



It's Blooming Wonderful in Creton



Since late August, when the most wonderful sight started to emerge around the Playing Field in Creton, there has been an increased interest in that part of the village. It started with the villagers and local dog walkers but soon the word was out and over the weekends in September people came from far and wide to gaze upon the beautiful field of mixed flowers, ablaze with poppies with an underblanket of field scabious, yarrow and ox-eye daisies. This display is part of a large stewardship scheme that the Cottesbrooke Estate is carrying out with Natural England. One of the drivers for the scheme is to improve and create habitat and, says the Estate, plantings of these flowers encourage butterflies and other pollinators



and also provide foraging sites for farmland birds. In fact, nearby fields have been sown with crops for winter feeding of birds, including a very attractive field of phacelia, a good green manure crop for gardeners as well as supplying seed for birds. Cottesbrooke is delighted that the flowers have brought pleasure to so many, particularly after the past 18 months and it has been really enjoyable for the residents to watch people stopping, looking and smiling.

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WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER

- 2nd Guilsborough Village Hall Harvest Lunch
- 3rd Harvest Services, Creton, Cottesbrooke, Cold Ashby, Guilsborough, Thornby
- 4th Cold Ashby, Harvest Supper
- 9th Creton Walking Group
- 13th Creton WI
- 15th Hollowell Hopewell
- 21st Creton, FOSM History Group
- 24th Hollowell Harvest Service
- 29th Hollowell Halloween Party

NOVEMBER

- 10th Creton WI
- 13th Guils Primary PTA Fire and Ice Evening
- 13th Cold Ashby Christmas Craft & Gift Fair
- 13th Creton Walking Group
- 14th Church, Remembrance Sunday Services
- 14th Creton, PCC Open Meeting
- 18th Creton, FOSM History Group
- 19th Hollowell, Hopewell
- 27th Thornby, Stained Glass Window making

AND REGULARLY ...

- Monday mornings, MMM Guilsborough
- Tuesday evenings, Creton Singers
- Multiple activities Guils V.Hall - see p10
- Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings - member tennis Guilsborough see p9

Read:

- 8-year old Amelia Green's winning poem 'I did not like lockdown' on page 13
- Merrick Baker-Bates' Afghan Story on page 14
- Chris Utley's glimpse of intimate animal tenderness on page 4

Creaton Village Shop

Creaton Village Shop

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COLD ASHBY NEWS

VILLAGE LINK

is a bi-monthly publication delivered free of charge to households in Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creton, 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. 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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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
Wednesday 1st November 2021

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St Denys Church Cold Ashby

Harvest Festival

You are all warmly welcome to join us in our annual Harvest Festival which will take place at 5pm on Sunday 3rd October. Our traditional harvest supper and auction will take place on Monday 4th October at Cold Ashby Golf Club. A delicious two course meal will be served at 7pm sharp and the bar will be serving drinks from 6.30pm.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from
Maureen Lill 740272 and
Dido Cotton 07779782996



Christmas Craft and Gift Fair

Saturday 13th November
Cold Ashby Village Hall
and
The Old Forge (opposite
Village Hall)
11am-3pm

**£1 admission includes tea/
coffee**
Free parking behind Village
Hall
A variety of stalls and a
raffle
In aid of St Denys Church

Pavilion Bar



While the Black Horse is closed, the Pavilion Bar will be opening, hopefully on a regular basis and subject to sufficient demand. This will be a chance to chat and share a drink with your neighbours so no nominated drivers required. It is also child friendly. Alongside a good selection of drinks, a cask of traditional ale will be on sale. Cash or contactless payments are both acceptable.

ABSTRACT
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COTTESBROOKE NEWS

OPEN GARDENS BRING OUT THE SUN AND THE PEOPLE



A brief respite in the dull chilly weather coincided with the Open Gardens in Cottesbrooke. Much later in the year than usual they still looked splendid. People took advantage of the weather and strolled from one end of the village to the other, taking their time to see how others do it and to ask questions of the proud gardeners, and stopping off at the Village Hall for the essential tea and cake. It was also a great opportunity just to sit and chat and enjoy the surroundings.

Bandhu

CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF CARING

Little muntjacs are a rarity for me to see, so it was such a special treat when a little miniature deer ran across my garden and stopped to pick up a green apple, which the wind blew down. What is more, the next day there was another muntjac and again I thought what an exceptional opportunity to be able **to see them. Nature's Gifts and Beauty just keep giving though,** and when I glanced out in the yard a day or so later I saw a baby muntjac with its mother, stretching up to touch her nose for a Good Morning kiss. Intimate tenderness and love expressed in the moment. Looking out of my window one night I saw an exciting and touching gymnastic display, a baby muntjac frolicking about, jumping like a jackrabbit as it ran circles around its mother. Then it came back for a quick nuzzle on the nose. A few days later, sitting with my breakfast on my knees so that I **can see what's going on in Nature's open theatre, and what a shock!** The muntjac strutted right past my patio, about eight feet in front of me! I nearly choked on my coffee I was so surprised!! Perhaps it was the weather – a mist had just begun to fall and there had been a faint clap of thunder - but for me, it was a beautiful parade of nature. Such a gorgeous gift with which to start my morning.

Another day, another muntjac but this time a gentleman, and rather shy with ears up and out, listening in case it needs to **make a quick disappearance. As long as he doesn't eat fruit from the newly planted trees, he is welcome—BUT he does stray into the newly-growing trees!**

To finish off my Cottesbrooke Wildlife viewing, a red fox walked past my glass patio door. We locked eyes and then she strode on, heading innocently next door—into the sheep field! The cock pheasant comes by for his bread crumbs so I will put the food out now.

God bless our Earth.

Chris Utley



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Based in Creaton

On-Line consultations available

For further information contact Carrie on:

CREATON NEWS

WALKING GROUP

The Creaton Walking Group were lucky with the weather for the August walk and enjoyed the beautiful scenery around Harlestone, Nobottle and Harpole. The maize maze in Harpole was a new discovery for everyone and triggered many discussions about returning to explore it. Harlestone is always a pleasure with such a wide variety of paths through woodland, open fields, the golf course and pretty village properties, causing promises to return and explore further.

September, as ever coincided with the Historic Churches Ride and Stride, so the Creaton Walking Group decided to walk from Creaton church to the churches in Guilsborough, Hollowell, Cottesbrooke and Spratton, admiring the architecture and chatting with those on duty.



If you enjoy walking, why not join this friendly group? We meet on the second Saturday of the month at 10am at Creaton lychgate and walk for about 8 miles, followed by an optional pub lunch. Wear good walking boots and bring water. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Next walks are on:

- 9th October
- 13th November

CREATON SINGERS

Hurray! At long last the Creaton Singers are getting back together to sing! Zoom has been a wonderful way to keep in touch but it is not the same as face to face! Tuesday 7th September was a very special evening and hopefully the restart of regular singing evenings. The Creaton Singers are delighted to welcome new members and have already started working on songs for their next concert.

If you enjoy singing, why not come along on a Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in Creaton URC. Phone Jane for more details on 07879 604029

FOSM HISTORY GROUP

Come and join us for a fascinating talk in good company in St Michael's and All Angels Church, Creaton at 7.30pm.

- Thursday 21st October: Commonwealth War Graves
- Thursday 18th November: The Bawdy Georgians

Complimentary refreshments afterwards

CREATON WI

At last! Our "in-person" monthly, Wednesday evening Meetings can start again! The first one since the start of the pandemic was on Wednesday 8th September in the United Reform

Church at 7.30pm. Yelvertoft food producer, Farmer's Weekly Farming Champion finalist and Love British Food Ambassador, Milly Fyfe, was our inspirational guest speaker with a talk entitled "From Farm to Plate".

On October 13th Lucy Swales will be telling us about her fascinating work making waxworks for Madame Tussauds and on November 10th Helen Frost shares her passion for history with her talk on **"Faith at the Front"**.

Please do join us for any of these very interesting evenings.

Contact President, Daphne Clark, on 505546 or email: wicreaton@gmail.com for more information, or just come along on the night, you will be made most welcome!



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PCC

The PCC is holding an open meeting on Thursday October 14th at 7.30 pm in St Michael and All Angels Church to discuss plans to install a toilet, provide a new servery and screen the tower arch area.

The purpose of this re-ordering is to make the Church more comfortable both for worshippers and for community use. Do come to look at the plans and share your views.



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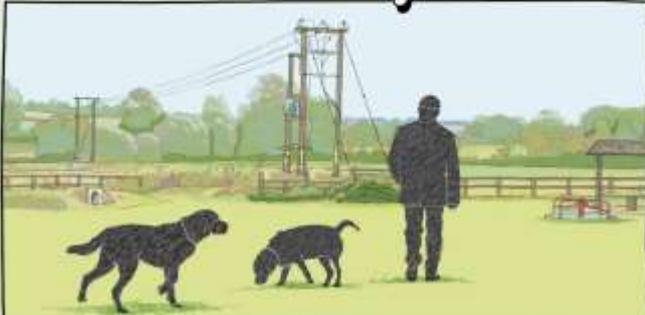
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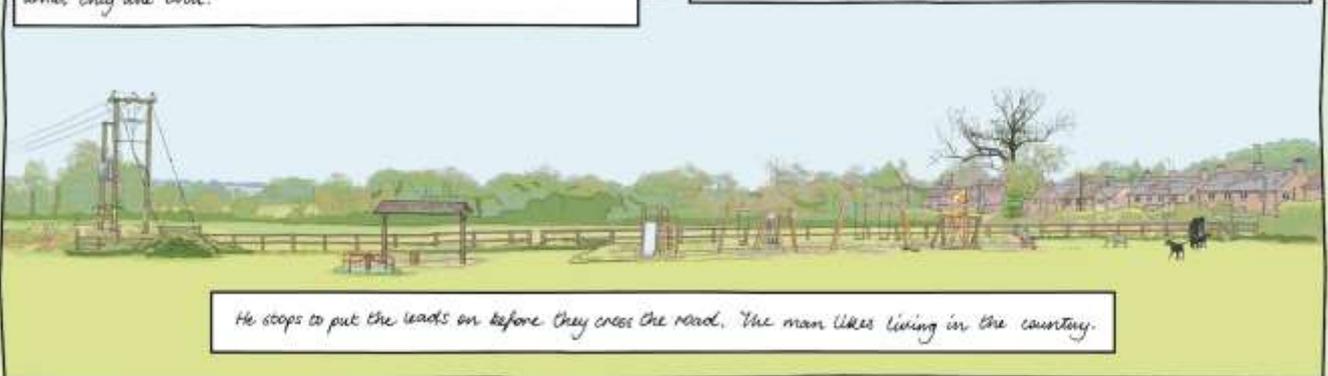
An everyday tale of our playing field



The man walks his two black Labradors across the playing field. He thinks they don't need to be on a lead, because the dogs do what they are told.



He walks steadily with his back to the dogs. Confident that he is master of the moment. He knows he is a responsible dog owner.



He stops to put the leads on before they cross the road. The man likes living in the country.

This is a work of fiction. Characters and incidents either are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Christine Reading 2021

**No room in the garage
or the attic?**



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OVER THE COUNTER

It may only feel like yesterday but Creaton Village Shop celebrated its 3rd birthday on 24th August. At the AGM that took place on 15th September, it was reported that the shop had **made a slight profit thanks to 'local' shopping during lockdown.** This is excellent news but please continue to support your local community shop and make sure it is able to keep trading. The volunteer team has had a much needed boost over the summer with several 14-18 year olds willingly giving of their time. However, as school restarts there is a huge shortage of volunteers and if new volunteers do not come forward the shop will have to consider closing at times when no volunteer is available.

If you have a couple of hours to spare a week, then please **volunteer to help in the shop.** You don't have to commit to the same time every week, just sign up for the following week based on your availability. Please contact Claire Morrell on 07917 461091 for more details.

The extension is finally completed and the shop front has been looking very attractive with flowers blooming. The extra storage helps to reduce trips to the cash and carry, and also houses the all important bread oven that produces freshly baked bread, pastries and croissants - every day!

New products are arriving all the time so do have a wander round to see what is on the shelves. If you require something which is not available ask behind the counter and they will do their practical best to get it for you. And remember, the shop will always deliver within a 5 mile radius, free of charge.

It may seem a tad early but there is nothing like forward planning so, you can order all of your Christmas requirements, whether it be turkey or tofu, liquor or liqueur, or, crackers or candles using the dedicated order form, or ordering by phone on the Order Line 07789828423, or by email or via the website. Full details will be published in the shop and on the website during October and remember: order as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

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Creaton URC

You are warmly welcome to join us for our Sunday Worship and Junior Church.

Sunday **October**

3rd 9.30am **Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St Michaels**

10th 11am Jon Heard

17th 11am Rev Geoff Townsend

24th 11am To be confirmed

31st 11am **Joint Pastorate Zoom Service**

November

7th 11am **Worship & Holy Communion** Rev Geoff Townsend

14th 10.50 **Remembrance Sunday** Jon Heard

21st 11am Rev Geoff Townsend

28th 11am To be confirmed

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CREATON Parish Council News

www.creaton.org.uk

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details:

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

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the village website 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 next meeting is on 9th November 2021. This is 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.

Poppy Field

The poppy field created by the Cottesbrooke Estate next to the playing fields (see front cover) has been very popular and attracted many people. We understand that this will return next year.

Litter Pick

Please join us for our Autumn litter pick on Saturday 16th October between 10am – 12pm, meeting at Lilac Cottage, High Street.



Fix My Street

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

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

Wildflower Working Group

The parish council has set up a working group to explore the possibility of planting wildflowers in the parish. If you would like to express an interest in joining in this group please contact the parish clerk.

CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

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Want to turn your ideas into actions to improve your area?
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GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



GUILSBOROUGH TENNIS CLUB

at Guilsborough Academy

We had a good summer of tennis at GTC; coaching sessions and the 17th annual running of the Guilsborough Plate Tennis Tournament: With round robin matches throughout August, culminating in the semi-finals and final on Sunday 29th August. The weather started brightly, but spectators are commended for staying, wrapping up against the chill and watching a highly contested competitive final with Sarah Dalzell & Simon King defeating Andrea King & Steve Partington 7:5 6:7 with a deciding Championship Tiebreak 12:10.

Guilsborough Plate Tournament, started in 2005, has now been run for 17 years: *Below are some action shots from the final:*



Left: (left to right) Steve & Andrea, Sarah & Simon.

Below: 2020 winner Sam Darbyshire presents the Guilsborough Plate to 2021 winners Sarah & Simon.



As it is term time at Guilsborough Academy, tennis is now played out of school hours and in daylight. Club Night is on a Tuesday at 6pm (although it is hoped that it might be possible to use the lights with a 7pm start), and Club Morning is on Sunday at 10am.

If you are interested in joining; we have family, individual or student categories of membership. All enquiries to Sarah either by phoning 07917 608238 or email: SarahDalzell57@gmail.com.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Playground News : **the refurbishment of the children's play area** is a step closer as a committee of volunteers and councillors will be meeting in the Autumn to get the project off the ground. Any more offers of interest or help will be gratefully received. Contact Tony Hart 07917 101008

Village Hall Forecourt Re-surfacing : after protracted negotiations with Highways from persistent councillors the area in front of the village hall is a much safer, level surface, as the potholes and cracked tarmac have been patched up.

Litter Picking Thank You : Bethany Smith has been litter picking **in the children's play area for her Duke of Edinburgh Award** - the Parish Council would like to thank her for this work which has kept the play area clean and tidy for some weeks. Volunteers are always welcome for this task.

Village Tidy Up Success: On Saturday 4th September a team of approx. 15 villagers worked valiantly to rid the village of weeds, litter, gutter debris and more. About 50 bin bags were piled up for collection by the end of the morning and Guilsborough was looking much smarter. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped. For more information go to www.guilsboroughpc.org.uk



Tidy Up Volunteers



GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GENERAL NEWS

It has been a busy summer at the Playing Field, with senior and junior cricket played weekly, with many official and unofficial practices by Haddon cricketers, together with parents and their offspring from the village and surrounding villages in the practice nets. Junior cricket practices have been organised throughout the season by Jim Houghton of Guilsborough, who is one of 2 cricket coaches in the village. Many boys have been playing football during the vacation and are now getting ready for the new season, with 2 coaches from Guilsborough, Ged Lowry and Steve McGlasson. Every week a wicket has to be prepared for the Saturday game, and the square prepared. This year Joseph Manning, a cricketer, aged 17 of Guilsborough, completed this task under the tutelage of Jim Pye, an ex-Guilsborough cricket captain. It involves understanding the health & safety rules and instructions for operating the scarifier, pedestrian cylinders mowers, and powered roller. Visiting teams have been very complimentary about the pitch quality, in part correlated to the runs scored. In addition, Joseph has learnt how to repair pitches by applying specialised loam, watering and sowing new seeds, marking out the wickets, as well as putting the covers on when rain is forecast a day or so before the game. The GPFA, by preparing its own wickets, saves a **considerable amount of money compared to a contractor's cost.** Joseph would like to continue next season, and the GPFA are delighted that he will.

Once again, the GPFA is seeking volunteers to provide a quality sportsfield for many in the parish and surrounding villages. The GPFA has to generate all the funds needed for both operational and capital costs from its own fundraising activities, which have been severely curtailed over the last 2 years. Although the GPFA has been successful in obtaining grants for capital projects, most grant providers do not provide sums for operational costs, which **amount to £10,000-12,000 p.a.** The GPFA would welcome those who can lead or help fundraising through their own initiatives, contacts and business connections. In addition, there is always maintenance and repairs needed at the field and pavilion, and



anyone with those skills or contacts would be very welcome, and should contact the secretary, Graham Byars, Graham.Byars@hotmail.com, 07712649833.

The main expenditure each year is the ground maintenance, (mowing, strimming, weedkilling, fertilising, vertidrainage and slitting), which is completed by a local contractor.

CRICKET NEWS

Haddon CC was formed in early 2020 as a merger of former clubs at Guilsborough, West Haddon and East Haddon. The combined club has had a highly successful first full season in 2021 running four junior **sides, one ladies' side and six men's teams** across Northamptonshire County and Rugby and District leagues. Highlights of the season include the mid-week 1st XI being crowned Division 2 champions in the Rugby and District mid-week league and the U13s being becoming champions at their age group as well. The club operates from grounds across all three villages, however relies heavily on the ground at Guilsborough, maintained by the GPFA, where there have been regular Saturday and Wednesday fixtures as well as weekly training for juniors and seniors. The recently installed bottle bar at the ground has been well used! At the younger levels the club has run All Stars and Dynamos programmes attracting well over one hundred U5-U11s. Hopefully this intake will lead to an increased participation throughout junior and senior ranks in future seasons. The club will run winter training from February 2022, and all new players both competitive and social are welcome. Please contact junior.cricket@haddoncc.co.uk or on 07748920176 for more information.



FOOTBALL NEWS

For the 3rd year running a local football team will play at the Guilsborough playing fields. This year it **will be West Haddon U15's who will play all of their** home games at Guilsborough. Kick off will be at 2pm so if you're passing please support the team in navy.



VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Monday - 3M's & Bowl's
Tuesday - Morning Pilates
Evening GMADS
Wednesday - Evening Pilates
Guides - alternate weeks
Stitching Bee - every third week
Thursday - Evening Nia class followed by GMADS
Sunday - Third of the month - Brunch

There is availability for events or parties on Friday's and weekends.

Check the website for terms and conditions and to find the booking form.

<https://www.guilsboroughvillagehall.com>
Booking - 07342 382706

GUILSBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA EVENT

Fire & Ice Gala

Join us for an unforgettable party night with live music from 'The Replicas'. There will be a bar, supported by our wonderful friends at The Red Lion Thornby, raffle, dance floor and more, all in support of Guilsborough Primary School.

At Stone Siding Events, Guilsborough
Saturday Nov 13th 7.30pm-midnight

Tickets £30 from www.stagestubs.com
(search Guilsborough Gala for more information)

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

PRIMARY SCHOOL



As we welcome staff, pupils, parents and new families back this Autumn term, we wanted to share with you some news about some developments that have taken place during the summer holidays, together with a little about what we have coming up in this first school term.

Now that restrictions have been eased, we have so much to look forward to this term. This includes whole school collective worship assemblies, Project Friday, welcoming visitors into our school including a Paralympic athlete to tell us about how they have achieved their goal and to show us their GOLD Olympic medal! We also have many other exciting things along the way that we **haven't been able to do over the past 18 months due to Covid.**

Although lots of restrictions have been lifted regarding bubbles and isolating, as a school we will still be following control measures to keep our Guilsborough family as safe as possible.

You may have seen lots of pictures on Twitter or Facebook of our newly decorated toilets. Together with the PTA and School Council we have decorated our toilets over the summer making them look and smell delightful. On the first day back the children were so excited in seeing that their ideas and preferences for the toilets had actually happened. We always say that we achieve more **together at Guilsborough. I'm sure our School Council and all pupils this year will have lots of ideas to share with how we can make our school even better.**

We look forward to sharing our 2021-2022 academic year with you and please see our school website www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk and Twitter profile @guilsboroughpri to find out about all of the exciting things we are doing at our school and for any important updates.



MMM



Monday Morning Meet

Guilsborough Village Hall

9 – 11am every Monday

(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 Covid guidelines during the session.

For more information contact: Janet 01604 740640

Shoe Boxes and Blankets 2021

A message from the MMM team

Janet has been in contact with the Blythwood Project coordinator. It is intended that the collection and distribution of boxes & blankets will go ahead as usual. We have been asked to put our boxes together for the end of October.

If you put together a shoe box, please drop at **Janet's**. If you would like to donate items for the boxes we put together there will be a



plastic crate with a lid at Janet's - marked shoe boxes - for these items. **There will also be boxes for donations at 3M's** and in Guilsborough church.

Most needed are: toothbrushes, tooth paste, soap, sponges, flannels, notepads, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, socks, underwear, hats, scarves, gloves & small toys.

If you have blankets or knitted squares for blankets, please contact Janet so we can collect and start putting the squares together as soon as possible.

Donations towards transport costs are also needed. Please put **these in an envelope through Janet's door** - do not leave in the crate.

Thank you in advance.

Contact number: Janet Minney 01604 740640

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

The defib is on the wall of the Primary School. No code is needed to access the cabinet. If you need to use it remember to call 999 too.

The defib is now maintained and managed by the Parish Council.



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

LOTTIE AND DAN WEDDING

Congratulations to Dan Refik and Lottie Morrell who married in Hollowell in July.

Lottie grew up in the village and the couple escaped London during Lockdown One to take refuge in Hollowell with Lottie's parents, Claire and Ron.

The Covid situation meant the wedding nuptials had to be cancelled no less than three times, but on July 24th they married in the garden at Jasmine Cottage, with Lottie's two brothers, James and George "officiating"; the official splicing having taken place in Marylebone registry office a short time before. The party that followed was truly joyous and Hollowell Village Hall looked beautiful as the setting for the wedding dinner.

After such a long and frustrating wait, endured during historic and testing times, the whole village was delighted to toast the happy couple.

We wish Lottie and Dan a wonderful future together.



HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL OPEN FOR BUSINESS



The Village Hall is now open once again for hire. The hall, kitchen, bar area and toilets were extensively refurbished a couple of years ago and it makes a lovely venue for classes, talks, family events, parties, and meetings. It holds up to 100 people (60 for seated dining) and costs £12 per hour to book or £10 per hour for village residents.

Please contact Lee Gane on 07720 778861 or fill in the booking form on the Parish Council website: www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk/village-hall.

Booking fees may be paid by card or bank transfer.

HOLLOWELL HALLOWE'EN PARTY FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER.

The village hall will be hosting a family Halloween party with pumpkins, party games and costumes.

HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL LOTTO WINNERS

Penny Bell
Claire Morrell
Rachel Cook
Barry Wendon
Sarah Draper
Roger Partington
Sean Cooksley
Jacquie Hampton
Graham Leah

Please contact Becky Gane if you would like to take part: beckyjgane@gmail.com Numbers are £10 each. All funds raised will go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

STAY IN THE LOOP HOLLOWELL VILLAGE WHATSAPP GROUP

During the Hollowell FAFF the organisers, gardeners and stall holders found it very quick and convenient to communicate with each other via a specially created Village WhatsApp group.

For those of you who haven't come across it, WhatsApp is a free, private messaging service a bit like texting. The set up proved so useful that we decided to keep it going after the FAFF and to open it up to all residents of **Hollowell and Teeton. This shouldn't be confused with "NextDoor" community messaging which some of you** may use.

If you would like to join the Hollowell WhatsApp group please text your number to Emily Curtis on 07957 123619 and she will hook you up with the group.

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

HOLLOWELL FAFF 2021



Thank you to everyone who came to our Fête, Flower Festival and Open Gardens. The weather was almost too kind, with visitors and volunteers battling through the heatwave on the second day. About 380 visitors

came along to see the wonders of the "Incredible Human Fruit Machine", to spin the Wheel of Fortune, and to grapple with the Smartie Challenge. The flowers in the church were magnificent, the refreshments and cakes were splendid and the Bric-a-brac had to be seen to be believed! Our secondhand bike stall was a particular favourite with all the ladies bikes being snapped up in a trice.

Thank you to everyone who donated goodies and gave their time so generously. It was truly fantastic to be able to socialise with friends and neighbours once again.

RESULTS:

The Winner of the Guess the Weight of the Cake was Viv Reeves from Ravensthorpe. The cake weighed 1lb 13 oz.

The Winners of Guess the Name of the Sheep were Ian and Kate Willson of Hollowell. The sheep was called Terry - of course!

The Winner of the Bear Hunt was Thomas Letts. There were 55 bears actually in the Jetty. Bears obviously live there naturally, as some people counted more than had been placed there by the Bear Team.

The Winner of Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar was lovely Trisha from Buckby Wharf who guessed 501. There were actually 556 sweets. After a day in the sunshine Trisha collected the jar with one huge sweet in it, but she did so with a smile.

Lockdown Poetry Competition

These prize winning poems inspired by the lockdown were written for the FAFF by :

Winner: Amelia Green aged 8 (below)

Runners up: Noah Cooksley aged 13 (bottom left) and Theo Cooksley aged 10 (bottom right)

Amelia Green 8 - Lockdown Poem

I Did not like lockdown

It made me growk

Not going to people houses

And not sitting down

I Did Not like lockdown

Knw hugs and kisses got me

I felt very sad No to sit on someone knee

I Did not like lockdown

I just wanted my family

lockdown Madness

By Theo Cooksley

In Lockdown,

I try to learn,
With three zoom calls happening
And the Wi-Fi dropping in and out!

In Lockdown,

My Dad works constantly,
My Brother has meeting after meeting,
And my Mum is going insane!

In Lockdown,

I choose my lunch.
Nom, Nom....I eat it up!
I could even have a brunch.

In Lockdown,

Madness is everywhere.
With Boris as Prime Minister
And Covid here and there.

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown wasn't great to be honest,
Everyone stuck inside and bored really.

Not many things happening,

With the only communication texts or letters that end in yours sincerely.

Sport, socializing, holidays all stopped,
With nothing to do but stay inside all day.

Bike rides and playing out in your garden became an often thing,

And many people struggled to celebrate their birthday.

Facetime and zoom was what everyone used,

With no other way to see them or for them to see you.

Social distancing and online shopping,

And many, many more things became the normal even though this was new.

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

MERRICK BAKER BATES' AFGHAN STORY - KABUL IN HAPPIER DAYS

In April 1966 on our way home after two years of language study in Japan, Chrystal and I visited Afghanistan. Getting there should have been straightforward. Ariana Afghan Airlines operated three flights a week from Delhi on DC 6 aircraft. We only later discovered that the experience was described by some locals as “three frights a week” to Kabul.



The Indian Government enforced strict exchange controls so when we checked in for departure, we had to sign a form confirming that we would not be taking rupees out of India. Having done so and handed in our bags, Ariana suddenly announced that there would be no flight to Kabul that day. It turned out the King needed our aircraft (Ariana only had two at the time) for a trip with the President of Yugoslavia.

Having solemnly declared that we had no rupees, we had to rely entirely on Ariana's hospitality until the flight next day, not wanting to change travellers cheques into rupees. Next morning we all signed the same declaration affirming that we had no rupees, and the 'plane took off successfully.

About an hour into the journey, passengers, previously quite silent, became animated. A money market had suddenly developed.

Rupees, dollars and other currencies were everywhere, produced from baggy trousers, from turbans, belts and sleeves. Ours, lurking in our shoes, stayed put. So much for Indian exchange control. True to form, our landing at Kabul airport gave us a fright when the aircraft dived steeply down from the mountains to the airport's runway, causing a load of crockery to fall with a crash from a cupboard in the galley.

While watching this fun we fell into conversation with a woman in the seat behind. She turned out to be British and working for UNICEF, the UN agency for disadvantaged children. She very kindly invited us to stay, which helped a lot, as unwisely we had no hotel booked.

After lunch, we decided to explore Kabul. We had the address of our new friend's house written down and, rashly as it turned out, decided that we would find our own way back when the time came. Gradually it became darker and much colder: and it also became clear that we were lost.

We tried asking a policeman but the language barrier prevented dialogue and it appeared that policemen and bystanders, all by now eyeing us curiously, could not read our address written in Roman letters. Fortunately, I spotted a sign nailed to a gate. It said, 'Hocksbergen'. We opened the gate, crossed a pretty courtyard and rang a bell. The door was opened by a lady in a long evening dress who welcomed us in an American accent.

It rapidly became clear that she thought we were her dinner guests, even though Chrystal was wearing wellingtons and I was clearly not dressed for dinner. We explained our plight. She did not know our friend from UNICEF but she was sure the British Council's man, whom she phoned, would know her. He did and took us back to her place. The only other thing I remember about that eventful day is that our hostess handed us a concoction of boiled water and white wine with which to clean our teeth, the local water being dangerously polluted. After that we slept well.

HOLLOWELL ENTREPRENEUR LAUNCHES NEW CAR

Hollowell residents have become accustomed over the last couple of years to the throaty roar of a secret new prototype sports car motoring through the village.

The Wells Vertige (French for Vertigo) is the creation of Robin Wells, a Hollowell-born entrepreneur who divides his time between Dubai and the UK.

Robin decided that he wanted to build his dream sports car five years ago after failing to find a car he wanted to buy. “I had a pretty wide choice,” he told Autocar magazine, “but nothing appealed so, in the end, I decided to make my own car. It has been a long journey, but I've loved it.” Over the next five years Robin poured himself into the design using “old-school” methods and working with Warwickshire based engineer Robin Hall of Hall Engineering and Design. The Vertige made its debut at the Goodwood Festival of Speed earlier this year; the car was described by the online motoring publication DriveTribe as “a gorgeous and brilliantly quirky piece of machinery”. It is an incredibly lightweight and compact vehicle with luscious curves based on the Fibonacci golden ratio and McLaren-style dihedral doors that a modern day Emma Peel of the Avengers might drive.

The car will have a base price of £40,000. Robin says he plans to build seven vehicles in time for next spring and then will manufacture about 25 cars a year from a compact, new, carbon neutral plant, in Bishop's Itchington, in Warwickshire.



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

BIRDING NOTES: The Redstart

With its traditional English name 'Firetail', the beautiful Common Redstart is named for its orange/red tail, which it frequently vibrates, especially when alarmed, excited or agitated. The male bird is particularly striking, with red/orange underparts, slate-grey back, wings and crown, and a black face with a silvery stripe above the eye. The female has a more subtle but, in my opinion, equally beautiful appearance, being a warm greyish brown above and orange below. Both birds possess the orange/red tail and black legs and bill. They feed on caterpillars, insects and other invertebrates.

Rather like a Robin in shape and size, the Redstart was, like the Robin, previously viewed as a member of the chat family, but is now classed as an Old World flycatcher. Its scientific name *Phoenicurus* is derived from the Greek words *phoinix* ('red') and *ouros* ('tailed'). Formerly widespread as a breeding bird in Britain, their breeding range has contracted and with a few exceptions is now confined to north and west of the country, mostly favouring upland areas. In Northamptonshire they are an uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant, with most birds usually seen in August and September. The Redstart was known as a breeding bird to the poet John Clare, with one poem 'The Firetail's Nest' dedicated to the species. There are currently thought to be 100,000 breeding pairs in Britain; for comparison, Robins number 6.7 million pairs. Redstarts nest in holes in trees and very occasionally man-made structures such as old stone walls. The last recorded breeding record was from Badby Wood, where a pair nested in damaged masonry in an ornamental stone gateway.

By late September, most Common Redstarts will have flown south to their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa. If you are very lucky you may still encounter its much rarer cousin the Black Redstart, which has an unusual pattern of migration, with birds dispersing in several directions from their breeding grounds in Central Europe and occasionally reaching the British Isles. Black Redstarts tend to favour coastal and urban habitats: after the Second World War a small number of breeding pairs colonised derelict, bomb-damaged parts of London and other cities. By next April though, Common Redstarts should be back, and they will be a very welcome sight when they again start passing through the county. It took me many years to see a Redstart in Northamptonshire, but I've recently been fortunate to see a good number of birds in several locations not far from home. Good places to search are the hilly areas around Cold Ashby and Elkington, along the Brampton Valley around Blueberry Farm, at Harrington airfield and around Stanford on Avon. In late summer, birds may linger in one location for several weeks, often in small groups. In my experience they often favour old, mature hedgerows, usually with some gaps at ground level, often adjoining sheep pastures. They can often be seen perched on fence posts or wires running along these hedgerows. They can sometimes be very hard to see, skulking in cover, drawing attention to themselves only with a repetitive 'hweet' call



(caution: this sounds very similar to the contact calls of the Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler). If you are patient though, and use some fieldcraft, you may be lucky enough to see one darting along a hedgerow before vanishing into cover; or even better, perched on a fence post or in an old hawthorn, enchanting you with its tail-shivering behaviour.

Jon Cook, September 2021

<http://joncookbirding.wordpress.com>

<http://twitter.com/jcbirdr>

We are Hopewell Coffee and a Chat is back!

Where? Hollowell Village Hall

When? 3rd Friday each month, 10:00 to 12:00

15th October 19th November
17th December 21st January

We look forward to seeing you all.

The Hopewell Team

Tel and text: 07780 265614
Email: wearehopewell@gmail.com
Facebook: We are Hopewell

THORNBY NEWS

THORNBY VILLAGE HALL

THORNBY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas 2020 for many people was a Christmas to forget not being able to see family, friends and to socialise. Hopefully this year will be different and with that in mind the Village Hall Committee is planning a village event - all are welcome.



Friday 10th December

a village get together for £5, which will include mince pies, mulled wine (other drinks available) and a raffle ticket for our Christmas Raffle. Prizes included will be different hampers. This is an opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and a prelude to a better Christmas this year for all. Contact for tickets. Ann 01604 743860.

Make a fabulous backlit Christmas stain-glass-effect window for your house

Saturday 27th November 2021 – 10 am to 3 pm

Venue: Thornby Village Hall

A communal Thornby Village Hall activity

Fee: £20 per person (All materials included)

To book your place email: anngalpin@btinternet.com or phone Ann on 01604 743860.

Never made a faux stain-glass-effect transparent panel before?

Don't worry. It's easy and fun to make and all are welcome to join in. We show you how.

Using plastic film, colour tissue paper and Sharpie marker pen (all **provided in your fee**) you'll create an impressive stain-glass effect panel to place over your own house window. Draw or copy your own preferred seasonal design and light up your village house this Christmas.

CELEBRATIONS AT THE RED LION



In July Simon and Louise celebrated 10 years at the Red Lion. On Friday 23rd July, music, food and drink were enjoyed by many outside in the summer sun as seen in the photo above.



IAN'S CREAM OF PUMPKIN SOUP

125g unsalted butter
2 large onions finely chopped
1kg pumpkin
1 litre chicken stock
125ml single cream
Salt, freshly ground pepper
Dash of Tabasco
Freshly ground nutmeg (optional).



Heat the butter in a large, heavy saucepan and saute the onions until tender but not browned. Pare the pumpkin, remove any seeds and strings, and cut into 2.5 cm cubes. Add the pumpkin and chicken stock, cover and simmer until the pumpkin is disintegrating, about 45mins. Cool slightly and put through a sieve, or puree quickly in a blender. Be careful not to overblend. Return to saucepan, season to taste with salt & pepper, add the cream and Tabasco and reheat gently. Pour into warmed soup tureen and sprinkle with nutmeg. Serves 6.



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MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALLISON TWIGG, THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

CHURCH NEWS

As the Autumn Days draw in, the trees show us just how beautiful change can be and how letting things go can be beneficial. I am, as always, astounded by the beauty of our villages and the surrounding countryside.

The act of letting go is always so much easier said than done. We all go through times when we try to hold on to memories, people and things. Life, for all of us, is abundant in experiences, opportunities, and struggles; it is these things that change our lives and are part of the richness of life. It is important though to cherish the memories, forgive the hardships, dismiss who or what is no longer serving you, and look to the future with positivity giving thanks for all that we have.

In church we mark this season of change in two ways, firstly in giving thanks and secondly by remembering. Traditionally at this time of year this thanksgiving begins with the Harvest. Yet also at this time of year we look with thanks at all the gifts and blessings we have been given, the friends and families we share our lives with, our homes, our local surroundings. We will mark this **year's harvest in all the Uplands Churches and you can find details of services advertised in this magazine.**

This time of harvest is also one where we share what we have with others, at Harvest time our churches support local

foodbanks or charities that support the homeless in our local area. You can bring appropriate gifts to the services so that we can share them for you. This thanksgiving also extends forward as we support the Blytheswood Charity and prepare Christmas Shoeboxes for those who struggle beyond our shores.

It is impossible to give thanks without remembering and this Autumn we will do this in two ways. On 24th October we will be holding a Service of Remembrance and Hope in Guilsborough Church. At this service we will remember those we love but see no more, our family members and dear friends that have died. This past eighteen months have been more challenging than ever before and although there have been reverent funerals by necessity there have at times been limits on who can attend. At this service we will also be offering space, prayers, and the lighting of memorial candles with those who have not been able to attend funerals, and we will remember all those who have lost loved ones due to the pandemic. All are welcome to attend. This year, on 14th November we will also mark Remembrance Sunday with Services that will include an Act of Remembrance. We remember all those that have lost their lives in the service of our country in the Armed Forces. We give thanks for their lives and pray for peace in our world.

Please do join with me in remembering.

Rev Allison Twigg



CELEBRATING HARVEST AT GUILSBOROUGH

Supporting Daventry Foodbank and Blytheswood Charity
Saturday October 2nd

Lunch in the Village Hall Drop in between 12.00 -2.00pm
No ticket or booking, all welcome
Choice of home-made soup or filled roll & dessert

£5.00 pp

*Raffle in aid of Blytheswood
Themed craft activities for children.*

Sunday October 3rd

Harvest Service in Church 11.00am

Donations for the Food Bank can be brought to the
Village Hall on
Saturday or to Church on Sunday.

Tinned meat & chicken, microwave rice, pasta, tinned carrots & potatoes especially welcome

(NB Guilsborough Church has collection baskets in the Church and in Seatons all year round. Thank you to all who support)

Any questions? Please contact: hilary.s.worton@gmail.com

UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

**Harvest Festival
Services**



October 3rd:
9.30am Creaton
11.00am Cottesbrooke
11.00am Guilsborough
11.00am Spratton
3.00pm Thornby

October 17th:
9.30am Ravensthorpe:

October 24th:
11.00am Hollowell

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.**

Forms are available in the church porch. Please pass forms on to a member of the PCC, hand in at a church service, or pass details of those who you wish to commemorate to hilary.s.worton@gmail.com

A donation can be in cash in a sealed envelope with the form or by cheque made out to Guilsborough PCC. For online donations please email our treasurer: 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 October and November 2021									
	3 rd Oct	10 th Oct	17 th Oct	24 th Oct	31 st Oct	7 th Nov	14 th Nov	21 st Nov	28 th Nov
	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green				
Cold Ashby	5pm Harvest Service			9.30 BCP Communion			9.30 Holy Communion Calling the Roll of Honour with Thornby		9.30 BCP Communion
Cottesbrooke	11.00 Harvest Service					11.00 BCP Communion	10.50 Act of Remembrance		
Creation	9.30 Harvest Service		9.30 BCP Communion			9.30 CW Communion	10.50 Act of Remembrance	9.30 BCP Communion CB	
Gulfsborough	11.00 Harvest Service	10.00 Group Service Creation	8.30 BCP Communion Brunch@11	9.30 CW Communion	10.00 Group Service Cold Ashby	11.00 CW Communion	3.00 Act of Remembrance	8.30 BCP Communion Brunch@11	9.30 CW Communion
Hollowell			11.00 BCP MP	11.00 Harvest Service			6.00 Act of Remembrance	11.00 BCP MP	11.00 CW Communion
Ravensthorpe	8.30 Harvest Service		9.30 Harvest Service	11.00 Worship for All		8.30 BCP Communion	10.50 Act of Remembrance	9.30 CW Communion	11.00 Worship for All
Spratton	11.00 Worship for All Harvest Service		8.30 BCP Communion	11.00 CW Communion		11.00 Worship for All	10.30 Act of Remembrance	8.30 BCP Communion	11.00 CW Communion
Thornby	3.00 Harvest Service					9.30 BCP Communion	With Cold Ashby		

COME TO US FOR THE FRESHEST HOME-GROWN CHRISTMAS TREES

AWARD WINNING TREES

AS SEEN AT
No. 10
DOWNING STREET





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CHRISTMAS
TREE FARM**

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**SAME MAN,
NEW VAN!**



WANTED

Help with childcare required in Cold Ashby with children 10 and 12. Minimum 6 hrs pw but potential/flexibility for more. Potential housework (additional hours), if interested but not a must. Flexibility required for morning hours and must be a driver. Please contact 07713272756.



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GUILDHOUSE RETIRING CHAIRMAN GETS A LIFT - Literally!



The Percival Guildhouse in Rugby, Warwickshire's only independent adult education centre, has honoured its retiring chairman, David Dove, by naming its newly-installed lift after him. The installation of the charity-funded lift represents one of the milestone achievements for David, whose 14 years leading the organisation has included helping to ensure its survival during months of closure and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. "The Guildhouse has a unique place in further education in Rugby and the surrounding

area. It must build on the advances made by developing its online courses, always recognising that what students love most is the sense of community and friendship they enjoy attending courses in-house. I know it will continue to be a magnet for students of all ages and backgrounds," he said.

David is succeeded as Chairman by Carin Jackson, who has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2017.

Christmas Picture Competition

Are you feeling creative?

**Here's a suggestion to occupy active
minds on a rainy Autumn Day.....**

Create a festive picture to appear on the colour pages of the December/January copy of Village Link and pass it on to anyone on the editorial team, or scan/photograph it and send to:
editorial@villagelink.org.uk by 1st November

Festive prizes will be awarded to different age groups, so remember to include your name, age (if under 18) and contact details with every entry.

**HOLLOWELL BONFIRE 2021
CANCELLED**