastern bank of Hollowell Reservoir on the morning of Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>, I noticed some movement on the grassy meadow near the northerly point of Guilsborough Bay. Through my binoculars I could see five fairly large brownish birds moving steadily around on the short grass. Checking through the telescope I could see that I was looking at large wading birds, which I identified as four Whimbrels and a Bar-tailed Godwit, **both species I'm familiar with, but have not seen previously at this site.** I continued on my circuit, hoping for better views. As I approached the meadow the birds were still feeding continuously, probing the turf and seemingly finding a plentiful supply of worms and other invertebrates. All five birds then took flight and moved to the sheep field on the Welford Road side of the reservoir. Over the course of the next week I saw the birds most days. One of the four Whimbrels moved on later on Saturday, as did the Godwit. The latter species in my experience typically favours wetlands, perhaps it moved on to find more suitable habitat. On the evening of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April the remaining three Whimbrels were briefly joined by a Curlew, also a scarce bird at this site and

in the county.

Seeing the Whimbrels and the Curlew together provided a great chance to brush up on my ID skills for these similar species. The generally scarcer Whimbrel is differentiated by a sharply down-kinked bill, compared to that of the Curlew, which is evenly curved and almost ludicrously long. The Whimbrel also has a distinctively patterned head, with a dark stripe through the eye and a dark crown, split by a pale median stripe along the centre. The Whimbrel is also a little smaller overall, appearing more sleek and more mobile compared to the bulky Curlew, and has colder-toned plumage. The Bar-tailed Godwit on the other hand has a gently upturned bill and in summer plumage is a striking brick red. This bird had only the faintest hint of this colouration and, apart from the bill, looked fairly similar to the Whimbrels. The two species often associate with each other on passage. The Curlew breeds in upland and coastal parts of the UK and very rarely in farmland (3-5 breeding sites in Northamptonshire), but the Whimbrels and the Godwit were almost certainly stopping off on their migration from sub-Saharan Africa to their breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle, their range extending from Iceland to Fenno-Scandinavia and the taiga of northern Russia. Both Curlew and Whimbrel have distinctive and evocative calls: **the Curlew a bubbling 'courlee', the Whimbrel with its fast rippling repeated whistle, being traditionally called the 'Seven Whistler'. There is some debate over the origin of the name of the Godwit: some have suggested that it comes from the old English meaning 'good to eat', but a more common version of the etymology is *gōdwiht*, with *gōd* meaning "good" and *wiht* "creature".**

All three of these birds in my opinion are good and indeed beautiful creatures - and I find it amazing to think of the journeys **they're making, briefly stopping off at this corner of the East Midlands to rest and replenish their energy reserves before continuing on their way.**

Jon Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021  
Joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com

## A TOAST TO LADY MARY

Now that most of us have had our first, or both, Covid jabs, it's timely to recall the pioneering work of a very remarkable woman who three hundred years ago this April arranged the first inoculation against smallpox in his country. She was Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762) a mover in early Georgian court circles and friend of the Princess of Wales, later Queen Caroline. Mary as a young woman was disfigured by smallpox. Her brother died of it. So when her husband Edward Montagu (MP for Huntingdon) was appointed ambassador in Constantinople she took a particular interest in the Turkish technique of inoculation against smallpox, **then known as "engraftment"**.

She brought it back to England, controversially inoculated her 3-year old daughter and encouraged Princess Caroline to do the same for the royal children. All went well. Of course there were plenty of antivaxxers, not least in the Church and the medical profession. But the rest is history. Edward Jenner built on her work, millions of lives were saved and smallpox has in our lifetime has been eradicated.

So on 21 June, Covid Freedom Day, let us raise a glass to Lady Mary's memory. **She surely deserves to be on a banknote or perhaps recalled in a cocktail. Not the Bloody Mary, but the "Lady Mary"**.

Merrick Baker-Bates

## HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL LOTTO

Please contact Becky Gane if you would like to take part: [beckyjgane@gmail.com](mailto:beckyjgane@gmail.com). **Numbers are £10 each. Participation is not confined to residents of Hollowell & Teeton.**

All funds raised will go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

The March/April winners are:

Crawford Craig  
Roger Partington  
Caroline Stocks  
Chrystal Baker-Bates  
Hannah Oswin  
Wendy Evans,  
Gill Mister  
Cameron Brown

# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

SAILING CLUB OPEN DAY - SATURDAY 3RD JULY 11AM - 4PM



Admission is free and everyone is welcome to take part in guided club tours or taster sailing sessions throughout the day. Sailing demonstrations will be provided on shore, showing examples of the training boats used to deliver courses for beginners to intermediate and advanced sailors.

No booking is required although we advise everyone to wear warm clothes and a waterproof jacket if they want to take up a sailing taster session. Refreshments will be available during the day including ice cream, teas and cakes and a BBQ, always subject to the current guidelines.

A variety of club membership packages are available from junior to single and full family memberships, entitling newcomers to

discounted rates on training courses. A full range of club boats can be hired so there is no need to splash out while you are learning the ropes. Social membership allows access to the beautiful grounds and social events.

Visit our website at [www.hollowellsc.org.uk](http://www.hollowellsc.org.uk) and subscribe to our monthly newsletter to receive helpful links to all the courses available and additional suggestions about how to get on the water and give it a go!

Please get in touch with Ruth Cross by email at: [membership@hollowellsc.org.uk](mailto:membership@hollowellsc.org.uk) and ask all about what we have to offer.

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## HOLLOWELL AND TEETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

1) Notification from West Northamptonshire Council of Result of Parish Election

Election of Parish Councillors for Hollowell, Hollowell Ward and Teeton Ward on Thursday 6 May 2021

I, Anna Earnshaw, being the Returning Officer at the above election, report that the persons whose names appear below were duly elected Parish Councillors for Hollowell, Hollowell Ward

CRISP Andrew George  
CURTIS Emily-Jane  
EATON Allen Paul  
LEAH Graham  
MCCUBBIN Sue  
OSWIN Hannah Louise

I, Anna Earnshaw, being the Returning Officer at the above election, report that the persons whose names appear below were duly elected Parish Councillors for Hollowell, Teeton Ward.

TOMALIN Mike

NB Chris Blake served as a Councillor for Teeton Ward since **2018 but stood down prior to this year's election which leaves a vacancy for a Councillor for the Teeton Ward and the Parish**

Council will be seeking to Co-opt a Teeton representative. Chris is thanked for his service and contribution.

2) Bus Service 59 / 60

The Parish Council agreed to support the continuation of the Bus Service that links Northampton to Market Harborough (via Hollowell) and a revised timetable for 60 Service came into use from 25 April 2021.

The service is provided by UNO and working with West Northamptonshire Council, and the parish councils that provide financial support for this route, the following changes will be made:

- Cold Ashby will no longer be served.
- Some journeys will serve Brixworth instead of Chapel Brampton
- Some times have been changed.
- There are no changes to route 59 between Welford and Market Harborough, which still connects with route 60 on market days.

<https://www.unobus.info/media/2357/npt-60-timetable-web-apr21.pdf>

# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## HOLLOWELL FAFF

Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th July  
2.00-5.00 pm

The third Hollowell FAFF (Fête, Flower Festival & Open Gardens) will be held on Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th July 2.00-5.00 pm. The whole village is raring to go.

Nine varied gardens will be open to visitors (some for the first time) and in the Church, there will be a magnificent, rainbow-coloured floral tribute to all the frontline workers who supported us through the pandemic.

Come and enjoy a BBQ, Pimms, tea in the village hall, tractor and trailer rides around the village, the vintage vehicles and the art and produce competitions, plus many more stalls, ranging from jams & pickles to secondhand bikes.

All proceeds support the Church, the Village Hall and the Pocket Park.

### Cost

£5.00 adults, Under 16s free.

Parking in the field opposite the church.

Disabled parking at the Village Hall

Donate your stuff to the FAFF.

We love recycling so we are seeking donations of various items including homemade jams and pickles, bric-a-brac, plants, second hand bikes and books, handbags, jewellery and scarves. So please think of the FAFF teams before you throw anything out. Please email the various co-ordinators below if you can help.

### FAFF COMPETITIONS - WE NEED YOUR ENTRIES

Rainbow Themed Competitions – to include best painting, photograph, poems, posies, three blooms or three vegetables and miniature gardens. Please contact [cherylacharter@gmail.com](mailto:cherylacharter@gmail.com) with any queries.

There are child and adult categories in all classes and we welcome entries from the whole of the Uplands. Please bring your entries for judging to March Barn (last property on the left at the top of Church Hill, Hollowell) between 9am and 11am on Saturday 17th July. Photos and art work may be dropped off **earlier in the week if needed. £1 per entry.**

### FAFF Co-ordinators

Cakes: Emily at [emilyinthegarden@gmail.com](mailto:emilyinthegarden@gmail.com)

Jams & Pickles: Sarah at [sarah@mourant.uk](mailto:sarah@mourant.uk)

Bikes: Crawford at [hcraig234@gmail.com](mailto:hcraig234@gmail.com)

Plants: Wendy at [johnevenssr203@gmail.com](mailto:johnevenssr203@gmail.com)

Bric-a-brac: Claire at [clairemorrell1@gmail.com](mailto:clairemorrell1@gmail.com)

Handbags, jewellery & scarves: Jayne at [jayne.reynolds@outlook.com](mailto:jayne.reynolds@outlook.com)



### Attractions include:

Open Gardens ranging from wildlife gardens, pond and hilltop gardens with tractor and trailer rides around the village.

A magnificent, rainbow-coloured floral tribute in the church in recognition of all the frontline workers who supported us through the pandemic.

Rainbow Themed Competitions – best multi-coloured flower posy, best "Lockdown" photograph and poem, best children's painting & best handmade item from Lockdown.

Home-made teas in the Village Hall, BBQ & ice creams.

Stalls including, bric-a-brac, plants, raffle, beat-the-goalie, home-made jams, books, Pimms, handcrafted cards & gifts, bikes and more.

### Vintage vehicles

Toilets & disabled parking at the Village Hall  
Main car park in the field opposite church.  
Limited facilities for cash free payments.

There will be a Songs of Praise service at 6.30pm on Sunday 18th July in St James Church, Hollowell.

### ALL WELCOME

For more information please call 01604 740796  
or email: [hollowellfaff@gmail.com](mailto:hollowellfaff@gmail.com)

## A BIG WELCOME TO HOLLOWELL NEWCOMER

Welcome to Gavin Statham who has recently moved into Brickyard Cottage.

**Learn to drive**  
with  
**MERRICK**  
School of Motoring  
est. 1980



**Merrick Bowles, DSA ADI**  
**01604 740138**  
Towing instruction also available.

# THORNBY NEWS

## RED LION

### *Congratulations!*

Simon & Louise have been at the Red Lion for 10 years on the 28th July.

**Simon says:** “ We have survived three lockdowns, beer deliveries and Sunday morning brunch clubs. We have kept our locals engaged with us, our furloughed staff are back at work, and we are planning a busy summer recruiting new staff to continue to grow as a local business”.

## VILLAGE HALL

Thornby Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th June at 7.00pm

in the Village Hall

For more information, please contact;

Ann Galpin on 01604 743860



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# CHURCH NEWS

## FINGER KNITTING CONNECTION

A Guilsborough Primary School project to finger knit a connection between the Church and the school was completed on the 12th of May. The children met at the Church just after lunch and proceeded to lay the knitting the whole way back to the School, taking over an hour to walk, chat and tie along the way!



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# MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALLISON TWIGG, THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

# CHURCH NEWS

What a joy it is to have our Churches open for worship again!

Holy Week and Easter were celebrated in all of the Churches of the Uplands Group. To be able to meet together for worship at such an important time in the Church calendar was wonderful, and even though, as we were still not allowed to sing in our church buildings, we sang in our hearts.

That week of uplift, remembering that Jesus conquered death and rose to new life, was followed by the sad news of HRH **Prince Philip's death. The Churches once again were there to give thanks for his life of dedicated service and commend him to God's sure keeping in the heavenly kingdom. Our thoughts and prayers continue for the Queen and all the Royal family.**

As I write this in early May, we are coming away from the season of Easter and heading into a church season called **'Ordinary Time'. In the church year, this is a time when we are not celebrating any major festivals. This coincides with the planned changes of 'Coronavirus Step' in mid-May and the feeling that we may be cautiously looking forward to a time when life will be a bit more ordinary again.**

**I don't in anyway equate ordinary with dull. In fact this year I am finding such joy in things that two years ago I would have found very ordinary. Being allowed to worship in church. Meeting up with old friends and sitting in the garden chatting - albeit in a thick coat and woolly hat; going into a shop to buy a gift for someone and even thinking about popping out for a meal in a restaurant or pub. Joy in the ordinary- how wonderful. And from May, we are holding our second Sunday of the month Group Services outside – for this will bring us the opportunity to sing once again. Singing, another thing that before 2020 we all though was quite ordinary!**



Joy can be found in so many things – in singing, a glorious sunset, the face of a friend, appreciation of art, shared laughter, in knowing you are loved. No doubt each one of us will add many things to the list.

For many of us, our faith brings us joy, knowing we are loved by God; a joy that deepens as we grow in our relationship with God and bubbles up into rejoicing. It is a joy that is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a fruit of the Spirit's activity in our lives and one that can even be found in the ordinary. *Reverend Allison*

## Uplands Outdoors Tots



Tuesdays from 4<sup>th</sup> May - 9.30-10.30 am

Open to all parents and carers of babies and pre-school children from the local area.

Meet at the main gate to Ravensthorpe churchyard (on Church Hill). **We'll start our session here each week** and depending on the session, **we'll either stay here or sometimes go on a nature walk to the park or woods nearby.**

Sessions will include stories & songs (some of which will be faith based), some simple outdoor/nature-based activities, and most importantly, time to chat and make friends.

Please bring a picnic blanket to sit on, and your own drinks and snacks

Please bring a face covering for adults, but you will only be asked to wear it when moving about the site.

This is a fully outdoor group (so we can keep you as safe as possible at this time), so we would ask you and your little ones come dressed for all weathers, cold, rain or strong sunshine! However, we do have a large indoor toilet and baby-change, area and facilities for handwashing and sanitising for you to access when needed.

**So we know approx. numbers, we're asking you to book in for each week's session if you can, by sending a message on the Uplands Tots facebook page, or by clicking on [m.me/uplandstots](https://www.facebook.com/uplandstots) in your web browser.**

Uplands Outdoor Tots is run by the Uplands Group of Churches. To find out more, please contact us via [www.facebook.com/uplandsgroupchurches](https://www.facebook.com/uplandsgroupchurches) or [www.facebook.com/uplandstots](https://www.facebook.com/uplandstots)

## ST ETHELDREDA

### PLANT A DAFFODIL



In September/October this year we hope to plant lots of daffodil bulbs in both the churchyard and the cemetery. The aim is to offer people the opportunity to remember any loved ones buried in Guilsborough or elsewhere, or maybe those unknown to us who have lost their lives in the pandemic. You may wish to sponsor - as a group - some bulbs on behalf of a village organisation you belong to. Any money raised will be used **for the ongoing daily ministry of St Etheldreda's in what has been a very difficult year financially.**

If you would like to take part, please complete the form below:

YOUR NAME(S)/GROUP .....

NAME OF PERSON TO COMMEMORATE:

.....

Or:

THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE PANDEMIC:  
.....(Please tick)

Forms will also be available in the church porch. Please pass forms on to a member of the PCC, hand in at a church service, or copy and paste to [hilary.s.worton@gmail.com](mailto:hilary.s.worton@gmail.com)

- A donation can be in cash in a sealed envelope with the form
- A cheque made out to Guilsborough PCC
- For on-line donations please email our treasurer:  
[milnermd@outlook.com](mailto:milnermd@outlook.com)

With many thanks.

Please do come and look at the new daffodils next Spring!

## CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group Of Churches – Service Planner June and July 2021								
	6 <sup>th</sup> June	13 <sup>th</sup> June	20 <sup>th</sup> June	27 <sup>th</sup> June	4 <sup>th</sup> July	11 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> July	25 <sup>th</sup> July Pentecost
	green	green	green	green	green	green	green	red
Cold Ashby				9.30 BCP Communion				9.30 BCP Communion
Cottesbrooke	11.00 BCP Communion CB				11.00 BCP Communion JCP			
Creation	9.30 CW Communion		9.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion		9.30 BCP Communion	
Guilsborough	11.00 CW Communion	10.00 Group Service Thornby	8.30 BCP Communion Outdoors@11	9.30 CW Communion	11.00 CW Communion	10.00 Group Service Hollowell	8.30 BCP Communion Outdoors@11	9.30 CW Communion
Hollowell		This service is likely to be outdoors. Please bring something to sit on.	11.00 BCP MP	11.00 CW Communion		This service is likely to be outdoors. Please bring something to sit on.	11.00 BCP MP Songs of Praise	11.00 CW Communion
Ravensthorpe	8.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion		8.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion	
Spratton			8.30 BCP Communion	11.00 CW Communion			8.30 BCP Communion	11.00 CW Communion
Thornby	9.30 BCP Communion				9.30 BCP Communion			
Online	9.30 Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches		9.30 Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches	9.30 Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches	9.30 Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches		9.30 Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches	9.30 Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches

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Paul Chant  
Branch Director



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# AGA WISE

## BOILER SERVICE



## COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

### Recommended walks

After more than a year of discovering new walks from our doorsteps, some Village Link readers have discovered the Northamptonshire Walks website, which has hundreds of fabulous mapped and photographed walks around our County (and beyond). The website is supplemented by a facebook page with over 23,000 members, who report back on the walks, post their photos and offer advice if you need it. Take a look for yourselves here: [www.northamptonshirewalks.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshirewalks.co.uk) and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/222661047933104/>

### New Countryside Code

With more people enjoying the outdoors than ever before, the Countryside Code has been revised to help people enjoy countryside in a safe and respectful way. This update - the first in over a decade - has been shaped by nearly 4,000 stakeholder responses to an online survey, which sought views on best practices for visiting the countryside and protecting the natural environment and saw a huge response.

Changes include advice on creating a welcoming environment, for example by saying hello to fellow visitors; clearer rules to underline the importance of clearing away dog poo; staying on footpaths; and not feeding livestock. It also provides advice on how to seek permissions for activities such as wild swimming. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

### And finally ...



Perhaps prompted by the impressive photos of Thornby hedge laying in our last edition of Village Link, a Guilsborough reader sent in this photograph of a beautifully constructed round log pile. As well as being aesthetically pleasing, the round shape allows wind from any direction to pass through the pile and quickly dry the logs.

### ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS

- Abstract Limited, Architects - p16
- Aga Wise - p19
- J.M. Billings Plumbing & Heating - p6
- Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic - p2
- Carrie Billings Nutrition & Kinesiology - p8
- Compass Energy - p2
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- Merrick School of Driving and Towing - p15
- Nia Classes - p11
- Red Lion, Thornby - p4
- Wills Direct - p7

## Village Link Q&A with FLOWER & FARMER

Flower & Farmer is a flower farm between Guilsborough and West Haddon run by aunt and niece, Jo and Milly.

Inspired by the seasonal beauty of English gardens and hedgerows they only sell flowers they grow.



Village Link went to find out about this unusual local business:

**VL: How long have you been in business?**

F&F: We started in 2018 and have been growing since then.

**VL: What is the attraction of using home-grown flowers?**

F&F: The flowers are so beautiful. They are all slightly different and they have a will of their own which produces a very natural look in the vase. All very different from the usual imported bunches you could buy.

**VL: How important is sustainability for you?**

F&F: Very. Growing flowers requires an intimate understanding of the earth, the weather and the seasons but at the same time we cannot forget the crisis of climate change so we strive to grow and develop sustainable practices. Our covered areas are unheated, even in the winter, and the watering system is continually being improved to provide water only when and where it is needed.

**VL: What about the use of chemicals?**

F&F: We control pests using biological methods. For example we use a hoverfly to control greenfly on the roses. The flowers have no added chemicals to extend or promote their growth, we only use animal and green manures, not artificial fertilizers.

**VL: Another important aspect of your business is 'Shop Local'.**

**How easy is this?**

F&F: The difficulty is sourcing the materials that we need, such as compost and bark, but everything we sell is entirely local.

Customers can contact us through the website and we have our **'Farm Gate' days which are very popular. The customer knows** that the flowers are grown here and that they have not travelled in from the continent.

**VL: Since the pandemic, has there been a change in what people are buying?**



F&F: We have seen a definite swing towards DIY flowers particularly for weddings. People really want to have something different, and perhaps with people connecting more to nature they are looking for that more natural, English look.

To find out more about Flower & Farmer, look at their website: [www.flowerandfarmer.com](http://www.flowerandfarmer.com)