



Centenary Celebrations!!



Creaton resident Mary Abbott celebrated reaching 100 years old in December. Born in Flore on 21st December 1924, Mary lived there until getting married to Jim, whom she met at the local Saturday night dance. They then moved to Blakesley, living in a flat over the local butchers until moving back to a cottage in Flore.

Mary says she loved driving around in her Lotus and Jaguar XK150 and had a job driving a van delivering medicines to Doctors and Chemists around Northamptonshire. Mary was also Akela to the Cubs in Flore for 10 years, and a brilliant seamstress and baker, even making her daughter's wedding dress and cake.

After her husband died Mary moved to Keelby near Immingham, Lincolnshire, where she lived for 20 years. There, Mary was President of the local WI for many years, and also ran a coffee shop in the local church. She says she also loved following the local hunt with her friends Joyce and Ab.

Mary moved to Creaton on the 3rd May 2007 where she loves her garden which she proudly opened for Creaton in Bloom. She was a member of the sewing group and the United Reform Church, often enjoying a bacon bap at Poppies.

Mary would like to thank everyone for the wonderful cake, birthday cards and good wishes she has received and especially Margaret for making the special birthday cake.

Mary has two children, Tim and Jacqui, four grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Friends, Romans and comedy lovers
GMADS bids you attend a performance of
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BY PHIL PORTER
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Booking fees apply
This amateur production of "Vice Versa" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk
www.gmads.co.uk GMADS Amateur Drama
Suitable for 12 years & over
Guilsborough Music & Drama Society

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WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

See p.6 for all Cold Ashby Events
6th Guilsborough Friends
8th Creaton Walkers
12th Creaton WI
20th Creaton FOSM History Group
28th Hollowell Hopewell Cafe

MARCH

See p.6 for all Cold Ashby Events
7th Lent Lunch Guilsborough
8th Creaton Walkers
13th Guilsborough Friends
20th Creaton FOSM History Group
20th - 22nd GMADS: Vice Versa
28th Guilsborough Quiz
28th Hollowell Hopewell Cafe

AND REGULARLY ...

Monday mornings MMM, evenings
Knitwits Guilsborough; Tuesday evenings,
Creaton Singers; Thursday mornings
indoor bowls, Creaton; Sunday am and
Tuesday pm, Tennis Guilsborough;
Thursday evenings, Badminton
Guilsborough and Nia Guilsborough.

Creaton Village Shop

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday **7.30am-6pm**

Saturday **8am-6pm**

Sunday **8am-12 noon**

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Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic offers osteopathic care for patients of all ages that may be suffering from a range of issues arising from the musculo-skeletal system. We also offer sports/remedial massage, cranial osteopathy, tongue-tie assessment and breastfeeding coaching.



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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 Sarah Dalzell, Five Springs, Nortoft, Guilsborough, NN6 8QB

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DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL/ MAY EDITION:

Tuesday 4th March

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Unexpected Winter Visitor at Hollowell

The last part of 2024 had been very quiet for me on the birding front, so I arrived at Hollowell Reservoir on the afternoon of Saturday December 14th with fairly low expectations. As I approached the 'Point' just north of the sailing club I was therefore surprised to flush a Bittern from the waterlogged reedy margins. Close enough to hear the flap of its wings, the bird flew away across the reservoir towards the conifer plantation on the east bank and away out of sight into the winter gloom. I had my camera with me, but the surprising nature of the encounter meant I was slow to react and in the fading light I was unable to get a photo.

As far as I am aware the only other record of a Bittern at Hollowell was in December 1983, seen by expert local birder Mark Piper. The only other Bittern that I personally have seen in the county away from the Nene Valley was one on the roadside between Coton Manor and Ravensthorpe Reservoir in December 2010 in a spell of very cold weather. Initially spotted pacing along the verge, it then stood motionless in its characteristic head-up 'bitterning' posture, giving views at c2m range from the car window.

Back to December 2024, I returned to Hollowell five days later, close to dusk as before, and the Bittern flew up again from exactly the same location. Although I hadn't been expecting a repeat encounter, I was ready with the camera this time and as the bird flew away I managed to grab a few record shots, including the one you see here.



The UK Bittern population has increased over the last 30 years or so, this is often viewed as a conservation success story as it seems to be largely due to creation and management of more extensive areas of suitable reedbed habitat. In Northants we have had in the last couple of years several records of male birds heard giving their territorial 'booming' call at various locations along the Nene Valley. It seems likely that they will breed before long in the county and may indeed already be doing so. In breeding locations and habitats Bitterns are highly secretive and very well camouflaged and are therefore usually hard to see. Away from these areas, Bitterns are scarce but increasing winter visitors, with our resident breeding population augmented by birds visiting from mainland Europe. As shown with the Ravensthorpe bird mentioned above, in times of hard weather they can turn up in unexpected locations and smaller wetland sites. My recent sighting was not perhaps the national rarity that it would have been in 1983, but it was still noteworthy – and a good reminder of a mantra I often try to keep in mind in lean birding times: "keep going, something will turn up!"

Jon Cook, County Bird Recorder: <http://joncookbirding.wordpress.com>

COLD ASHBY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Charity Race Night

What a fantastic night we all had on Saturday 17th November at our Charity Race night in memory of Darren and Chris Sellers. Grateful thanks to Steve and Kenny Roper for being our excellent bookmakers and to Gemma Sellers and Mandy Carson for cooking up a lovely chilli.

Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised an amazing £700 for Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance.



Cold Ashby Christmas Cracker and Christmas Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas events in December starting off with our Christmas Cracker on Saturday 14th December. A fun-filled night was had by all. Special thanks to Dave Harris for being our compere and setting a marvellous festive tabletop quiz and to Mandy Carson and Gemma Sellers for making the delicious complimentary buffet. Thanks also to all those who joined us throughout the festive season and for donating prizes and buying tickets for our Christmas raffle.



Cold Ashby Skittles

The Memorial Hall was the place to be on Wednesday 18th December as the whole of The Pytchley Skittles League played their cup games in an exciting Knock Out tournament. It was a brilliant evening, and some great matches were played. Congratulations to CAVH team on reaching the final, to be played against The Chequers, Ravensthorpe in April. Special thanks to Pete Walton for the loan of his skittles table for the event.

Farewell to Janet Thompson 1936 -2024

In December, Cold Ashby said farewell to another of our much-loved residents - Janet Thompson. Janet was Ashby born and bred and lived in the village the whole of her life. She was the youngest of nine children and the daughter of Emma and Gus Bott. Janet was very active in all areas of village life, serving on the PCC for many years and she had strong connections with St Denys Church. She always helped to decorate the church for the yearly festivals and was a regular churchgoer and a member of the Mother's Union. She was also a member of the WI for 54 years, the friendly club for 28 years and the bowls club for a good number of years. Janet was also instrumental in fundraising for the playing field and pavilion fuelled by her love for sport, particularly cricket, and along with her husband Ted, she helped to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and other worthy causes. Janet loved village life and was always involved with all village events. She was so well known and loved by the whole village who always relied on her for a cheery smile or to receive a piece of good advice. She will be so sadly missed by each and every one of us, but will always remain in the hearts of the Cold Ashby community.



COLD ASHBY NEWS

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall
presents:

Springtime Afternoon Tea



Saturday 29th March 2-5pm

A selection of sandwiches,
cakes, scones and tea/coffee
Tickets £10pp
Please prebook with Fiona or
Mandy

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall
**2025 Skittles Singles
Championship**
Saturday 22nd February
8pm



Lasagna and garlic bread available
to preorder at £5
(see Mandy or Fiona)
Served from 7:30 - 8pm



Cold Ashby Memorial Hall

SUNDAY CAFE

Join us for breakfast between
9:30-12pm

Sun 2nd February

Sun 2nd March

Bacon, Sausage, Egg rolls,
Toasties and cakes available to
eat in or takeaway

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



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COLD ASHBY NEWS

February and March Events

Everyone is welcome to join us and residents' support will ensure that we are able to keep these important village facilities open and provide opportunities for entertainment, social interaction and keep the village pool and skittle teams going.

Date	Event	Place	Details
Sun 2 nd Feb	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Fri 14 th Feb	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 19 th Feb	Skittles CA v LBFC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 22 nd Feb	Skittles Singles KO	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm (see poster)
Tues 25 th Feb	Film Night	Pavilion	From 7:30pm £5 for cheese & wine
Sun 2 nd Mar	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Wed 12 th Mar	Skittles CA v CR	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 14 th Mar	Skittles League singles	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 22 nd Mar	Social Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Tues 25 th Mar	Film Night	Pavilion	From 7:30pm £5 for cheese & wine
Fri 28 th Mar	Skittles League Presentation	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 29 th Mar	Springtime Afternoon tea	Memorial Hall	From 2-5pm (see poster)

Pool nights some Mondays from 7.30pm at the Cold Ashby Playing Field Pavilion. Bar open.

NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

Christmas Gift and Craft Fair

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas gift and craft fair in November where a total of £250 was raised for church funds. We are very grateful to all our stall holders and to Mick Lill and Rev. Caroline Burnett for manning the door and selling raffle tickets and to Dave and Maggie Harris for serving the teas.



Tree of Remembrance

A big thank you also goes to everyone who bought a bulb and attended the grand switch on of the Tree of Remembrance in December. This has now become a tradition in the village to remember those who are no longer with us. Many thanks go to Rev. Caroline Burnett for leading the carols and prayers at this event. Following the switch on, mulled wine was served in the church whilst the personal messages to remember loved ones could be read on baubles hanging on the Christmas tree.

Advent windows

Once again it was such a pleasure to see the advent windows lit up throughout the village for the festive season, thank you to everyone who took part in spreading some Christmas cheer throughout the village.



Diary date: 17th May, Kettering Town Silver Band will play in St Denys church, 7:30pm. Tickets £10 from Debbie Sampson, call 07794 179443.

COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Community Spirit Shines Bright After Recent Flooding

In the wake of the recent flooding that affected many of our communities, the true spirit of our special villages has shone through. Despite the challenges and hardships faced, the resilience and unity of our residents have been nothing short of inspiring. From the very first moments of the flood, neighbours were seen helping each other, and supporting those in need. In Cottesbrooke, a big thank you goes to Mark Harris for helping ferry people across the flooded water and with Henry and Phil Jackson, and others, who worked so hard to keep the water levels down. Also, Stefanie van den Haak for going out and about



to check the local roads for accessibility for those of us with smaller vehicles.

This flood has tested us, but it has also brought out the best in us. The acts of kindness and solidarity we have witnessed, and were repeated across the region, are a testament to the strength of our community. As we see the wildfires, and other natural disasters, impact other communities across the world I hope we all get to carry forward this spirit of togetherness and support. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way, big or small! Image of flooding, courtesy of Stefanie van den Haak.

Birders Come to the Village

Residents have seen bird watchers around the village since the autumn as, this winter, we have had a UK-wide invasion of Hawfinches, most likely from Scandinavia/eastern Europe. Hawfinch is quite an uncommon bird in Northamptonshire and it's easy to go for a few years without seeing one locally. When we have had such invasions in the past, Cottesbrooke - along with other 'traditional' sites in the county (e.g. Blatherwycke in the north and Thenford in the south) - has attracted them. The reason for this is because they like quiet areas with mature trees and they favour churchyards because most of these are planted with Yew trees, the berries of which are a great favourite with Hawfinches. They also eat other naturally growing nuts and seeds and they like Hornbeam trees, especially.

They occur in only small flocks; at Cottesbrooke, the largest flock seen has been eight birds.



Thanks to Mike Alibone (Optics Editor, Birdwatch Web: www.northantsbirds.com) for his input and the photograph of the Hawfinch taken behind the church.

CELEBRATE SPRING BY CREATING
A VIBRANT FLOWER BASKET.

FOR DETAILS, EMAIL STEF AT
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DON'T MISS OUT ON CRAFTING
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Sound Bath Evening

*meditate, heal, and
connect through
listening*



~£15pp (depending on numbers)
28th February
27th March
7pm
Cottesbrooke Village Hall

Contact: Sally
cottesbrookevhc@gmail.com

*Cottesbrooke Village Residents
Coffee Mornings*

1st Saturday of
the month
10am - 12 (noon)

COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Cottesbrooke Village Kitchen

Peanut and Chilli Noodles

Ingredients

100g wholewheat noodles

For the peanut sauce

- 3 tbsp peanut butter
- 1 tbsp grated fresh root ginger
- 1 tbsp sweet chilli sauce
- 2 tbsp tamari or soy sauce:
- 1 lime, juice only
- Pinch of chilli flakes

To garnish

- 2 spring onions, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp roasted salted peanuts,

Method

1. Cook the noodles in a pan according to packet instructions, until tender.
2. Whisk all of the sauce ingredients together in a bowl
3. Add up to 4 tablespoons of water (a bit at a time) if the mix is too stiff.
4. Add chilli flakes to your taste
5. Drain the noodles, leave a bit of water in the bottom of the pan.
6. Add the peanut sauce, heat for a minute and toss through the noodles.
7. Garnish and enjoy

Recipe courtesy of Cerian

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A Marathon Challenge for Ollie

My name is Ollie Perrins-May and I am currently in my first year studying law at Nottingham University. Through the uni I have been given the opportunity to run in a marathon in November 2025 to raise money for **HFT** – a charity which works with people with learning disabilities and their families. Everyone has a right to the best life possible but people with learning disabilities face obstacles and challenges that are hard to imagine. You can read more about the work HFT do on their website:

[About Hft - support services for adults with learning disabilities](#)

The marathon I am running is said to be the most iconic and most difficult marathon in the world. I will be running a gruelling uphill climb for over 20km and a total elevation of 820ft (equivalent to the height between the ground and the top floor of the Eiffel Tower) through the humid city of Athens.

I am planning to do some fundraising events in the Summer while I am home from University so watch this space for details. I would also be hugely grateful if anyone can spare any donations to support my effort and spur me on with my training. You can donate via my Just Giving page or through the collection box in Creaton Shop. All support very much appreciated. Thank you!

Ollie
Perrins-
May's
JustGiving
Page



Ann Hanson

16th March 1940 – 9th January 2025



Mum lived in Creaton for the last 41 years and she loved the village. After retiring, she became a busy member of the village community, when she began taking her granddaughter Charlotte to the Ducklings playgroup and then once Charlotte started school, mum became a school governor and then Chair of Governors. Mum loved being part of the school community and was heartbroken when the school closed a few years ago. Mum helped every year at Creaton in Bloom, serving the teas and cakes and then in the last few years, being the guardian of the takings! She enjoyed flower arranging and was a stalwart of the Church flowers rota, and she was always very modest about her arrangements, saying, 'I hope it will do', when they were always beautiful. Mum was always keen to be part of a quiz team at the Village Hall, with the sport and music rounds always her forte.

Mum was always out and about in her car, visiting friends and family and it was very hard for her to lose her independence last summer. In the last few months, when her health issues started, a trip across to the coffee shop was a highlight, chatting with her village friends and keeping up with all the latest news. She was also a frequent visitor to the new Jomidar restaurant and often mentioned how lovely the staff were to her, particularly when her health began to deteriorate.

When she first went to hospital in November after breaking her leg, she was positive and upbeat, telling the doctors that she needed to get well as she had a lot of life left to live and was looking forward to running around on her newly reinforced leg. Unfortunately, this was not to be, but we are comforted that she did not suffer and was very well looked after by the staff at Danetre Hospital.

We are heartbroken to have lost our wonderful mum, but our memories are many and will be long lived. The funeral will take place at St Michael's Church, Creaton on Thursday 20th February at 11:30.

James & Kate Leach

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CREATON NEWS

Creaton Walkers

The Creaton Walking Group were lucky with the weather in December, as you can see from the photo. The sun shone and the fields were not too wet - well not all of them! The eight mile walk went from Little Brington to Whilton and Long Buckby before a celebratory Christmas meal in the Saracens Head where the walkers were joined by their supporters. The walkers were delighted to be joined on the walk by a cocker spaniel who was on doggy day care and would like to become a regular!

The New Year's Day walk took place on the 2nd January to take advantage of the weather and included a coffee break at Pitsford reservoir.

January saw the walkers in Leicestershire enjoying the rolling countryside and the delights of the Langton Arms in Church Langton. The walkers were very pleased to be joined by four visitors from London who were spending the weekend in Creaton. If you enjoy walking, we meet at Creaton Lychgate at 10am on the second Saturday of the month.



Next walks are on:
8 February
8 March

Creaton WI

Our meeting on February 12th will be on Zoom at 7.30 p.m. with guest speaker Geoff Lambert on 'Canal Mania'. Geoff will be returning, accompanied by his dog, for our "in-person" meeting in the United Reform Church on April 9th at 7.30 p.m.; this talk will be about the amazing medical detection dogs. Non-members are very welcome at both meetings. For a Zoom link, or for more information, please contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546 or email wicreaton@gmail.com.



Creaton Singers

December was a joyous month of singing for the Creaton Singers, but tinged with a little sadness as the singers bade a fond farewell and thanks to Glennis Ambrose, their long-serving and inspirational Musical Director.

The 17th December was the culmination of a hectic December including singing at the Welford Christmas Tree Farm which is always a pleasure, and helping with the singing at Cottesbrooke Carol Service, where they sang John Rutter's Angel Carol. On Tuesday 17th December the Creaton Singers were joined by many villagers to sing carols on The Green and also to stop by and wish Mary Abbott a very happy 100th birthday. The singers then carolled their way to the URC to put on a Winter concert, Glennis' final concert as Musical Director. The URC was packed and, thanks to the generosity of the audience, £457.91 was raised for Baby Basics in Northampton, a charity which provides Moses baskets of essential items for new parents and newborns in vulnerable situations. The concert included a number of favourites and seasonal items with much audience participation! The performance of The Twelve Days of Christmas including the actions can be viewed on YouTube!



At the end of the concert, in thanks to Glennis for everything she has done, the Creaton Singers sang 'Thank You for the Music' with words specially written for the occasion, also on YouTube. It was a real 'handing over of the baton', as Jamie Milburn, the incoming Musical Director kindly agreed to accompany the singers. The Creaton Singers are doubly fortunate in that Glennis is not actually leaving but instead will be singing, something she has wanted to do since first joining many years ago! Also, finding a new Musical Director after a lengthy process has finally proved successful and Jamie Milburn, a teacher from Malcolm Arnold School and Musical Director of Long Buckby Community Choir has agreed to take on this role.

The new year brings an exciting start, so if anyone is interested in joining the Creaton Singers, we meet every Tuesday from 7:30pm to 9pm in the URC. Come along for a taster session.

Over the Counter at Creaton Shop

A massive thank you to all our customers for supporting your local community shop over the Christmas period. We had record sales on one day and high sales most days. Both the Post Office and the shop were extremely busy and we appreciated customers' understanding, as we tried to serve everyone as quickly as possible.

Our local baker in Market Harborough closed between Christmas and New Year, so, to make sure our customers could still get fresh bread, our own team of bakers baked wholemeal, sourdough, baltic and crusty rolls every day, in addition to the regular in-house baking of baguettes, croissants and other delicious pastries. Social media has been increased to ensure customers know of new products and any deals we are offering.

Thanks to you pre-ordering, we were able to get orders out quickly and when you wanted them. Remember we will deliver and are also happy for you to pre-order for a collection at a time to suit you, not just at Christmas.

Have you tried one of the new local cheeses, in the increasing range of cheeses available?

Are you ready for Valentines? Creaton Village Shop has some ideas to help you find a gift for your loved one.

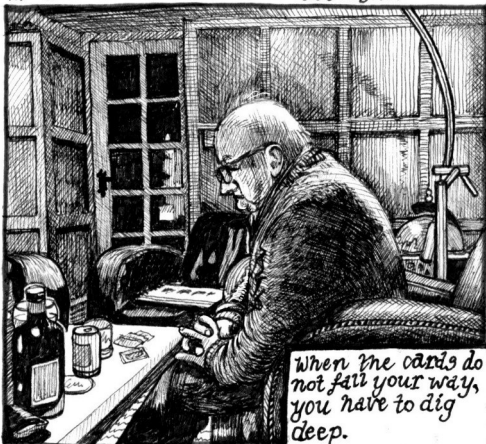
A big thank you to all our staff and volunteers for helping us throughout the year. If you can spare a couple of hours a week or a fortnight and like working within our local community ask at the shop about becoming a volunteer.

In the week prior to Christmas the shop ran a promotion with samples available of different canapes each day, made from ingredients sold in the shop. Social media reported on this daily with photographs. They were very popular with customers, especially the 3 cheese souffles and duck pate on cucumber. Massive thanks to Claire Morrell for the promotion, for baking and preparing all the canapes and for encouraging customers to try them and buy the ingredients. It all made for a very festive atmosphere and showed the versatility of the shop's range.

Finally, we can deliver firewood/coal? If you need to top up your winter stockpile we can deliver locally for free.

Crib Nib

12th December. I saw Lisa O'Neill last night. Tom Waits



When the cards do not fall your way, you have to dig deep.

Philip has found The Boatman's Call.

Creaton URC

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

Sunday	February	
2nd 11am	Morning Worship	Jon Heard
9th 11am	Service with Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
16th 11am	Morning Worship	Rev Jay Phelps
23rd 11am	Morning Worship	Andrew Bodsworth
March		
2nd 11am	Service with Communion	Jon Heard
9th 11am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
16th 11am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
23rd 11am	Joint Pastorate Service	Rev Nigel Adkinson
30th 10am	Service at St Michael's for Mothering Sunday	

Poppies coffee shop is open Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10am to 12 noon. You will be very welcome.

St Michael and All Angels, Creaton

Creaton PCC is delighted to be able to announce that we at last have the funds and are able to proceed with some long planned projects.

We are very grateful to the Denis Alan Yardy Charitable Trust for their very generous grant which will enable us to proceed with the restoration of our lovely Victorian pipe organ. The pipes and keyboards will be removed on 10th February and Cousans Organs anticipate that the restoration work will be completed by Easter Sunday, 20th April 2025. This is marvellous timing as we hope to include an organ recital as part of the celebrations for the 800th Anniversary of the foundation of the Church in 2026.

We also plan to complete the re-ordering project initiated by the late Simon Bown. We have a Faculty (permission) to erect an oak and heritage glass screen across the lower half of the bell tower. As there will then be a clear view into the tower from the Church we need to improve the appearance of the ringing area by building some discreet storage cupboards. The Jacobean altar rail which currently is across the tower arch will be repaired and moved to the entrance to the side chapel.

FOSM History Group

February 20th: Laura Malpas talks about Canons Ashby

March 20th: tbc

For more information, email richardhollingum@icloud.com

CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on creatonpc@gmail.com.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website www.creaton.org.uk and are also posted on the noticeboard on Violet Lane. [We also have a Facebook page.](#)

Parish Council Meeting dates:

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The next meeting date is 4th March 2025.

West Northants Council Consultations

West Northants Council hold regular consultations on a range of issues. Full details of current consultations can be found online at: <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/>

Planning Applications

Please look on the West Northants Council website for full details of all Planning Applications:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-applications-and-enforcement/view-and-comment-planning-application>

Christmas Tree

THANK YOU! to Welford Christmas Tree Farm for kindly donating the village Christmas Tree on the Green again this year.

Fix My Street

West Northamptonshire Council are responsible for highway issues such as potholes, fly tipping and grit bins. You can report concerns directly to them on the Fix My Street website:

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

Speeding Traffic

Please can drivers be mindful of driving within the speed limit when travelling in the village.

Boundary Change

Following a review undertaken by West Northamptonshire Council and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, a number of changes to parish and ward boundaries are due to come into effect in May 2025 across the West Northamptonshire area. As a result Creaton will no longer fall under the Brixworth ward when electing West Northants Councillors as representatives but instead will be part of the new Naseby ward. For further information please visit the community governance page of the West Northamptonshire Council website:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/have-your-say/community-governance-review>

May Parish Council Elections

All Parish Councils across the West Northamptonshire area will have elections in May 2025. If you are interested in standing as a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk or West Northamptonshire Council for further information. If fewer applicants apply than there are seats on the Parish Council the election will not be contested.



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WE HAVE VACANCIES

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Creaton residents to join the Parish Council.

Do you want to make a difference to the local community and improve your local area? If yes, why not become a Parish Councillor?

For more information email:
the Parish Clerk at
creatonpc@gmail.com

The future of Guilsborough Playing Field

The meeting of the village called by the trustees and committee of the Guilsborough Playing Field Association (GPFA) was held at the Village Hall on 29th January 2025.

This article was written before the meeting because of the publication date of Village Link. Therefore there is no outcome to report as yet but the GPFA feels it is useful to reiterate the issues which led to the calling of the meeting.



The Association is a charity and under its charter any radical change means we have the duty to consult the whole village, so we are inviting you to get involved and find out more.

Over the last few years, it has proved harder and harder to raise the essential £12,000 needed (maintenance, insurance etc.) so we are looking to the Guilsborough community to help, or help us explore what this land should be used for.

Several of the current committee are also due to step down soon after many years of service, so more volunteers are required to help us in the future...whatever the future maybe!

The main headline is that your playing field is threatened with closure.

Below is some information which may not be fully appreciated by some:

- Located past the school on the West Haddon Road
- Currently run by only six volunteers
- Has a quality cricket wicket and several football pitches in seven acres
- Used by over 2,000 juniors and adults to play football and cricket
- Villagers walk their dogs, knock a football around, use the nets and the exercise equipment and just enjoy the fresh air

We have several options including restructuring the sports activities, partly or wholly redeveloping as housing or workshops and any other ideas are invited. All this will have been discussed at this meeting.

We need your input and assistance. Thank you.

If you would like to be involved with the future of the Playing Field please contact Freddie freddie@d'lisle.co.uk or Graham graham.byars@hotmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Road Safety

There are still some instances of speeding traffic in the village, in particular when heading out of the village but still well inside of the 30mph limits. Some of these instances would most definitely be defined as dangerous driving as the speed involved is quite possibly approaching twice the speed limit. Please do respect these limits, they are in place for everyone's safety, including the minority that choose to ignore them and if you witness this type of driving please do note the registration, location and time and report it to either us or the police.

Councillors

At our November meeting, we welcomed Sarah Edwards to our council as a new co-opted member, filling one of the two vacancies we had. Sarah had shown an interest in joining us and attended a meeting as a member of the public to get a feel of an ordinary meeting prior to making her decision. I'm sure she will make a valuable contribution to the work that the Parish Council does. Sadly, we have also said goodbye to a long standing member. Graham Metcalfe had given us plenty of notice that he intended to resign at the end of the year, feeling that the time was right for him to step down plus it would be in good time for the coming elections. He will be missed and we

thanked him for all his contributions over the years. The members of the council had each contributed towards a personalised pen which was presented to him at the December meeting. Thankfully he has agreed to remain involved with our annual village clean up!

Local Elections

We still have two vacancies on the council and election time will soon be upon us. It has been a long time since Guilsborough has elected any parish councillors and it would be good for the village to be able to choose who they want to represent them. For this to happen, we need more people to stand for election than the 9 seats we have. If you want to find out more about just what the Parish Council does (and equally what we can't do!) please do contact our clerk or the chairman, Tony Hart, 07917 101008 or councillor.hart@guilsborough-pc.gov.uk.

Precept

At our January the budget for 2024-25 was agreed which in turn dictates our Precept which remains the same as last year.

Hold the date!

A provisional date of Monday 5th May has been identified as a possibility for our Annual Village Showcase Event. More information and confirmation in the next edition of Village Link.

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



Primary School News

Happy New Year!

As usual, December was non-stop and packed with many fun festive activities! We wouldn't have it any other way.

Our Nativity play by Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3 children was a real treat and I'm so proud of all children for their first-class performances. I'd like to thank all involved in putting this perfect production together.

We did lots of fundraising over the Autumn term including the bake-off, hamper raffle, children's disco and Santa visit so we'd like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone involved. We have raised lots from all of these events and couldn't have done this without your support. The School Council will be deciding on what else they feel the money could be spent on to make our school even better.

A huge THANK YOU to Stone Gnome Farm for our wonderful visit in the last week of term. Lindsey and Mary gave all our children and staff the opportunity to see their cows, donkeys and Borris the pony whilst learning so much about the land and important facts around rearing cows! The children also enjoyed their Christmas decorating and hot chocolate treat in the barn! It really was a very special experience had by all.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Christingle service at Guilsborough St. Etheldreda Church. We do hope you all enjoyed the festive carols and Christmas atmosphere; I know I did!

A BIG well done to our Drama Club who performed for parents and our whole school, it was a super performance. Also to our Guitar performers, they really do get better and better every year! Thank you to Chris for his continued support teaching our children to play this instrument. Our end of term house team winners were WATER! They had a morning of fun and sparkles on the last day of term with lots of sweet treats, a Christmas film, followed by playing games. Mrs Holcombe was very proud of her Water house team!

We really are looking forward to a super Spring term now and please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilsborough Primary we have lots of information on our website www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk or you can keep up to speed or Follow us on X (aka Twitter) [@GuilsboroughPri / X](https://twitter.com/GuilsboroughPri) and Instagram account [instagram.com/guilsboroughprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/guilsboroughprimaryschool)



Brownies

On 25th November, Guilsborough Brownies spent the evening at St Etheldreda Church, handbell ringing with Merrick Bowles and Julie Woolley. They had a surprise when the Brownies were invited to ring the church bells with the help of the bell ringers. They really enjoyed the evening and thanks to everyone.

If you have a daughter aged between 7 and 10 years who might be interested in joining the Brownies then please give me a call on 07989 194282.

If anyone would like to help with the running of Guilsborough Brownies I would be very pleased to hear from you. Experience in guiding is not essential. The Brownies range from 7 to 10 years of age. We are a friendly and very well established unit, with games and badge work which they enjoy.

Thanks, Mary Fowler.

See the back page of this issue for a colour photo of the Brownies bell ringing.



Guilsborough Tennis Club

at Guilsborough Academy ●●●●

Welcomes new and existing members from ALL VILLAGES for the 2025 season! A friendly club, playing social tennis.

Tennis continues throughout the Winter/Spring months (weather permitting). Play is on Tuesday nights at 6pm (when evenings are light enough), and Sundays at 10am.

Subscriptions are due on 1st April 2025. For more information contact Graham on 07894 424328



The Nativity (left) and Farm Visit (above)

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GUILSBOROUGH FRIENDS

Are a local friendly group for ladies and gentlemen, usually meeting at 7.30pm, at Guilsborough Village Hall, the second Thursday of the month. During the summer months we arrange outside events, weather permitting.

Social activities include: Guest speakers, garden visits, meals out, visits to local places of interest and much more £3 per meeting, unless otherwise stated, which is used to cover refreshments, costs and make charitable donations.

We look forward to welcoming new members.

Our Programme for the next 2 months:

Thursday 6th February: Money Raising Supper for Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service.

Thursday 13th March: Talk about the life of Arthur Cockerill, self-made Northamptonshire Philanthropist.

Speaker: Dr Isabella Robinson

For further information contact:

Janet Minney T 01604 740640

Elizabeth Southgate T 01604 740064

Carol Singing Success

A big thank you to everyone who joined the carol singing in Guilsborough this December, to those who listened and donated and to the Evans's for warmth, mince pies and mulled wine.

We raised £205 for the Northampton Hope Centre which will no doubt be put to good use to help those less fortunate than ourselves.



MMM



Monday Morning Meet

Guilsborough Village Hall
9 – 11am every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)
All welcome, baby – OAPs.
£2.50 per Adult, Children Free
Meet for a chat, knit, hot drink & cake.

For more information contact
Janet 01604 740640

Autumn Produce Show

It is planned to hold this event on Saturday September 27th in the Village Hall.

Lots of categories will be included for Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Baked goods, Jams, and Arts and Crafts. Children's entries will also be welcomed.

More details in our next issue but think about growing your entries for this fun show in our Village.

Any queries/ offers of help please contact c.benbow@hotmail.co.uk or gay.webster6@gmail.com.



Vice Versa

20-22 March 2025

GMADS' (Guilsborough Music & Drama Society) next production is a comedy romp through ancient Rome. It is ripped off from the Roman comedies of Plautus, written by Phil Porter, especially for the Royal Shakespeare Company. It's suitable for ages 12 & over as there are a few bawdy jokes!

Performances are 20-22 March, 7.30pm at Guilsborough Village Hall. Bar opens at 7pm. Tickets are £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gmads or Emma on 07899 891901 (booking fees apply).

Visit www.gmads.co.uk or follow us on [Facebook/GMADSAmateurDrama](https://www.facebook.com/GMADSAmateurDrama) for more information. This amateur production of "Vice Versa" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

St Etheldreda's Guilsborough LENT LUNCH

Friday March 7th 12.00 - 2.00
In the Village Hall

Choice of soups and cheeses
Donations in aid of Church funds.
Raffle in aid of the Leprosy Mission.
Offers of soup or cheese very welcome.

Please contact Janet Minney (740640) or Hilary Worton (740694)
Just drop in.....no tickets needed.



GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GUILSBOROUGH
Village Hall

Spring
Quiz night

Friday 28th March—7:30pm

£12 per ticket

Ploughman's included

Cash only bar
and raffle

To book tickets (tables of up to 8) contact:

Sue Needham 07771926519 theneedhamfamily2@gmail.com or
Sue O'Neil 07713622127 sue@nortoft.co.uk

Raffle donations to Emily Cheney 07818823558
emilyc81@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Wedding

On 14th December the Lowther family were blessed by a sunny day for Lucia's wedding to Max Read. There had been much excitement in the weeks leading up to her big day, not least about whether the tent which had been installed in the garden, could withstand the terrific storm the weekend before. We battened down the hatches and thankfully all was well.

The church looked gorgeous, decorated by Abi Shand Kydd with flowers, birch trees, bracken and ivy, the choir sang their hearts out and we all raised the roof to Robbie Williams' 'Angels'.

What a happy day and not a dry eye in the place. We held the reception at home and happily danced the night away, hopefully not keeping our neighbours awake.

A big thank you to Paul Jacobs and all the church team for their support in ensuring the church was clean, warm and ready on the day.



Wendy Yvonne

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HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

Hollowell Hens Wreath Making

Mid December saw the Hollowell Hens enjoying an evening constructing Christmas wreaths in the Village Hall. This year many opted for a more sustainable approach, using soaked willow branches as the basis for each ring, together with locally sourced greenery and some festive decorations. The evening was organised by Chief Hen, Sarah Mourant and wine and nibbles fuelled the creative flow. We made some lovely and very varied wreaths to adorn our doors over the Christmas season.



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A Steamed Christmas Pudding



Early December brought a treat for the more mature residents of Hollowell and Teeton. About fifty over 65s were invited to the Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party laid on by the Hollowell Steam committee.

All sat down to a welcoming glass of fizz, home-made soup, roast turkey (with ALL the trimmings!), a perfectly STEAMED Christmas pudding and mince pies. This feast was washed down by generous quantities of wine.

The food was absolutely superb, all prepared and served by committee members and supporters. Was that Rev. Alison we spotted in her pinny?

It was wonderful to see so many of the younger generation playing a part in the occasion with enthusiasm and kindness. We agreed that a better meal could not be found in any fancy county eatery.

Musical entertainment was provided by Steve Baldock AKA Dr Busker.

A heartfelt thank you to Neil Byrd and his team for providing such a jolly occasion. If only it were possible to personally thank all those individuals who worked so hard.

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Village Hall Lotto Winners

Nov/Dec

Dawn Fountain

Hannah Oswin

Diana Leach

Freddie Morris

Katherine Clarke

Chris Jilbert

Clare Morrell

Pauline Kirton

Chrystal Baker-Bates

HOLLOWELL & TEETON PARISH COUNCIL



Website: <http://www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk>

GILLIAN GREAVES (Clerk)

12 Berry Lane, Wootton

NN4 6JX

Tel: 07771980598

Email: pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk

Bleed Control Kit added to Defibrillator Cabinet (The Green, Hollowell NN6 8RW)

The Daniel Baird Foundation Bleed Control Kit was developed by West Midlands Ambulance Service, leading consultants from the Trauma Network and the Daniel Baird Foundation to provide a kit of medical equipment that can be easily used by the public but can also control a catastrophic bleed. The kits are widely used across the country and have been used on several occasions to save a patient's life.

Contents:

Large Trauma Dressing - Designed to control moderate bleeding

- Celox Gauze - a haemostatic gauze dressing that is very effective, designed to control moderate to very severe haemorrhage
- Fox Seal Chest Seal - an innovative dressing for emergency management of penetrating chest wounds
- Tactical Mechanical Tourniquet - easy to use tourniquet for stopping the flow of blood to the arms or legs
- 2 pairs of disposable Gloves - personal protection
- Scissors - emergency sheers for quickly and effectively removing clothes
- Emergency Foil Blanket - keeps patient warm and protected from the elements
- CPR Face Mask - if CPR is required the face shield protects the user
- Marker Pen - used to note the time a tourniquet is applied - this is important when a hospital come to remove it later.

Whether an injury is sustained from an accident or an attack, if there is blood loss, it is vital that it is brought under control as quickly as possible to prevent an individual from bleeding out. Identifying where the blood loss is coming from and treating the area to try and control the loss of blood before the emergency services arrive could potentially save the person's life. If a person suffers an injury from a car accident, they will likely have sustained injuries that cause blood loss. If left untreated until paramedics arrive, the individual could lose their life, depending on the severity of the blood loss.

First aid bleed kits are also vitally important when it comes to people who have sustained a knife attack. Stab wounds can cause catastrophic blood loss, but having an emergency bleeding control kit on hand can help control the blood loss.

Access to the Bleed Kit is the same process as the Defibrillator - via 999 to the Ambulance service, who will provide the Cabinet Lock code and advise on use.



Defib cabinet showing bleed kit label



Bleed kit

About The Daniel Baird Foundation

The Daniel Baird Foundation (<https://controlthebleed.org.uk>) has been established in memory of Daniel Baird. Daniel was just 26 years of age when he was fatally stabbed in Birmingham in July 2017, following a night out with friends, in an area where no bleed control kit or trauma pack was at hand to use. The family of Daniel Baird believe that, had there been a publicly accessible bleed control pack available, Daniel's life may not have been cut so short.

A. G. Crisp
Chairman

HOPEWELL Coffee and a Chat

Usually the fourth Friday in the month. Next dates: Friday 28th Feb and Friday 28th March. Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a piece of delicious cake and a catch up with friends? We meet in Hollowell Village Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm. For more information please email: wearehopewell@gmail.com.

EVERYONE WELCOME.



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

A Stormy Café Christmas 2024

Despite the high winds and heavy rain, Storm Darragh did not deter the good folk of Hollowell from trudging up the hill to the Village Hall to enjoy Cafe Christmas. The hot bacon, egg and sausage rolls were a triumph, the coffee was frothy, and the stalls by local artists and crafters were great fun, whilst the tombola team was the linchpin of all the jollity. The event raised more than £500 towards the maintenance of the Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped make the morning such a success.



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Michaelbabbfoothealthcare@outlook.com

THORNBY NEWS

THORNBY VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Music Quiz 13th Dec

A great success! Many congratulations to the winning Team 'Blitsen' – John, Sally, Jim, Rose and Grant. Many thanks to Bernie, Ann, Simon and Louise for their donations for the raffle. We are so lucky to be supported by so many villagers, donating and/or attending all our events.

Special thanks to our wonderful neighbour **Mark**, not only does his property look wonderful, with his seasonal wreaths and beautiful hanging baskets, he also helps us to keep the outside of the Hall weed free and tidy. We really do appreciate having such a kind and thoughtful neighbour.

Bookings and equipment.

We are extremely lucky to now have regular bookings in the Hall. Not only does this bring in regular income, having the water and heating on prevents issues that can arise in an old building. The Hall needs to be used and enjoyed and we are so happy to cater for these groups

Special thanks to Carla, Blossoming Tree Yoga, Kevin and Ruth, Thornby Parish Meet, and Brian and friends that fill the Hall with song!

Residents of the village are welcome to borrow Village Hall

Thornby Village Hall

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equipment for private functions.

- 6 x small tables (4 seater)
- 6 x large tables (6 seater)
- 40 x covered chairs
- 48 x plastic chairs
- 2 x gazebos 3m x 3m
- an array of mixed sized glassware

No charges applicable however, donations would be greatly appreciated to support the upkeep of our Village Hall. Please note you will be liable for any damages or loss.

To secure all bookings and requests please contact Alex Todd – Warriner House alext@trucklink.eu.com

Thank you to you all for your continued support. Our little team works hard to look after and maintain the beautiful Village Hall. Wishing you all good health and happiness for 2025.

The Village Hall Committee
Rose, Sue, Alex, Michelle, Mike and Russ.

St. Helens Church

Saturday 12th April 2025 at 7.00pm

Wellingborough Gospel Choir

Come and enjoy an evening of different genres and songs, from huge pop and soul anthems to classical chorales

Tickets £10 to include refreshments

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Candlemas

The 1993 film *Groundhog Day* tells the story of a cynical weatherman covering the annual Groundhog Day event in a town in Pennsylvania in the USA. It describes a day that happens to him over and over again, giving him the opportunity to change his outlook on life for the better and to improve himself and his relationships.



I saw this film years ago but didn't know until recently that Groundhog Day is a real thing: it's a tradition kept in parts of America and Canada based on an old superstition about the emergence of a groundhog from its burrow and whether or not a shadow is cast by it. So, basically, whether it's a sunny or a dull day - a non-scientific way of forecasting the weather. And the day in question is 2nd February.

We might think of this as an American eccentricity but in fact there are UK and European traditions about snakes and badgers that follow a similar formula. We have plenty of badgers around here – they even visit my garden (though we never actually see them, only the holes they dig in our grass) – perhaps we could start a local tradition of 'badger day'.

Or perhaps we could instead celebrate the Christian festival of Candlemas, which also falls on 2nd February. It's no coincidence that this festival is on the same date as Groundhog Day. In the same way that our celebration of Christmas is likely to have been

built onto the tradition of an ancient midwinter festival, so Christians' telling of the story of Jesus being brought to the Jerusalem temple by Mary and Joseph is likely to have been built onto another ancient tradition where the tentative emergence of spring is celebrated, and good harvests in the coming year hoped for. The groundhog tradition is connected to this.

Some Christians keep their Christmas decorations up until Candlemas, and certainly keep their nativity scenes or crib sets on display until then. But at Candlemas the Christmas season is truly over and we begin to follow the journey of Jesus as a man and to look towards Lent and Easter. The story we tell at Candlemas is about new shoots from old roots; it's about how the story of God at work in the world enters a new chapter with the birth of Jesus. It's about hope and light and the love of God spreading throughout the world, beginning with the tiny baby held in the arms of a wise old man and woman who recognize the baby's holiness. It's beautiful and inspiring and reminds us that even through the darkest times there is hope in new birth and in the goodness and faithfulness of individuals who walk in God's ways of love and compassion, and who find the courage not to give up believing in God's care for the world.

The film *Groundhog Day* reflects all of this in some ways as we see cynicism, anger and unkindness transformed into creativity and wholesome relationships. Perhaps our prayers can be for a Candlemas transformation in the hearts of many so that the world can become the place of peace and love that God longs for it to be.

Rev John Evans



On November 15th John died after a short illness. His funeral service was held at St Andrew's Church Harlestone, on December 11th and was attended by his devastated family with so many friends and former parishioners. John loved a procession, a choir and bells. Merrick Bowles and his team from the Uplands

parishes rang the muffled bells and then tolled 83 for every year of John's very full life. The combined choir of the Spencer Benefice with some members from Guilsborough, Creaton and Raventhorpe led by organist Sam Dobbs, the choirmaster and church warden of Harlestone, provided the uplifting singing and music. Some 20 clergy friends led the procession and sat around his coffin in the chancel. The liturgy was beautiful. John would have loved it.

The Bishop of Brixworth, John Holbrook, led the prayers, the former Archdeacon of Oakham the Venerable David Painter gave the address, and the service was conducted by the Rector of the Spencer Benefice, Canon Andrea Watkins.

John was ordained priest in 1970 and his 50th anniversary was celebrated at Great Brington Church in 2020, in a wonderful service attended by over 300 friends. Before his ministry he was in the RAF. He was a curate in Corby and a priest in charge of parishes in Rutland. After a short time as a probation officer and as a Non Stipendiary priest at All Saints Church Northampton, he returned to full time ministry as Rector of Greens Norton with Braden and Litchborough and then as Vicar of Christchurch, Northampton. When he retired in 2006 he was asked to help out in Welton, as Bishop Frank's envoy, solving a difficult problem, as well as in this Uplands Group of churches. Eleven clergy came and went, and John steadfastly conducted weddings, baptism, funerals, Remembrance services (he was a British Legion Chaplain), Lent courses, confirmation classes, mentoring inexperienced clergy, as well as supporting others in their ministries. He was a self-effacing man who never thought to promote himself, rather to relish the efforts of others in the service of his Saviour. He loved food and fun and his home, Ivy Cottage and its garden was a venue for many events usually involving food. He was an enabler, a facilitator, a conciliator, a gentle and kindly advisor whose ministry was appreciated by so many. For 15 years he ministered here until he was retired in September 2021 and then he continued in the Spencer Benefice where he finally laid his head. Wendy and the boys want to say thank you for the many, many wonderful, appreciative letters they have received from you all. It has been a bleak time.

CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group of Parishes office (answerphone): 01604 743444

Email: uplandsgroup@btinternet.com

Uplands Group of Churches Service Planner February and March 2025										
	2 nd Feb	9 th Feb	16 th Feb	23 rd Feb	2 nd March	5 th March	9 th March	16 th March	23 rd March	30 th March
Cold Ashby		10.00am Group Service		9.30am Prayer Book Communion		9.30am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	10.00am Group Service		9.30am Prayer Book Communion	10.00am Group Service
Cottesbrooke	11.00am Prayer Book Communion	Spratton			11.00am Prayer Book Communion		Ravensthorpe			Creation
Creaton	9.30am Prayer Book Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion		9.30am Prayer Book Communion			9.30am Common Worship Communion		
Gulfsborough	11.00am Common Worship Communion		Brunch @ 11 Village Hall 6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Common Worship Communion			Brunch @ 11 Village Hall 6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Prayer Book Communion	
Hollowell				11.00am Common Worship Communion					11.00am Common Worship Communion	
Ravensthorpe	8.30am Prayer Book Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Worship for All	8.30am Prayer Book Communion			9.30am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Worship for All	
Spratton	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am Prayer Book Communion	11.00am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Worship for All			8.30am Prayer Book Communion	11.00am Common Worship Communion	
Thornby	9.30am Prayer Book Communion			Communion	9.30am Prayer Book Communion				Communion	



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**SAME MAN,
NEW VAN!**



Christmas Quizzers...



Two children enjoying the challenge of Village Link's Christmas puzzle page whilst waiting for food at The Jomidar in Creaton.



Guilsborough Brownies Ringing The Hand Bells

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 Michael Babb Foot & Health Practitioner - p19
 MJ Burdett Plumber - p17
 Merrick School of Driving and Towing - p17
 Wendy Yvonne Electrolysis - p16
 Wills Direct - p8

Guilsborough Academy Awards

Guilsborough Academy has achieved two prestigious health awards. At the very end of December 2025, the academy was awarded The School Mental Health Award at the Gold standard by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools for its outstanding mental health and wellbeing provision. Additionally, they received West Northamptonshire Council's Healthy Schools Bronze Award, which promotes a whole school approach to mental health, healthy eating, physical activity, and PSHE.



The School Mental Health Award, established in 2017, aims to improve students' outcomes and life chances by supporting schools to make positive changes at all levels of

the UK's education system. The Healthy Schools Award, tailored to Northamptonshire specifically, empowers schools to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Principal Simon Frazer expressed pride in the academy's achievements, highlighting the dedication of staff, students, and the support of parents/carers and the local community.

Guilsborough welcome any additional support and guidance from the local community. Please contact Kym Wright – kwright@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk



One Snowman and His Dog



Thank you to Helen Burgess for this picture of a snowman and a snow dog, built by Noah, after a brief overnight snowfall in early January.