



## ENTRIES INVITED FOR THE VILLAGE LINK VIRTUAL PRODUCE SHOW!



With so many of us embracing gardening and productivity in the past few months, either through desire or enforced restrictions, the Village Link team thought it would be fun to hold a Virtual Produce Show for this August/September 100th edition of Village Link.

Please share your green fingered or culinary delights with us and submit entries into the classes below by Sunday September 6th. Each entry should be a photograph for a class as defined below, with you in the photo with your entry. So, think how best to show your exhibit to include you. Produce must be grown by you. Please include your name, age (if under 18), and home village with your entry emailed to [editorial@villagelink.org.uk](mailto:editorial@villagelink.org.uk). Happy growing/baking, and good luck!

Prize for **'Best in Show' in the Judges' opinion. Winners will be exhibited in the next issue** of Village Link and all entries will be on the website.

### CLASSES:

1. Best/most uniform array of 4 vegetables (e.g. 4 runner beans, 4 potatoes, 4 carrots).
2. Best/most uniform array of 4 fruits (e.g. 4 apples, 4 plums, 4 tomatoes, 4 strawberries).
3. Most unusual vegetable/fruit. (Can be enhanced by props if you wish).
4. Best Garden on a Plate. Children and adult categories.
5. Best border of flowers/flowering plant, with you in the picture, with **"Summer Sun"** as the theme.
6. Most appetising looking baked item. The item the Judges would most like to eat. It can be anything as long as it is baked. Children and Adult categories. *The photo shown here is just illustrative of what might be for Class 5, but we need you in the picture as well!*

### EDITORIAL MESSAGE from Angela Hubbard & Andrea King

**Who'd have thought on that Summer evening back in 2003 that we would now be** producing our 100th edition! The late Glanville Hart invited (some would say coerced!) us together with fellow neighbour Catriona Bracken to take over the editorship of the village magazine from Ann Carter, who wanted to hand over the reins. Glanville contributed a huge amount to this newsletter; gathering the team, raising funds, keeping his ear to the ground for news and information, coordinating distribution and being instrumental in bringing Creton into the fold as well. We remember him with huge fondness and regard. Village Link was born on that evening and has not missed an issue since! It has covered many topics affecting the local area over the years, like the proposed gravel pit, wind farms, mobile phone mast up at the Church and even the hunting ban - always trying to give a balanced view! We were joined on the editorial team by Tony Hart, who created a website for us back in 2006 and [www.villagelink.org.uk](http://www.villagelink.org.uk) is still the place to find current and previous copies online.

**The aim of Village Link is to let you know about activities, clubs and services across the villages. It's also about local people**, so please send your stories in, it helps bring the newsletter to life. In that vein, we decided we should introduce the people behind the newsletter to you in this edition, please see the back page to find out more about the current editorial team!

### Inside this issue:

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### SPECIAL CENTRE PAGE PULL OUT

to commemorate our 100th edition. Check out two **WALKING & CYCLING ROUTES** connecting our Village Link communities, with thanks to graphic artist Chris Reading for making them so beautiful!

### WHAT'S ON?

Member Tennis in several villages  
Golf in Cold Ashby

Cricket is back on in Guilsborough  
Member Fishing at the Guilsborough Fishponds and Anglian Water reservoirs  
Pubs, hairdressers and beauticians are open for business and Churches are open for worship.

Zoom get togethers continue...



Continued on back page ➡

# The Witch & Sow GUILSBOROUGH

Currently open from 12 noon daily.  
Our Bar Snacks menu is served  
12-2pm & 6-8pm Wed - Sat  
Traditional roasts available  
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Food service hours and menu are under  
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*Food allergies or special diets?  
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Southern-fried chicken goujons  
mayonnaise £4.95

Jerk chicken, coleslaw *gf* £4.95

Grilled chicken wrap £4.95  
bacon, cheese, BBQ sauce

Spicy chicken wings  
buffalo dip *lf* £5.45

Cajun chicken wrap  
sour cream salsa £4.95

Chicken Caesar salad *gf* £5.95

## Classics . . .

Loaded gourmet chips *gf* £4.45  
Cheese, bacon, sour cream

Lamb kofta pitta kebabs  
mint, yoghurt £5.45

Lamb koftas *gf* £5.95  
Greek salad

Cod goujons, tartar sauce £4.95

*gf* = gluten free *lf* = lactose free

All food served from our

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## for Veggies . . .

Deep fried breaded mushrooms  
garlic mayonnaise £4.45

Houmous, pitta bread *lf* £2.95

Cheesy nachos £4.45  
sour cream, salsa, guacamole

Brie bites £4.95  
redcurrant jelly

Spring rolls  
hoisin dip *lf* £5.45

Falafel pitta kebab  
mint, yoghurt £5.45

Halloumi fries *gf* £3.95  
sweet chilli dip

## Sides . . .

Coleslaw *gf* £1


Garlic bread £2.50

Gourmet chips *gf lf* £2.95

Beer-battered onion rings *lf* £2.95

Gourmet chips with cheese *gf* £3.45

Garlic bread with cheese £3



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# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## OPEN GARDENS MOVE ONLINE

### 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](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.

Advertisements are welcome from local businesses, charities, clubs and societies. Commercial businesses pay advertising rates. One insertion: **full page £140, half page £70, quarter page £35, eighth page £20.** Two or more insertions: full page **£120, half page £60, quarter page £30, eighth page £15.** All prices are per insertion. Colour available in some issues, price on application. Private ads are also welcome. Back page 'lineage' cost **£1.50 per line.** Please contact Angela Hubbard on 01604 740379 to book advertising or email: [advertising@villagelink.org.uk](mailto:advertising@villagelink.org.uk)  
**Cheques payable to 'Village Link'**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**  
Sunday 6th September 2020

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.



Sadly we have decided not to hold Cold Ashby Open Gardens this year (originally due to take place on the last weekend of July 2020). In lieu of this year's event, we would like to invite Cold Ashby residents - plus readers of Village Link, wherever you are - to post your garden photos on our Facebook group 'Cold Ashby Village'.

We will of course be back in 2021 for what will be Cold Ashby's 30th Anniversary of Open Gardens in aid of St Denys Church. We are

putting all our energies into planning a fun weekend of beautiful village gardens, stalls, games and entertainment. Do join us next year on 24th & 25th July and let's make it a weekend to remember!

### NEW BUS TIMETABLE

Can be downloaded here:  
<https://www.unobus.info/media/2188/npt-59-60-timetable-a4-jun20.pdf>



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# COTTESBROOKE NEWS

## LOCKDOWN STORIES & SPRING INTO SUMMER

Staying home has had its amusements. Phone communications are uplifting, the melodious voices of my friends, cheer up the day. Trying to use the 'Alexa' was not what I expected, when I asked for the evening prayer, it responded with a recipe for a 'martini cocktail', I did not resort to using it! Pulling a handful of weeds out of the driveway seemed a healthier exercise than stirring a Martini.

.....

How do you get rid of a horrible smell when you stand at the kitchen sink? "It must be blocked drains", right? I tried liquid detergent; then poured boiling water after the smell was still there a few hours later. Ugh! Then I put soda crystal down the drain. That will clean everything, I thought. Would you believe it? The next day the smell was still in my kitchen! I opened wide my window only to discover that the farmers were fertilizing their fields!

You are not alone!

But to leave you with something sweet, I hope there is honeysuckle or a butterfly bush growing near you.

Love from Chris Utley

### A BAD CASE OF MUCKDOWN HAIR!

For some, lockdown has been a far lot worse than for others. Glenys Irons contacted the Village Link about an incident that affected her husband, John.

**"On one of our lockdown** walks poor John tripped and fell. Thankfully, there was a pile of soft material that broke his fall, because, as he went head first, it could have been quite a worry. It was only after he managed to stand up and the adrenalin began to settle did we notice the

**smell. He had fallen into a pile of manure!"**

**"We went straight back home where he showered and we thought nothing of it, until the next day...."**



### COUNTRY HOME/ESTATE CLEARANCE SALE

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### CREATON & COTTESBROOKE GARDENS 2019 & 2020





## LOCAL HERO



*Local Hero Ella Perrins-May*

Every morning, Bob and Rosie Farmer make a dash for the newspaper. Bob and Rosie have been shielding since lockdown started in March and rarely go out. Even a short trip to the village shop to get their paper can be a risk for them, but thanks to one Local Hero, they still get their paper, delivered straight to their door.

However, it is not a thirst for the next instalment of how the Government are dealing with the situation, or news from further afield that gets Bob and Rosie excited. No, it is the little notes they find inside their daily paper that makes them grab it as soon as it drops through the letterbox.

Their Local Hero, Ella Perrins-May slips in a short note each delivery. **"Every day" says Rosie "we have received notes saying 'Keep Smiling' and 'Have a good day' and 'Be Happy'".**

Ella says that due to Covid-19 circumstances her mum asked if **she would deliver the Farmer's newspaper for them as they had to stay at home due to lockdown. "I was more than happy to do this and when I deliver the paper, I always try to remember to put a note in to make their day better and to make them more happy. Sometimes they talk to me through the door - they are lovely people and are always really kind!"**

Rosie and Bob say that the notes have cheered them up so much during a very difficult time: **"What a lovely thought. Thank you, Ella".**



## CREATON SINGERS

Not being able to sing together has been very tough for the Creaton Singers. Undeterred however, the Singers have carried on meeting, albeit virtually on Zoom, to catch up on news and discuss how on earth they can try and keep singing together! They have been individually practising some arrangements kindly put together by Glennis Ambrose ready for whenever they next perform.



The photo shows the Singers wishing the Village Link many congratulations on its 100<sup>th</sup> edition. **Pity you can't here the loud rendition of 'Congratulations'!**

## Creaton WI



Of course, it has not been possible to hold our monthly meetings for some time now. With the easing of lockdown we had planned a socially distanced get-together on

**Creaton playing field recently but, sadly, "rain stopped play"!**

We shall reschedule it as soon as better weather returns.

Along with many others, we have greatly missed taking part in Creaton in Bloom this year and, having had to cancel our annual outing next month, we look back fondly at photos from



a fabulous trip to Nene View Goat Cheese Dairy last summer. Looking ahead, we very much hope to have a stall, as usual, at the Northamptonshire Federation Craft Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> October, as many members have kept busy during lockdown by crafting some beautiful items to sell.

For further information please ring Daphne on 01604 505546

## 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). The Parish Council also has a Facebook page.



Meetings are held bi-monthly at 7.30pm on Zoom. The first 15 minutes is reserved for the public forum.

## Parish Council Meeting dates 2020:

8th September, 10th November.

The Parish Council will continue to hold meetings on Zoom until further notice. If you would like to join one of our meetings you will find the zoom meeting details on the agenda. You can join by telephone if you do not have access to a computer.

The agendas will continue to be posted on the parish noticeboard and website at least three clear days ahead of each meeting and members of the public are welcome to speak at meetings during the public participation section.

## Planning Applications:

DA/2020/0398: First floor extension over existing lounge, changes to dormers, double height atrium to front elevation, detached garage and internal alterations (revised scheme): Willow Lodge 8, Home Farm Close, Creaton, Northamptonshire, NN6 8NE.

Please look on the Daventry District Council website for full details of all Planning Applications.

## Getting up to speed with plans for new signs

Creaton Parish Council are planning to purchase speed awareness signs for the village, in the hope they will encourage drivers to adhere to the maximum speed restrictions already in place. We would like your help in deciding where to locate these, and any other feed-back you might feel is relevant.

You as residents are encouraged to contact us with your views. You can contact our Parish Clerk or contact Parish Councillor Chris Reading at Lilac Cottage High Street Creaton NN68NA. We have looked at several options, and the product we have chosen (Evolis Radar Speed Sign) happens to be the same as used by Spratton P.C. It is partly because they reported so positively, that we have opted to plump for the same system.

These products do not issue fines, or report offenders. They simply flash up reminders to encourage drivers to be aware of their speed, and the need for care. They can also record data such as the number of vehicles and the frequency, but they do not record registration plate numbers.

They can be customised to flash different signs, such as SLOW DOWN, or display the speed of the vehicle, or a smiley face for those driving within the permitted speed restriction.



We have identified 12 sites and have applied for permission to attach the signs to posts around the village. One sign will be fixed permanently and will be charged by solar power, but a second sign will be battery powered and can be moved from site to site, so drivers do not become complacent. There is already a permanently fixed sign as you enter the village from the north on the A5199. We imagine having our solar powered sign on the Brixworth road, so that it faces traffic coming into the village and approaching the playing field. The movable sign could be used on Grooms Lane, or by The Green, but please let us know what you think.

**This system will cost about £4000, but we are in the process of applying for funding, which we should hear about within the month. This should cover the full cost, but it has not been finalized. However, we have been looking at this project for some time and we have set aside funds to allow us to proceed. You will not be asked to contribute more because of this expenditure.**

## Dog Fouling

Dear Residents,

For those of you enjoying the countryside around us at this time I am sure you will appreciate all the wonderful sights and sounds that make Creaton so special.

Unfortunately you will also have appreciated that some dog owners consistently refuse to clean up after their dogs. Fortunately we have good residents who clean up after other **people's dogs and offer poo bags to owners who have omitted to bring their own.**

## What can we do?

We need a volunteer/volunteers who would use a spray to highlight all the dog faeces. This will not only make it easier for walkers to miss it but it should really embarrass those who choose to leave it for others to clear or walk into.

Also, if you witness dog owners ignoring requests to clean up after their dogs, please do report it to the dog warden with photographs if possible so that offenders can be prosecuted. This needs to be a joint effort to keep our footpaths clean and our countryside special.

Please email the Parish Clerk if you would like to be a volunteer.



## LOCKDOWN EASES FOR LOCAL BUSINESS




We have all read about the problems that the lockdown has had on businesses large and small. We must not forget that local businesses are very important for the local economy, providing employment, attracting visitors to this wonderful corner of Northamptonshire and helping maintain a vibrant and varied community. Particularly affected has been the hotel, leisure and restaurant industry and it is good to see the local pubs opening up as lockdown eases.

In Creton, Highgate House has reopened and tells Village Link that it is better than ever, especially for local people. With restrictions still holding back conferences and weddings, Highgate House has turned its attention to the local community. Whether you are looking for breakfast, brunch, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner they have something for everyone with their new all-day dining menus. To make it easy to access for those living locally, Highgate have opened a pedestrian entrance from the Welford Road between breakfast and closing time, so there is no better excuse to take a break from a walk, such as the VL100 Walk in the centre pages of this edition.

Their all-day dining menus have heaps of choice and you can enjoy your meal in the Terrace Restaurant or if the weather is fine on the beautiful lawns.

**April Groves from Highgate House says “We are delighted to be reopening the family-run hotel and restaurant and cannot wait to see everyone”.**

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## CREATON UNITED REFORM CHURCH

The United Reformed Church is primarily concerned for the safety and welfare of its members, ministers, elders and volunteers as well as those who visit the buildings for other activities.

We have followed Government guidelines and are under advisement as to when and how the building will re-open at some future time, initially just for worship and the life of the church. The steps to reopening are not simple and we are not prepared to put anyone at risk.

The Elders locally are aware that there are people in the community who are missing attending acts of public worship and the weekly fellowship they enjoy. It is our prayerful decision that at this time it is not right for us to re-open the building. We are continuing to keep up to date with current denominational and government guidelines and will let folk know when there is a change in the status quo. We are continuing to support one another and the community in prayer, by telephone and electronic meetings and look forward to gathering together when it is safe to do so.

Please keep safe.

**Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp**

Minister -on behalf of the Elder's Meeting. July 2020

## CREATON WALKING GROUP

Congratulations to the Village Link on its 100th edition!



Creton Walking Group have been very grateful over the years to the VL for always giving an update and for printing photos of our activities.

In June we were finally able to walk together albeit socially distanced, What a joy to be able to once again share the sights and sounds of our beautiful countryside! The July walk was from Thornby to West Haddon, Coton and Guilsborough, ending with a very welcome pub lunch at the Red Lion in Thornby.



Over the years that the VL and the walking group have been in existence we have welcomed many new faces. We love new people and well-behaved dogs to join us, so if you love walking in our beautiful countryside and can manage about 8 miles, meet at Creton Lychgate at 10am on the second Saturday of the month.

Next walks are on 8 August, 12 September & 10 October.

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## THE CLOSURE OF GUILSBOROUGH PRE-SCHOOL

It is with a very sad heart that we say Guilsborough Preschool will be closing its doors for good after the end of term in July. Over the past few months the committee have had to take the very difficult decision to close the charity trust that runs the preschool due to continued financial uncertainties that have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been an incredibly hard decision to make and the committee has worked tirelessly over the last few months to try and avoid this eventuality.

The preschool has been in existence, on and off for around 50 years, **early years childcare and family's childcare needs were very different to** today. Not only has our Outstanding pre-school provided a home from home childcare facility in the village, its staff have supported families and nurtured so many special children. The staff have prided themselves on creating a wonderful setting offering opportunities to learn through play and be involved with the community.

We would like to publicly give enormous thanks to the staff who have worked so hard over the years to provide our children with engaging and meaningful education activities and experiences. They have been hugely supportive during this tricky time when it is they who deserve the support and recognition for their wonderful work with the children. We would like to thank the parents and members of the community who have given up their time to work on the Pre-School Committee over the years. The commitment to their roles has been so valued and appreciated, without it preschool would not have been able to run at all. Thanks also goes to other members of the community, including those linked to the church and Monday Morning Meet who have hosted our Preschoolers at regular events, parties and other exciting learning **opportunities, thank you for enriching the children's experience.**

Finally, to all the children who have attended preschool, we know we speak for all staff, both past and present, when we say that it has been an absolute honour! Guilsborough Preschoolers are a fun, enthusiastic, imaginative and super cheeky bunch. The building is full of wonderful memories those of learning, friendships, games and laughter. The staff have always strived to ensure that they send little ones off to their next adventure at their chosen primary schools, as happy, confident and eager learners.

We would like to wish all who have been involved with pre-school, both past and present, the very best of luck for the future.



*Happy memories from pre-school*



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## LEN HINDERER 27/10/27 - 8/7/2020



Our dear father, Len, passed away peacefully on Wednesday 8th July after a courageous fight against cancer.

He had lived in Guilsborough for 48 years living life to the full, always having time for people, making everyone feel special with his easy manner and terrible jokes. Dad valued each and every one of his friends **and family as I'm sure they valued his friendship too.**

We will all miss him terribly - especially his lust for life, humour and optimism.

Obviously, in the current circumstances a normal funeral and celebration of his life is not possible. He will be cremated at a small family service and we hope, when the situation improves, that we will be able to have a celebration of his life with the wider family and friends.

Rest in peace Dad,  
Paul, Eve and Fran



# SPECIAL PULL OUT WALKING/CYCLE ROUTE

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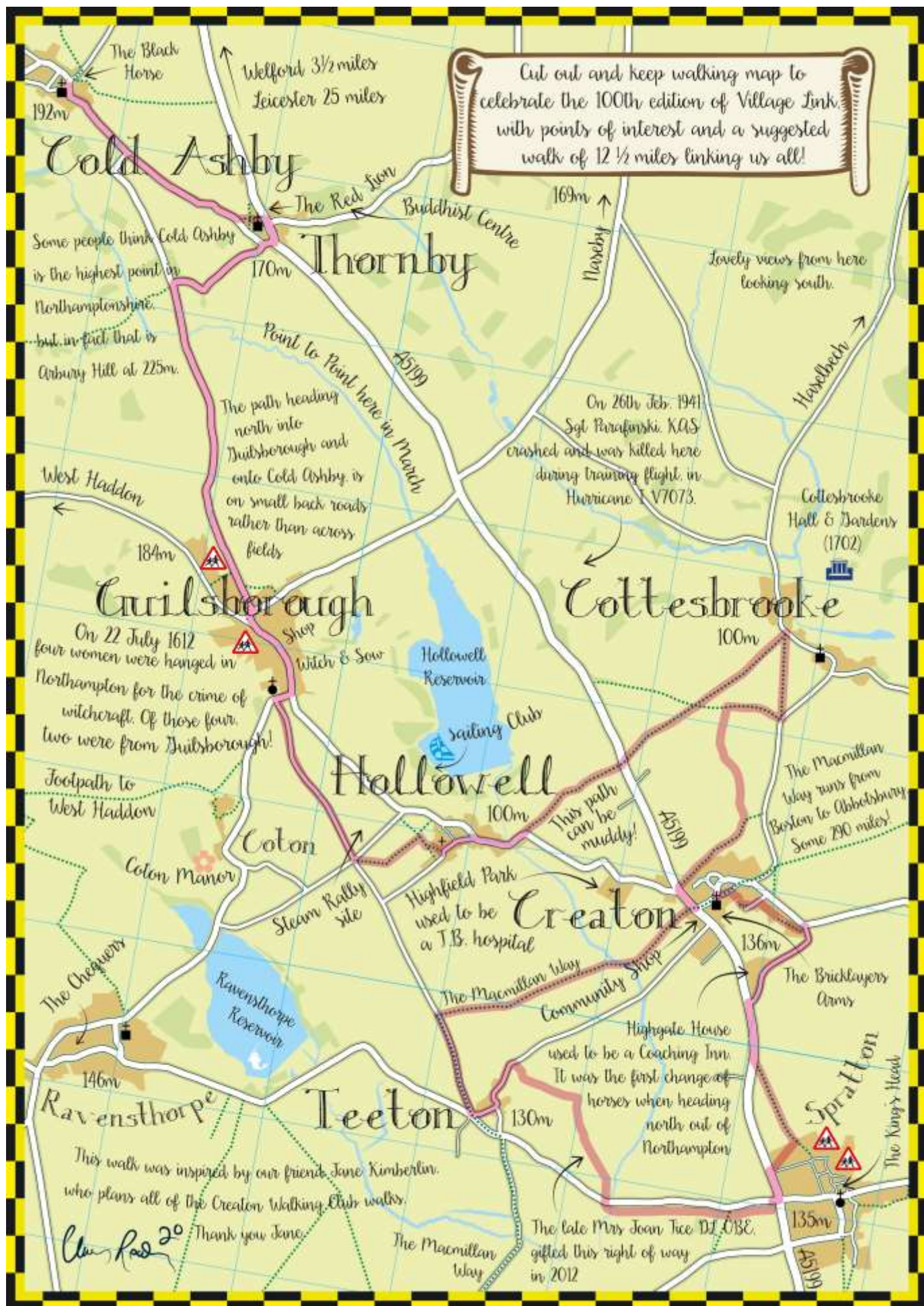
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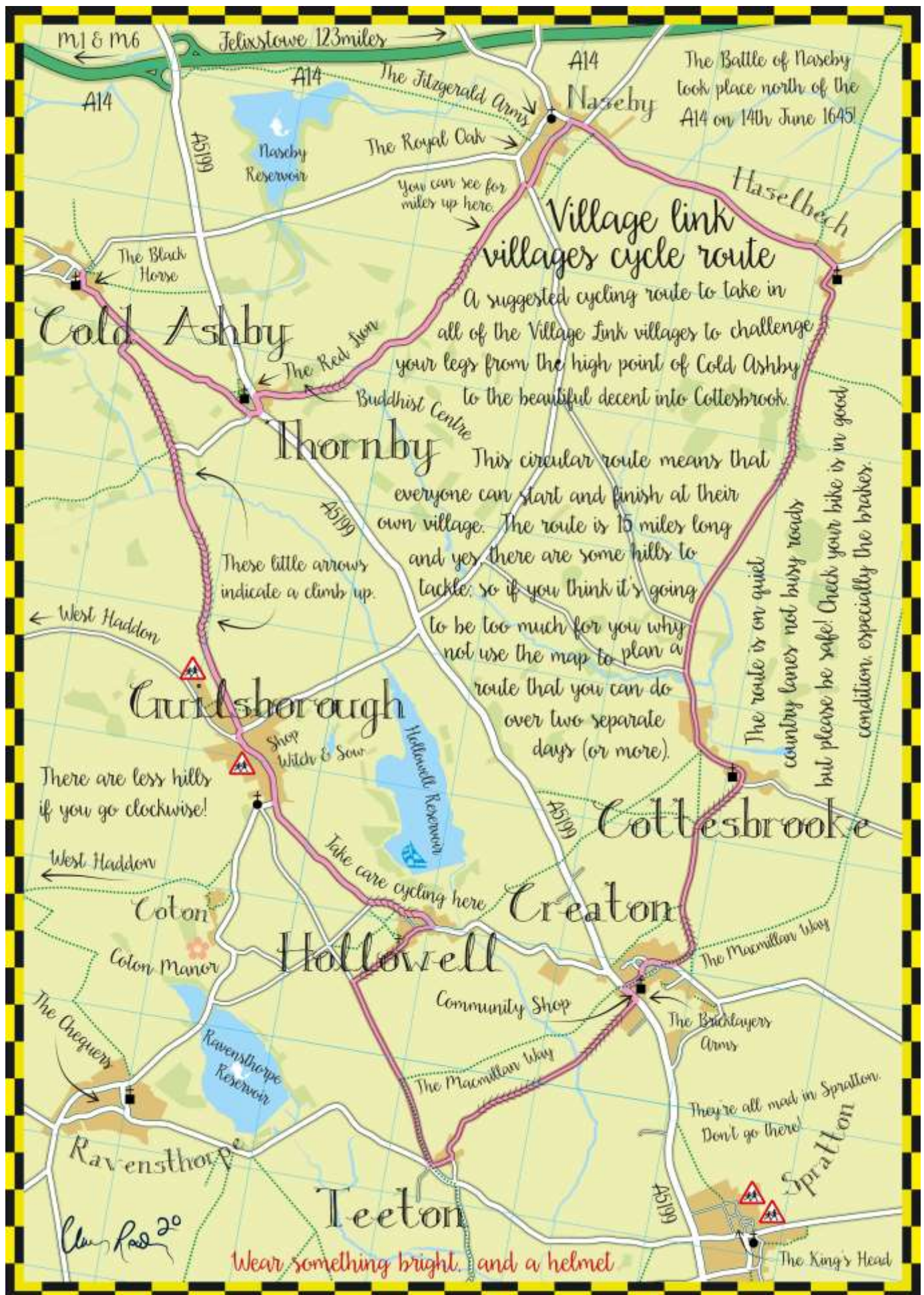
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*Phil Rimmer*  
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The “Lockdown” curtailed the junior football season in March and delayed the start of senior and junior cricket. Junior football practices and junior cricket coaching did re-start in June but adhered to coaching procedures and the guidelines from the Football Association and English Cricket Board (ECB) , following risk assessments. Throughout “Lockdown” one of the cricket practice nets was open for use by a household. Many enjoyed the peaceful surroundings at the field for walks and family picnics, with many youths practising their football skills.

Cricket has recently received permission to re-start in mid to late July, but the field and buildings cannot open until in full compliance with legislation and guidance. A risk assessment and risk mitigation plan is required, with a list of 76 checklist actions that the GPFA and teams have to consider.

**During “Lockdown” the field mowing has been reduced by 50%** to minimize outgoings as the GPFA is unable to fundraise. The cricket square has been maintained as it was anticipated that cricket would return. Archie Houghton each week, has cut, rolled and watered the square, and Thompson Ground Care have twice weed killed the square and given it a verti-cut to remove any poa annua (native meadow grass) from the square, fertilized it plus some further cuts to get the square to a good condition. Alex Thompson of Thompson Ground Care, who is based in the village, has kindly completed this work at no cost to the GPFA as a gesture of goodwill to the GPFA , the Parish and community, because of the circumstances that we find ourselves living in at the moment.

## VILLAGE HALL RE-OPENS

GUILSBOROUGH Village Hall has had a fresh coat of paint over the lockdown period and is now open and ready to welcome you back!

It a perfect venue for Parties,

Christenings, Wedding receptions etc for up to 30 people. We are also looking forward to welcoming our regular users and getting back to normal, subject to some necessary COVID 19 secure procedures.

We would also welcome any of you lovely people who wish to set up new regular groups in the Village.

To book the Hall or to be shown round please email [info@guilbsboroughvh.uk](mailto:info@guilbsboroughvh.uk)



## GUILSBOROUGH Tennis Club

at Guilbsborough Academy

### Coaching a Great Success



**We’ve increased our membership by more than 100% since** reopening after the enforced closure by the Covid-19 pandemic. With the Academy allowing us to start play at 5pm on weekdays, and tennis being one of the sports which have been possible during these difficult times, families in particular have taken advantage of the facilities; so that we now have over 25 families who are members.

One of our main objectives (before Covid) was to increase tennis playing within the community. We had a well-attended Race Night last October, to raise funds for the Club, partly to provide tennis coaching. Now that tennis is allowed between households, the coaching has begun and has been a brilliant success. We have engaged the LTA coach Bobby Brooke on Saturday mornings in July and August, initially for Juniors and Students, with Adult coaching starting in August. Twelve students (seen here) enrolled for the coaching, and thoroughly enjoyed their first session in July.

You have to be a member of GTC to play and book through our WhatsApp group. If you’re interested in joining please call:

Sarah on 07917 608238 or email:

[sarahdalzell57@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdalzell57@gmail.com)



*Students at the recent coaching sessions*



# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## PARISH COUNCIL [www.guilsbroughpc.org.uk](http://www.guilsbroughpc.org.uk)

The Parish Council has been meeting via Zoom throughout the Covid crisis and will continue to do so into the autumn. Members of the public can still join the meetings should they wish to—please see the website for details.

The playground is now open again. Please read the notices that have been erected regarding extra precautions required for the current times.

We are grateful to Tilly Houghton who is litter picking at the playground and elsewhere for her Duke of Edinburgh Award community service.

The bus service has been saved until March 2021—the PC has contributed financially along with other villages on the route. The timetable can be found at <https://www.unobus.info/services/northampton/5960/59/>

## AUTUMN FESTIVAL WEEKEND CANCELLED

This year's Guilsborough Festival 19th/20th/21st September has been cancelled.

## NORTHAMPTON HOPE CENTRE NN VILLAGE BY VILLAGE WE ARE HELPING TO END HUNGER

Our village is helping to end hunger in Northampton

### SHOPPING LIST

#### Food

Pot / Super noodles / mug shots  
Jams and spreads  
Custard / rice pudding  
Tinned meats  
Breakfast cereal  
Squash  
Chocolates / sweets  
Soup (tinned and instant)

#### Other

Vegetable plants  
Cleaning supplies  
Toiletries



Thank You

Donations can be left at The Witch & Sow on Wednesday to Sunday and will be collected weekly on a Thursday for delivery to the Hope Centre.

Any queries, please contact either Amanda Lowther [auglowther@aol.com](mailto:auglowther@aol.com) or Louise Knight [louise@wearekws.com](mailto:louise@wearekws.com)

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



**It's been a very different end of our school year 2020 and since the COVID pandemic we have been coming to terms with new ways of teaching and learning.** Throughout the pandemic we have been providing key worker provision for our Guilsborough families to access, as well as an online learning platform for all of our children, whereby teachers can stay in contact with their pupils on a regular basis to continue their curriculum and learning journey at home. Our Year 6 and



Reception children have been back at school since 1<sup>st</sup> June where through hard work and effort we have provided a COVID safe learning environment. Our Guilsborough YouTube channel has been a huge success, enabling us to continue

with a weekly Collective Worship Assembly, stories and fun activities and a virtual sports day which have all been very entertaining. We wanted to show our Guilsborough family that **we are very much still here even if they couldn't be at school!** Unfortunately, we couldn't say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils in the same way this year but we still managed to celebrate their time at school. The children enjoyed a distancing picnic, leavers video of their own favourite memories of primary school along with their own 'Don't Stop Me Now' dance video, together with some heartfelt messages from all of our teachers. All of us would like to wish all of our Year 6 pupils a super transition to Secondary School and the best of luck for their futures.

We are really looking forward to all being back at school in September, where we will be welcoming our new Reception children. I'd like to say a huge thank you and well done to all of our Guilsborough family for being so supportive to each other in recent months. I certainly couldn't have asked for more. Please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilsborough Primary we have lots of information on our website [www.guilsbroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.guilsbroughprimary.co.uk), or you can keep up to speed via our Twitter profile - @guilsbroughpri.



# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## LETTER FROM 'A LONDONER'

As an 'honorary Hollowellian' I've been overwhelmed by the sense of community in this beautiful village.

Will (son of Viv and John Benjamin) and I came to Hollowell a fortnight before lockdown. We came armed with only a week or so's worth of (winter) clothes thinking we'd be back in London shortly. We've now been here for four months and don't want to leave!

In London we avoid our neighbours. It's a point of pride if we can get through a tube journey without making eye contact with anyone. In Hollowell we've found a meaningful sense of community.

We swapped our stressful London lives for ... social gatherings on zoom and in the garden with wonderful neighbours, saying hello to the Coton Manor pigs, bumping into neighbours on a walk and stopping to have meaningful conversations, exchanging neighbourly gifts, colouring paper planes for VE Day, shopping local at the Creaton village shop, making soap (something I'd never done pre-Hollowell), soaking up the countryside views from the top of the Guilsborough crossroads ... and on and on.

We've found a village that cares for each other, and embraces strangers (even Londoners!). We've seen so many meaningful examples of this already through Cheryl and Paul Charter's wonderful work running Hopewell, Amy Leach's and all of the Hollowell front line workers' efforts over lockdown, Emily Curtis's creativity organising socially distant VE Day festivities, and everyone coming together to mark Mark Johnson's passing.

Thank you, Hollowell for making us feel so welcome. *Caroline*



## A huge WELCOME to:

Sally Capehorn and Paul Marshall who have moved into The Nook on the Green with their 3 dogs - Oscar the Pointer, Murphy a Pyrenean Mountain dog and Molly a Westie.

## Lockdown activities in Hollowell and Teeton



# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## Hollowell & Teeton Parish Council

H & T Parish Council has been holding meetings via the video conference system, Zoom during lockdown, to ensure Parish matters continue to be dealt with. These meetings are open to the public and the link to join us is published on the **council's website and on the Hollowell & Teeton Facebook page**.

The Parish website has been recently revamped. The previous website provider closed down, necessitating the creation of a new site. Thank you to Councillor Hannah Oswin for all her hard work on this.

As always, please check the website for Parish Council and other village groups information. <https://www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk/>

## County Bird Recorder

Hollowell resident Jon Cook has recently been appointed

**Northamptonshire's official Bird Recorder.**

Bird Recorders collate records about local avian activity using information **from local bird clubs like Jon's own club, Northants Birds**, and they also receive reports from other birders. Jon got the bug for birding as a teenager, exploring the rural Nottinghamshire of his youth with his birder Dad, Tony. He has spent the last 22 years keeping an **eye on Northamptonshire's bird activity**.

He says **"Bird Recorders don't just record rarities; they monitor bird populations and how they change, and they also get involved in conservation and the preservation of bird habitats.**

He enthuses about the stunning ospreys that have appeared on Hollowell Reservoir as a result of a reintroduction programme from Rutland Water, the little owls in the hawthorn hedge at the top of Church Hill, and the black-bellied dippers at Sywell.

Asked what is still on his bucket list he says a Wallcreeper without out a flicker of hesitation. Wallcreepers are pink, black and white and are very rare birds with real charisma that love high mountains and limestone cliffs; one was last spotted in the UK at Portland in Dorset in the 1960s.

**If you want to tell Jon what you've seen, please email him at [joncook@northantsbirds@gmail.com](mailto:joncook@northantsbirds@gmail.com).**

To see more of his photos go to

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/jcbirder](https://www.twitter.com/jcbirder)



Sand Martin



Arctic Tern



Swift

## Hollowell Treasure

**We had a few deluges in the lockdown didn't we! After one such dowsing of the garden, 9-year-old Hollowellian Peter Jilbert spotted something on the recently turned compost heap. He gave it a wash off in the stream, and amazingly he had found an Empire Day Medal! Difficult to predict the exact year, but likely to be late 1920's. We found it on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, so not too far off an anniversary of the 24<sup>th</sup> of May either. I'm sure archaeologists would be devastated, but we gave it a good polish up, and why not! Well done Peter!**



## Letters under Lockdown

Retired diplomat, Merrick Baker-Bates has been penning letters to the newspapers under lockdown (Merrick is also an important member of our village Covid Response Team). He hit a bullseye a few weeks ago with a letter about pelicans that was rapturously received by the Telegraph, where a correspondence about pelicans had been developing for some time. Telegraph Headline:

### **A Soviet Pelican Incarcerated for Fowl Play**

SIR – When working at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office some years ago I came across a letter dated 1981 from the Department of the Environment to the Soviet Embassy in London. It shed light on the history of Russian pelicans in St James's Park.

The letter reported that of two pelicans presented by the Russians to St James's Park in 1977, one had unfortunately died, while the other had "turned cannibal" and begun to eat pigeons, ducklings and other small waterfowl. The embassy was told "as a courtesy" that the miscreant had been deported to Regent's Park zoo, there to enjoy life without access to small birds.

Merrick Baker-Bates

## New picnic tables for Hollowell Pocket Park

HPPAC is delighted to have been able to install two new picnic tables in the Pocket Park. The tables which seat at least 6, are made of recycled plastic and are located close to the play equipment to make it easier for adults to keep an eye on their charges at play. The tables were largely funded by proceeds allocated to the Pocket Park from the last two Hollowell FAFFs. A big thank you to everyone involved.



# THORNBY NEWS

## THORNBY VILLAGE HALL

To the residents of Thornby

We hope this note finds you all fit and well during these very difficult times.

Whilst our beautiful village hall is owned by the Church, we as the Village Hall Management Committee are financially responsible, under the terms of our lease, for upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Our annual fundraising events promote fun and sociability within the village whilst ensuring continuity for this valuable asset. However recent circumstances have led to the resignation of three of our committee members leaving us with just five from a full compliment of eight.

We were forced to cancel our AGM in March due to Coronavirus, but plan to reschedule as soon as current restrictions on meetings are eased and ahead of this we write to enquire if anyone would be interested in joining our committee with some new blood and fresh ideas.? We would love to hear from you.

Please contact Carol Parkinson 07952 725628  
or Ann Galpin 01604 743860.

Thank you for listening.

Kind regards  
Thornby Village Hall Management Committee  
Registered Charity 296356



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*Thank you!*

On behalf of the residents of Thornby village we would like to congratulate the Village Link on producing 100 editions. Many thanks for your help in advertising our village events for St. Helens Church - Village Hall and Red Lion Pub.



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

# CHURCH NEWS

Uplands Group of Parishes office (answerphone): 01604 743444

Email: [uplandsgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:uplandsgroup@btinternet.com)

As I write this article in early July we have just entered a time when the Government is easing the lockdown restrictions and many businesses including the church are preparing to open. We are tentatively and carefully finding our way back into community life. However, careful is the word - coronavirus has not gone away and there is no less need to protect the more vulnerable among us and protect our NHS.

Many people are looking forward to being able to get into our church buildings to worship and to pray. Some of the church buildings in the Uplands are now open for private prayer at set times during the week. In the Uplands Group we intend to gradually return to worshipping in our church buildings in August. Church services will look very different, and may not go back to how they were before the pandemic for many months. Familiar faces may be absent as some people decide it is safer for them or their loved ones if they worship at home at present. At this point, I cannot emphasize enough that if you have any concerns about gathering to worship in the church building, you must not feel under any pressure to return.

There will be a service each week across the group in at least one of our church buildings. Our Worship will also continue to be streamed each week on Facebook Live through our page **'Uplands Group Churches'** and then subsequently be available on our You Tube Channel. If you would like to join us for worship in our church buildings, in order to prepare yourself, I strongly suggest that you subscribe to our weekly email by contacting our administrator at [uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com).

To misquote Churchill, the reopening of our church building for worship will not be the beginning of the end of this crisis, but perhaps the end of the beginning. For a long time into the

future, being Church - both in worship and in serving our community - is going to require imagination and love and a willingness to make the best of difficult circumstances. I have seen all these things in evidence in the Villages served by the Uplands Group of Churches, so I am not asking for anything new. I am simply encouraging you to continue being your loving selves, as we work out how we can continue to love God, love one another and love our community in a time of Coronavirus. But those who follow Jesus know about love. And on the days when we find love hard, the God of love is there to help us, strengthen us, comfort us and guide us. If we trust in **God, God will show us how we can be God's church in these peculiar days.**

It seems a long time since the community of The Uplands Group said farewell to Reverend Chris at the beginning of March and so much has happened in all our lives. Yet quietly in the background, there has been an ongoing and rigorous appointment process for a new Rector led by the Churchwardens and Patrons of our churches. I am delighted to let you know that on 12th July Bishop Donald announced that I was to be appointed to this position.

It is strange being a priest when we cannot meet in our church buildings, but your prayers and kindness have blessed me just as you have been a blessing to your communities. Our communities and our churches have had to adapt to this new and challenging time. I thank you for all the loving support and encouragement you have given to each other over the past few months and pray that this new awareness of community is a blessing that comes from this challenging time. May God bless and protect you in the coming months. Reverend Allison



Uplands Group Of Churches – Service Planner August & September 2020					
	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 6 <sup>th</sup> September	9 <sup>th</sup> August 13 <sup>th</sup> September	16 <sup>th</sup> August 20 <sup>th</sup> September	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 27 <sup>th</sup> September	30 <sup>th</sup> August
8.30 a.m.			St Helen's Thornby Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer		
9.30 a.m.	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Com- mon Worship Com- munion
9.30 a.m.	St Michael and All Angels Creaton Holy Communion Common Worship	St Denys' Cold Ashby Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	St Denys' Ravensthorpe Holy Communion Common Worship	St Etheldreda's Guilsborough Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	
11.00 a.m.		St James' Hollowell Holy Communion Common Worship		St Andrew's Spratton Holy Communion Common Worship	

It is important that those who are shielding, vulnerable or self-isolating, should continue to follow official government advice with regards to gathering with others inside. Please stay at home if you feel unwell, especially if you are displaying the symptoms of Covid 19.





**VILLAGE PUB**

Midday - 11 pm  
Closed Mondays  
01604 740 238  
[enquiries@redlionthornby.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@redlionthornby.co.uk)

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Andrea King  
VL since 2003

**I've lived in Guilsborough with husband Simon since 1998.** Our two daughters were born and raised here and are now at University. I work (nearly) full-time as a marketing consultant in the aviation industry and have recently added a tech startup to my clients. I love reading and belong to a thriving book club and the local tennis club. You might see me walking the lanes and fields with my young collie, or with fellow team mate Sarah and her black lab!



Tony Hart  
VL since 2006

I moved to Guilsborough in 1975 when I married Julia, whose family have lived here for numerous generations, and our children were born and educated here. I helped **Village Link take its first steps into the "online" world** by designing and maintaining the website. I work full time as a train driver instructor and have been a Parish Councillor **for over twelve years. I'm also an assistant Scout Leader** and enjoy the wonders of the computer, caravanning and photography in



Sarah Dalzell  
VL since 2006

I moved to Guilsborough in 2000 with my husband Ian, two step children and my **two children. I am a farmer's daughter** and, although now retired, I worked in consultancy in the agricultural, horticultural and environmental sectors. Some of you will know me through organising tennis at GTC. I also enjoy walking and belong to the art group, and book group in the village, and help with RDA at Holdenby.



Richard Hollingum  
VL since 2019

Patsy & I arrived in Creton in 2007 when I was a lecturer in Journalism and Media Production at Northampton University until I retired. Since then I have been part of the team that brought about the community enterprise Creton Village Shop and I am a trustee of Northamptonshire ACRE. When not doing these things, I take photographs, write a bit and generally avoid anything strenuous. I joined the Village Link team with issue 91 and look after the Cottesbrooke and Creton pages.



Angela Hubbard  
VL since 2003

**I've lived in Guilsborough with husband Peter since 2002.** I work full time as an Account Manager for a beauty company. I am a keen bridge player and love walking, travel and reading. I am a member of the WIGS (Woman in Guilsborough) where we meet once a month for various activities. **Since the beginning of Village Link I've coordinated the advertising and much of the fundraising and grant applications!**



Katie Fulcher  
VL since 2012

I have lived in Guilsborough for 22 years with my husband Mike and two daughters Jenny and Rebecca (now grown up and out in the big wide world). When not working as a pharmacist I enjoy running, walking, travelling (covid permitting), reading and cooking, with a glass of wine of course! I generally look after the Guilsborough pages, appreciating **the opportunity to "give back" to the great community we live in.**



Eve Wooldridge  
VL since 2018

Dave, my Husband, and I moved to Guilsborough 9 years ago from Hollowell where we had lived for 8 years. As well as helping with Village Link I am also on the Village Hall Committee. My hobbies include gardening, walking, acting with GMADS, playing tennis (when I can) and I am a member of one of the many book groups here. I love spending time with our family and friends and visiting our home in Dorset.



Mark Revitt Smith  
VL since 2018

I have lived in Guilsborough, with my wife Judithe, for 45 years. We have two children, who now have families of their own. All my working life I have been affiliated to agriculture and running my own company, but retired two years ago. I am a great National Trust fan, enjoy country pursuits, and walking with my Border Cross Norfolk Terrier, mainly on the rights of way in Cottesbrooke. I coordinate distribution of the newsletter.

*Continued from front page*

#### ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS

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- Witch & Sow Guilsborough - p2

Village Link remains a bi-monthly printed publication (although we regularly ask ourselves if we should be going 100% digital—should we?). It is delivered free of charge to every household by a team of 29 volunteer distributors - who have continued to do this through Coronavirus lockdown and who undoubtedly deserve a round of applause. There are many people who we would like to thank for their help, besides those already mentioned. Previous members of the editorial team Catriona Bracken, Alex Lowry, Kathryn Purchase and Doug McEwan. All our village correspondents who send in stories and news from each village (we are always looking for more)! All the loyal advertisers, one of which, Merrick Bowles Learn to Drive, has been with us from the **very beginning. We'd also like to thank the Hollowell Steam Rally, Guilsborough PC and Creton PC for their donations to help with the printing costs, and everyone who kindly donated to our Just Giving Fund Raising a couple of years ago, when we were running low on funds.** Please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see, we are always open to suggestions. We hope you enjoy this special full colour edition of Village Link!