

VILLAGE LINK



Pauline's BIG Day!!!



Guilsborough resident Pauline Boyes celebrated her 100th birthday on 27th November 2025, joining her husband Ron as a centenarian, who achieved his milestone birthday back in April.

Pauline was born in Rugby on 27th November 1925. She left school at the age of 14 and as part of the Women's Voluntary Service served refreshments to the troops passing through Rugby Station. She later joined British Thompson Houston in Rugby as a secretary where she met Ron. They married in 1947, setting up home in Bilton, Rugby where their three children, Lydia, Elizabeth and Ian were born. In 1964 the family moved to Manchester for Ron's work, returning to the area in 1968 when the family moved to Church Mount, where Pauline and Ron still live today.

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WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events

- 11th Creton WI
- 12th Guilsborough Friends
- 14th Creton Walkers
- 19th FOSM History Group, Creton
- 26th Sound Bath, Cotesbrooke
- 27th Hopewell Café, Hollowell
- 28th Bingo & Quiz Night, Cotesbrooke

MARCH

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events

- 5-7th Gmads Play, Guilsborough
- 11th Creton WI
- 12th GPFA AGM
- 12th Guilsborough Friends
- 14th Creton Walkers
- 19th FOSM History Group, Creton
- 20th Village Hall Quiz, Guilsborough
- 26th Sound Bath, Cotesbrooke
- 27th Hopewell Café, Hollowell
- 29th Village Litter Pick, Creton

AND REGULARLY ...

Monday mornings MMM Guilsborough;
Tuesday Creton Singers; Pilates & Yoga
Guilsborough

Thursday indoor bowls Creton; Yoga, NIA
& Badminton Guilsborough

Friday Time to Move Guilsborough
Sunday am Tennis Guilsborough; Soul Yoga,
Cotesbrooke ... and Long Buckby Library
& Hub events on p24.



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VILLAGE LINK

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

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Wherever possible **please email** your contributions to. editorial@villagelink.org.uk. This saves considerable time re-typing information! When providing hard copy materials, please post to Sarah Dalzell, Five Springs, Nortoft, Gulsborough, NN6 8QB

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 Sarah Dalzell to book advertising or email: advertising@villagelink.org.uk Cheques payable to 'Village Link'

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH EDITION:
Monday 2nd March

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Pauline's BIG Day

/cont'd from page 1

Pauline and Ron have enjoyed many happy years in Gulsborough and have fond memories of friends and neighbours in the village over the years.

Pauline worked at Cottesbrooke Hall as a secretary, and also for Colonel John Lowther, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire. She was active in village life for many years including being involved in many productions by Gulsborough Music and Drama Society and in the role of their Secretary. She was also President of the Women's Institute and a Governor of Gulsborough C of E Primary School as well as on the rota for the Church floral arrangements. Pauline celebrated her 100th birthday with Ron and their three Children at their

daughter's home in Leicester. On Saturday 29th November a party was held at Gulsborough Village Hall where all the family, including Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren and close friends joined to mark this exceptional event. Pauline would like to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes she received on this special birthday. Lydia, Elizabeth and Ian are so proud and thankful that both their parents have been able to celebrate the remarkable achievement of reaching their 100th birthdays. The photo of Pauline and Ron was taken on the day of her 100th birthday. They are holding the trio of cards received this year from the King and Queen - one for each of their 100th birthdays and a further card celebrating their 78th Wedding Anniversary in July.



Friday 27th February - The Audience

Returning to cinemas for the first time in over a decade, Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the Olivier and Tony Award® -winning hit production, directed by Stephen Daldry.

Daily Telegraph

'Wholly tremendous.'

★★★★★

The Independent

'Helen Mirren makes The Audience a right-royal night out.'

★★★★

The Times

'Funny and truthful.'

★★★★★

Evening Standard

'Helen Mirren is superb.'

★★★★



Full details and booking link at [www.nationaltheatrelive.com](#)

Friday 1st May - All My Sons

Bryan Cranston (Breaking Bad) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (Hard Truths) feature in a five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play, from visionary director Ivo Van Hove (A View from the Bridge).

The Guardian

'The stars of a dream cast align for Arthur Miller's towering tragedy'

★★★★★

The Independent

'Bryan Cranston is magnetic in this masterful staging'

★★★★★

TimeOut

'Ivo van Hove strikes gold with another Arthur Miller play'

★★★★★

The Standard

'An astonishing, deeply moving piece of theatre'

★★★★★



Full details and booking link at [www.nationaltheatrelive.com](#)

COLD ASHBY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Blankety Blank

What a fantastic night we all had on Saturday 29th November at our Blankety Blank Game Show night. It was a fabulous evening and everyone who came really embraced the event and joined in the fun with our very own Lily Savage aka Dave Harris who did a super job hosting and compering. Special thanks also go to Mandy Carson and Gemma Sellers for preparing and serving the supper.



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 13th 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 acting as Father Christmas to deliver our secret Santa presents. Huge thanks also go to Mandy Carson and Gemma Sellers for decorating the hall and making it look so festive. 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 Archive

We are busy sorting all our photos and artefacts for our village archive and we need some help to name people in the photos. If you have history with the village and are able to help us, please join us at the Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st February from 2-5pm. Do pop along and we will reward you with tea and cake.

NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

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 the members of the PCC who helped out. 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, a tradition now in the village to remember those who are no longer with us.



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 and carrying on this tradition in memory of Chris Sellers. Thank you to Gemma Sellers for organising it.

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall presents: Springtime Afternoon Tea



Saturday 14th March 2-5pm
A selection of sandwiches, cakes, scones and tea/coffee
Tickets £15pp
Please prebook with Fiona or Mandy

COLD ASHBY NEWS

COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Everyone is welcome to join us for the following events 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 8 th Feb	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Sat 14 th Feb	Safari Supper	Various	See Debbie Sampson to join
Wed 18 th Feb	Skittles CA v LBFC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 20 th Feb	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 21 st Feb	Archive tea and cake	Memorial Hall	From 2pm
Wed 25 th Feb	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 28 th Feb	Social Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 1 st Mar	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Wed 11 th Mar	Skittles CA v CSB	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 14 th Mar	Springtime Afternoon tea	Memorial Hall	From 2-5pm (see poster)
Sat 20 th Mar	Skittles League Pairs	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 21 st Mar	Country & Western night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm (see poster)
Wed 25 th Mar	Skittles CA v KA	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm

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



Cold Ashby Memorial Hall
Sunday Cafe
Join us for breakfast between 9:30-12pm
Sun 8th February
Sun 1st March
Bacon, Sausage, Egg rolls, Toasties and cakes available to eat in or takeaway





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Cold Ashby Memorial Hall Presents:

Dave's Country and Western Night

Saturday March 21st - 7:30pm

**Fancy dressed encouraged...
(prizes for best dressed)**

**Tabletop Quiz and
Raffle**

**Cowboy supper of
Hot dog or Cheeseburger available to
pre order @£6**



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COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Thomas Harris



On a cold November night, long-time village residents, "the Harris family" made the trip to Franklins Gardens, home of the Northampton Saints, to see the induction of their Grandfather, Great Grandfather and Great Great Grandfather, Thomas Harris, into the Saints hall of fame.

Thomas played in the 1920s & 30s with an astonishing 426 caps to his name making him one of the top five appearance makers in the clubs history as well as one of the top leading try scorers. He also represented his country twice, pulling on the England Jersey in Five Nation clashes against Scotland and Ireland.

Off the field Thomas married my Gran Nancy in 1930 and set up home in Cottesbrooke running the family greengrocer and fish monger business until his untimely death in 1958 at the age of 51.

We never, unfortunately, got the chance to meet Thomas, but it was a great honour to be presented with a Hall of Fame Cap to go alongside his England Caps. A very proud and emotional night.

Mark Harris

Christmas Fair



2025 saw the biggest and best Cottesbrooke Christmas Fair by far. The Village Hall welcomed over 20 local traders selling their creations to over 200 visitors. From Christmas Décor to plants and bulbs, delicious food to latest fashions and local artists, there was something for everyone to help kickstart their Christmas shopping. Both traders and shoppers commented on the wonderful atmosphere and the event helped to raise around £800 which goes towards the maintenance and improvements to the village hall and play area. The village hall committee would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to support the event and especially to village resident Heidi who supplied all the beautiful decorations.



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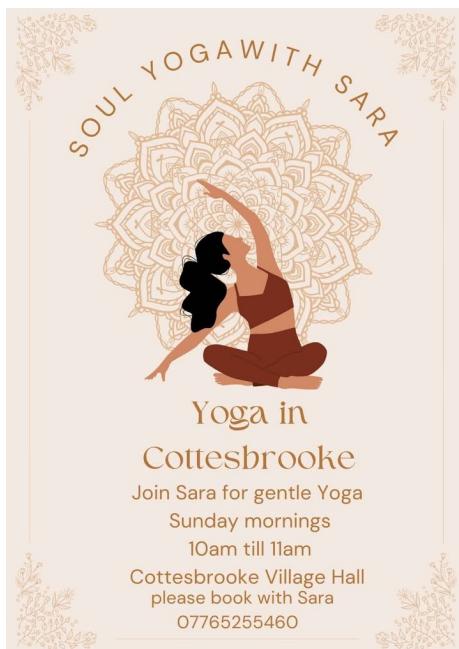
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BASED IN CREATON



COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Village Hall Committee



SOUL YOGA WITH SARA

Yoga in Cottesbrooke

Join Sara for gentle Yoga

Sunday mornings
10am till 11am

Cottesbrooke Village Hall
please book with Sara
07765255460



BINGO & QUIZ NIGHT?
at Cottesbrooke Village Hall

Saturday 28th February 2026
7:30pm start

Test your knowledge
Eyes down for Bingo
Enjoy a delicious evening with friends!

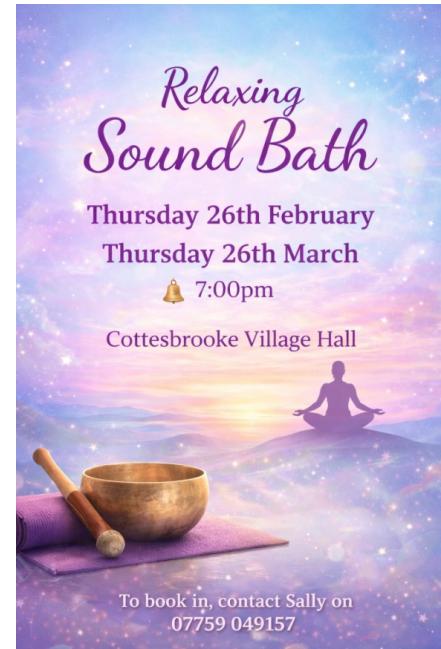
12 5 17

QUIZ?

TICKETS: £12.50
Includes:
Dinner • A Pudding • A Glass of Wine
Bring Your Own Booze.

Cottesbrooke Village Hall
Fun • Food • Prizes • Laughter

Contact Holly for tickets on
07493 165731



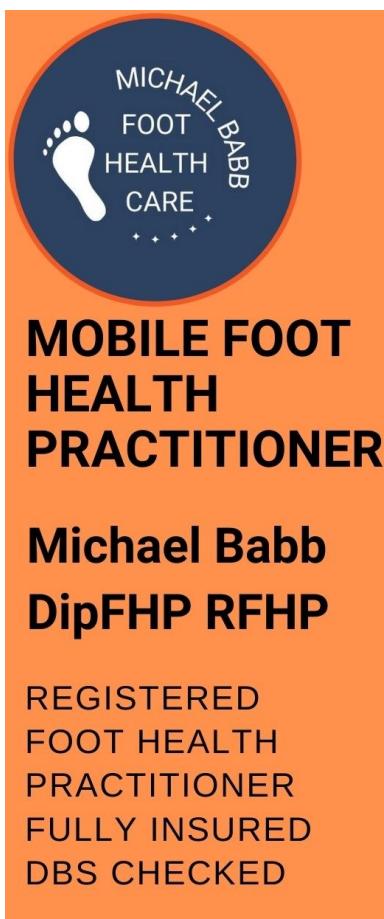
Relaxing Sound Bath

Thursday 26th February
Thursday 26th March
7:00pm

Cottesbrooke Village Hall

To book in, contact Sally on 07759 049157

Our community coffee mornings are continuing in the village hall on the first Saturday of every month. A big thank you to Rob and Ross who hosted December's coffee morning with mulled wine and mince pies. And to Mike and Trudie for hosting January's with delicious homemade fruit & lemon drizzle cakes. Our next coffee mornings are Saturday 7th February and Saturday 7th March 10-12. If you are interested in hosting a coffee morning, please contact the village hall committee for details.



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CREATON NEWS

Over the Counter

This Christmas just gone has seen some of the best days of trading that the shop has ever had. It is almost as if after over seven years of being part of the community, it feels like it has settled in. Setting up a community shop is always a challenge but they are a winner. In a recent report by Plunkett UK, a national charity which supports people in rural areas to set up and run community enterprises, community-owned businesses have a long-term survival rate of 94%. And Our Shop, Your Shop is here to stay. So Happy New Year and keep coming in to see what we have got.



Customer Alan Comley (right) tasting dips with Creaton Shop Manager Adam Perrins-May

Keeping the shop well-stocked is really important, and we have the things you might need in a hurry and those things that you want to take home and enjoy. As well as having deliveries from some excellent suppliers and from runs to the cash-and-carry, we have seasonal products from local sources, particularly this year apples and vegetables from your gardens.

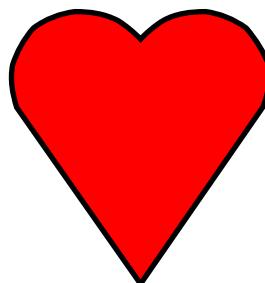
We also try to cover when gaps appear and Christmas was a good example. When our bread supplier took a well-earned two week break. How did we cope? We stepped up our own baking, supplying bread and rolls in addition to the various pastries that are cooked every morning - and usually gone by lunchtime. So bravo to the band of bakers!

And with a busy Christmas comes potential for stress and the Shop would like to thank all our customers for your patience and politeness whilst waiting to be served. But we think you know what to expect, and a bit of a queue is good chance to have a chat.

On some of the days leading up to Christmas someone would pop out from the back with a tray of something to taste, promoting a recipe. Did you have a go? Do let us know how you got on.

It was great to see some of our volunteers back from university for the Christmas holidays and willing to work for a couple of

hours of so in the shop. Are you looking to do something different in 2026? Do you enjoy being with friendly people and helping our community? Pop into the shop and arrange to have a taster training session to become a volunteer. You don't have to commit to a regular day of the week or time, just put yourself on the rota when you are free.



Now, we look forward. February, the month of romance (or have I just made that up?) is upon us and for Valentine's Day - or any day - have a look at our LOVEly gifts and LOVEly range of cards to (re)ignite those flames of passion. You might like to let us just how successful that was but do spare us the details.

In March, keep a look out for mad hares and in the Shop, for Easter eggs and other eggciting things to welcome in the Spring!

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CREATON NEWS

Creaton Walkers

December saw a record turnout for the Creaton Walking Group, with 15 walkers plus 2 dogs completing an 8-mile walk before being joined by our supporters for a splendid lunch. The Brampton Halt did a sterling job serving 26 people (and 3 dogs!) with delicious hot food in a festive atmosphere.



2026 got off to a good start with a lovely walk in the Brixworth / Pitsford area, taking in a coffee stop round the reservoir.

Walks take place on the second Saturday of the month. Meet at 10am at Creaton lychgate, and bring walking boots and water.

Well-behaved dogs are very welcome, as are their owners! Why not make walking a New Year's resolution you can easily keep?

Next walks are on:

Saturday 14 February

Saturday 14 March

Creaton WI

Writing this at the beginning of January, we are most appreciative of the support and interest shown by the local community in the training session with St John Ambulance, on using a defibrillator and giving CPR. By the time you read this, the session will have taken place; hopefully, it went well and everyone enjoyed it and found it useful!



Below is our meeting programme for the next 3 months, in the URC unless otherwise stated:

- February 11th (2.30 p.m.) A talk on "The History of the WI" (Creaton WI is 102 years old this year!)
- March 11th (2.30 p.m.) AGM (Members only)
- April 8th (7.30 p.m.) "The Work of Water Aid" – a talk by Richard McMahon

All are welcome to the February and April meetings. For more information contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546 or email wicreaton@gmail.com.

Volunteer Drivers Required

Are you willing and able to, from time to time, drive someone from Creaton for a medical appointment to the doctors, hospital, dentist etc?

You will be paid 45p per mile plus car parking.

Please contact Jane on 07879 604029 if you are able to help.

Many thanks to everyone who has already volunteered.

Creaton Singers

What a wonderful Christmas season full of music and concerts!

The Creaton Singers are delighted to report that, thanks to all who came and supported their Christmas concert, £447.52 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society. Despite the various cold and flu bugs circulating at the time, the 25 singers and our wonderful Musical Director, Jamie, all managed to escape them for that day at least and so had a full turnout.



As Winter thinks about turning into Spring, the singers are now focussing on new music and thoughts of a concert to raise funds for another worthy cause. Watch this space!

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Friends of St Michael's History Group

January's meeting started a run of talks specifically about the village's own history. Richard Hollingum gave a brief history of St Michael & All Angels as it celebrates its 800th birthday.



February's (19th) speaker, Rev Geoff Townsend, will tell of the United Reform Church's history in Creton.

In March (19th) Patsy Hollingum will be sharing her research in a talk entitled 'Discovering the Orlands'. The Orlands were a family of millers and farmers in and around Creton throughout the 19th century. Many of them are buried in the churchyard. All talks start at 7:30pm and are followed by a drink and time for an informal chat. To find out more about the FOSM, email Richard: richardhollingum@icloud.com.



Creton URC

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

Sunday	February	
1st 11am	Morning Worship	Jon Heard
8th 11am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
15th 11am	Morning Worship	Suzie James
22nd 11am	Morning Worship	tbc
	March	
1st 11am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Jon Heard
8th 11am	Morning Worship	Andrew Howes
15th 11am	United Service with St Michael's for Mothering Sunday	Rev Geoff Townsend
22nd 11am	Morning Worship	Tbc
29th 11am	No service at Creton. Service at Crick URC for Palm Sunday	

Poppies coffee shop is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 12 noon. You will be very welcome.

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CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones, on clerk@creaton-pc.gov.uk. 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: 3rd March 2026.

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/>

There is a current consultation on the WNC draft budget and there will be an upcoming consultation on the WNC local plan.

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>

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/>

Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council has vacancies for Parish Councillors. It is a great way to meet new people and make a difference to your community. No experience is needed and training will be provided.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk for more details. More information about the role is also available on the Parish Council website.

Litter Pick

Please help keep our village looking its best. The next litter pick will be on Sunday 29th March at 10am meeting outside the Jomidar Lounge. All are welcome to join and any time you can give will be much appreciated. Litter picking equipment will be provided.

Parking On The Green

Please can village residents and their visitors park considerately when parking near The Green. Parking on The Green is not permitted and can cause considerable damage at this time of year.

New Parish Council email addresses

The Parish Councillors and Clerk have new gov.uk email addresses. Details of the new email addresses can be found on the Parish Council website.

Speed Watch Volunteers



The Parish Council is appealing for volunteers to take part in the Speed Watch campaign. If you would be willing to be part of a team of volunteers that will use a speed gun to record speeding vehicles through the village please contact the Parish Clerk. Full training will be provided. Without enough volunteers the Parish Council will be unable to be part of this scheme.

THE BARN @ WELFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

- SHOP
- CAFÉ
- EVENTS

GIFTS ● COFFEE SHOP ● LIGHT LUNCHES
HOMEMADE CAKES ● CRAFTS ● LOCAL PRODUCE
DOGS WELCOME ● WORKSHOPS ● EVENTS

OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY
9.00AM - 4.00PM

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NORTHAMPTON ROAD, WELFORD, NN6 6JF
T: 01858 657008
E: THEBARN@WELFORDCHRISTMASTREEFARM.CO.UK
W: WELFORDCHRISTMASTREEFARM.CO.UK

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



Guilsborough Village Hall Spring Quiz night

Friday 20th March - 7:30pm

£12 per ticket

Ploughman's included

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

Carl Barnes: 07718 378008 hobbyhall@yahoo.co.uk

Donations for raffle prizes welcome - thank you

Bar & Raffle

The poster is pink and yellow, featuring a stylized plant with purple flowers on the right side.

Guilsborough Village Hall

Did you know that Guilsborough Village Hall is used for over 90 hours each month for community activities, groups and private events. We have a number of regular activities, but we are also open to private bookings – parties, celebrations, work meetings.

New website & easy booking system

Following the upgrades to the hall facilities, we now have a new website to make it even easier to keep up to date with what's happening at the hall. The calendar provides the contact information for each of the regular users. There is also a new online booking system, which means that you can quickly check the hall's availability, and immediately request a booking/s.

Visit www.guilsboroughvh.co.uk

You can however still enquire about booking the hall on our phone (07342 382706) or via email – our new email address is: info@guilsboroughvh.co.uk

Regular groups

The regular public groups using the hall and their contact details are now on the new website. They are:

Monday: MMM, Bowls Club; Guilsborough Parish Council; Quiz
Tuesday: Pilates; Yoga; GMADS

Thursday: Yoga; Nia; Guilsborough Friends

Friday: Time to Move

Sunday: Brunch@11

More volunteer help needed

We would love to welcome some new blood either to the committee or in an ad hoc capacity. Please email us on info@guilsboroughvh.co.uk or chat to any of the current village hall team if you have an odd hour available to help.

Parish Council News

Great news!

We are at last installing some new play equipment in our Playground. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Guilsborough Playground Action Group which includes the successful application for £5,000 from The Winwick Windfarm Fund Community Fund and monies from the Parish Council two new pieces of play equipment should have been installed by the time you're reading this! Our thanks go to all the members of the group for their hard work in helping achieve this; in particular Dave Wooldridge for all his hard work and determination in achieving a successful grant application and also to Linsey & Josh Burton for the use of their facilities where the bulk of the other fundraising was achieved.

Grit Bins

Our grit bins have saw some heavy use in January and thank you to all of you that did some spreading, helping to keep people safe. We are considering if we've got enough grit bins around the village and are in the process of assessing where traffic recently struggled.

On Street Parking

We are noticing more instances of poor/inconsiderate parking with some examples being footpaths being obstructed, vehicles

parked far too close to junctions and vehicles facing the wrong direction for the side of the road they're left on, The Highway code itemises where you shouldn't park so please make sure you're aware of them. You could be held responsible should an accident occur.

Lamp Post EV Chargers

Do you have an opinion on lamp post EV chargers? We'll be discussing the possibility of public EV chargers in Guilsborough at our February meeting so if you have any thoughts about them please do share them, either in person with any councillor or by email or letter, contact details are on our website at Guilsborough-pc.gov.uk.

Speeding Traffic

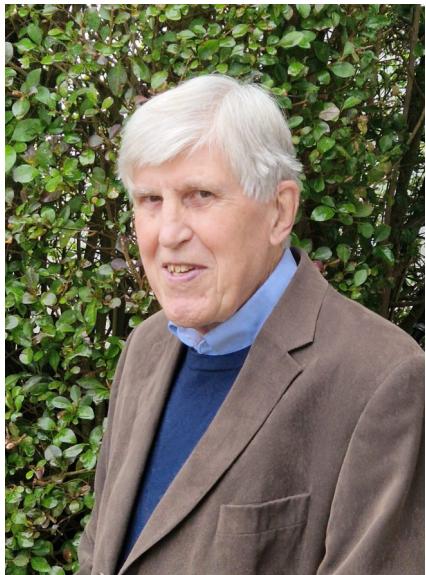
There are still instances of cars travelling at vastly excessive speeds in the village, please do obey the speed limits.

Precept

We finalised our 2026-27 budget at our January meeting and have requested a precept of £38,280. This will allow us to maintain the services that we currently provide, continue to invest in our play area and build up a reserve for the inevitable maintenance demands of the Cob Barn.

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

Graham Byars Retires



We are sad to announce the retirement of Graham Byars after 38 years as Secretary of the GPFA. He has served the village and the Playing Field with great devotion and care. Graham was an active cricketer and supported the Bowls Club when it operated on the Field. He not only acted as Secretary but also did all the administrative work and supervised (and in many cases did!) the maintenance work. He has left an indelible mark on the community. He saw the use of the field by many thousands of mainly young people playing cricket and football which has no doubt benefited them in their future lives. There are few vocations, and Graham's was a vocation, where you can affect individuals so profoundly. I say vocation because throughout those thirty eight years he did this as a volunteer without any remuneration apart from the delight of seeing the Playing Field used. Throughout he was supported by Barbara, his wife of many years. We wish them both an easy retirement from the task of keeping the grass mown, the pavilion watertight and goalposts and nets upright!

Frederick de Lisle, Chair GPFA

Graham Byars Esq.

Club Secretary, GPFA, 1987 - 2025

In recognition of 38 years of exceptional service. Your unwavering dedication has been the foundation of our football, bowls and cricket clubs and the keystone to supporting all our members. Through nearly four decades, you have served with distinction and quiet excellence. Your commitment has shaped our club's proudest moments and secured its future.

With deepest gratitude and admiration

The Committee and Trustees of The Guilsborough Playing Field Association 2025.

Cricket News

Preparation for the 2026 season are in full swing at Haddon CC which is based at Guilsborough playing field and at grounds in East and West Haddon. The club runs 5 senior men's teams across the Northamptonshire and Rugby District Leagues as well



as a ladies team that play in the Northamptonshire mid-week ladies league. We offer both competitive and social cricket to suit all abilities and experience.. We also run junior sides across from U10 to U15 age groups as well as popular All Star and Dynamo programmes for the ages 5-9. We are always looking to welcome new players or supporters of all ages, **please contact jim.houghton72@outlook.com or on 07748920176 for more information.**

Job Opportunity

The GPFA are looking for paid help to maintain the cricket square and prepare pitches between April and September, the work is flexible but would require a commitment of 5-6 hrs per week. The work is fully paid and full training is provided. Contact Jim Houghton as above.

AGM

The GPFA AGM will be held on Thursday March 12th 8pm at the Shoot Room, Guilsborough Court.

Bridge Day Raises £1,780

The local community came together on **6th November 2025** for a highly successful Bridge Day in support of the GPFA. The event, organised and run by Julia Moorhead and Lucy Tomkins, drew enthusiastic participation and generous contributions, resulting in a fantastic fundraising total of **£1,780**.

The day was filled with good-spirited competition, friendly conversation, and a shared commitment to supporting our local facilities. The final amount raised marks a significant contribution to the ongoing development of the village's playing fields.

The success of the event was made possible thanks to an outstanding team of volunteers who supported every aspect of the day, from setting up tables to serving refreshments and managing the busy kitchen. Warm thanks go to all those who helped, their hard work ensured the day ran smoothly from start to finish.

The organisers also expressed gratitude for the generosity of local individuals and businesses whose contributions added to the occasion. **Laura and Johnny Goedhuis of Goedhuis Waddesdon** kindly donated the wine, while the **Guilsborough shop** provided chocolates. Additional raffle prizes came from a range of supportive local businesses. Special thanks also go to **Hugh and Amanda Lowther** and **Richard and Libby Evans** for their donations.

All the home-cooked food served on the day was prepared by Lucy and the Moorhead family, helping to keep costs to a minimum so that nearly every pound raised could go directly to the GPFA.

Lucy and Julia: "We are absolutely delighted with the result. Guilsborough showed its true community spirit, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped make the Bridge Day both enjoyable and impactful."

See back page for colour photos

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



From the Headteacher

Wishing our Guilsborough family a very happy 2026!

Throughout the Autumn term, things have been non-stop here! 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 staff involved in putting this perfect production together and to the parents for their support.

We are very thankful to the parents and staff who made our annual 'Bake-off' event so special. Graham Leah, our Chair of Governors again had such a hard time judging but found a winner in the end, so well done to Iris in Class 4/5! Also well done to our School Council who had the pleasure of judging the teacher bake-off, which Mrs Sharpe deservedly won!

We have been doing lots of fundraising over the term including the bake-off, hamper raffle 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 they feel the money could be spent on to make our school even better. Our end of term house winning team was Earth! They had a super time at their festive chocolate fun afternoon. They drank delicious hot chocolate, made festive chocolate goodie bags to take home and watched Christmas cartoons. Fun was had by all!

Guilsborough Friends

Where Good Company Meets Great Conversation

Looking to make new friends and enjoy lively social activities in a warm welcoming group? Guilsborough Friends is a diverse mix of ladies and gentlemen who enjoy meeting once a month to share interests, ideas and good company. Our varied programme includes:

- Fascinating guest speakers
- Informative garden visits
- Enjoyable suppers and social evenings
- Visits to local places of interest

£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 12th February Charity Supper
Guilsborough Village Hall Proceeds to The Good Loaf Baker
Thursday 12th March Racing Pigeons and their amazing abilities – talk by Steve Wisken

For further information contact:

Janet Minney
Elizabeth Southgate

T 01604 740640
T 01604 740064

Thank you for all who attended the Christingle service at St. Etheldreda Church. It really did get everyone in the festive mood and we'd like to thank Revd Cecily and the church team for such a beautiful service.

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](https://twitter.com/GuilsboroughPri) / [X](https://www.instagram.com/instagram.com/) and our Instagram account [instagram.com/](https://www.instagram.com/instagram.com/)



More photos on the back page



Guilsborough Tennis Club
at Guilsborough Academy ● ● ● ●

Tennis for All

at
Guilsborough Tennis Club!

Join our friendly community tennis club at Guilsborough Academy courts.

We meet on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings, weather and daylight permitting.

For more information, please contact
Graham on
07894 424328 .

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

A Bunch of Amateurs



5-7th March 7.30pm
Guilsborough Village Hall

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford, only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers.

GMADS' hilarious new production of "A Bunch of Amateurs" is written by Ian Hislop & Nick Newman from an original story by Jonathan Gershfield and John Ross.

Tickets £12 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gmads or by calling Karen on 07981 754852. Bar opens at 7pm, curtain up at 7.30pm.

More info at www.gmads.co.uk or follow us on Facebook GMADSAmateurDrama



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

Carol Singing Success

Thank you to everyone who joined the Carol Singing this Christmas in Guilsborough and to those who opened their doors to listen and kindly donated. A special thank you to Colonel and Mrs Evans who provided refreshments and a chance to warm up.

We raised over £220 for the Hope Centre in Northampton—supporting people struggling with homelessness and hardship.



Wendy Yvonne

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HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

Hollowell Steam Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

On Sunday, 7th December, approximately 50 senior citizens from Hollowell and Teeton gathered once again for a fabulous afternoon of entertainment and food, hosted by the Hollowell Steam and Heavy Horse Show.

This cherished tradition is rooted in the origins of the Steam Rally, together with its long-standing support for the Church and the village of Hollowell.

The wine flowed, crackers were pulled, and musical entertainment was provided by the Daventry Ukelele band and singers. Guests enjoyed a delicious three-course Christmas dinner, thoughtfully served by the Rally team.

After lunch, while enjoying mince pies and tea or coffee, prizes and gifts were distributed.

The afternoon concluded with everyone joining in to sing carols and Christmas songs, including a hilarious rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas involving a pink flamingo in a palm tree.

Everyone enjoyed an amazing time and the villagers would like to express their thanks to Neil, Martine and all the Hollowell Steam Team, for raising spirits high and warming hearts.

C & P Charter



Café Christmas 2025

Last year's Café Christmas event was a wonderful showcase of local talent and festive spirit.

From hand-thrown bowls and mugs to oil paintings of local vistas, wooden gnomes, bird boxes, and miniature Christmas cakes, there was a splendid array of locally crafted produce on sale. The café's hot bacon, egg, and sausage rolls proved to be a particular triumph, complemented by delicious coffee and homemade cakes.

Jacob Oswin managed the Christmas tombola with great aplomb, adding to the event's vibrant atmosphere.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and to all the jolly helpers working behind the scenes. Thanks to your support, the event raised over £500, which will go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

Well done to all involved!

Hollowell Hens Wreath Making

Mid December saw the annual gathering of the Hollowell Hens for an evening constructing Christmas wreaths in the Village Hall. Fir and holly had been gathered from the hedgerows and gardens scoured for greenery and festive berries.

A Family Christmas in the Village Hall

It seems like yesterday that five of us sat down to Christmas lunch. Over the years our numbers grew as people joined the family, but it was a bit of an eyeopener when I realised, I had to plan for 14 people to sit around the table made for ten. After much head scratching I thought of the Village Hall. Those of you who know the Village Hall in Hollowell know it is the old school room; it's small enough to be cosy and very pretty and well equipped.

When I told friends in the village they rallied behind the idea. Hugh and Paul, left up the fairy lights they had put up for Café Christmas, Ken and Charlie arrived with a Christmas tree and lovely Sue made three beautiful window displays from her garden.

It was a roaring success and won over the most sceptical family member. The six under sixes had room to play and explore whilst the adults could sit in a leisurely manner enjoying a lunch that had benefitted from the use of two ovens - fourteen people can eat a lot of roast potatoes!

So thank you Village Hall Committee. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful facility in the village, and you work very hard to make it a really attractive option.

P.S. I've already booked it for next Christmas Day but if you get in quickly Boxing Day is still available!

C Morrell

Hollowell Christingle Service

It was lovely to see Hollowell Church full of carolling families on Christmas Eve. Kathleen Litchfield's nephew, James Bonser expertly led us on the organ as we sang much-loved Christmas carols and the Rev Caroline ably guided us through the service, which included seasonal readings by Claire Morrell, Pauline Kirton, Gill Brown, Paul Charter and Caleb Charter.

The service incorporated Christingle oranges, topped by candles, which were much enjoyed by children and adults alike, and we ended the service singing our final carol by candlelight. My favourite moment was watching one of the youngest members of the congregation breakdance during Away in a Manger. Clearly, the Holy Spirit was strong in Hollowell Church that festive night. The home baked refreshments after the service were enjoyed by all and provided a welcome opportunity to share the anticipation and excitement of Christmas with friends old and new. Half of the Christmas collection will go to the Children's Society, which works with children in the UK in all kinds of need.



The evening was organised by Chief Hen, Sarah Mourant and wine and nibbles fuelled the creative flow.

The group crafted a collection of lovely and varied wreaths, ready to adorn the doors of Hollowell and Teeton throughout the Christmas season.

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS



Hollowell & Teeton
Parish Council

Gillian Greaves (Clerk), Tel:

07771980598

12 Berry Lane, Wootton , NN4 6JX

Email: pc-

clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk

Web: www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk

Parish Council Budget and Precept 2026 - 27

At the meeting on 4 November 2025 the Council determined a Budget for 2026 - 27 of £16,676 and a Precept of £15,356.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has advised that the Tax Base for 2026 – 27 is 173.4 and the estimated charge for a

Band D property for every £100 precept 2026/27 is £0.58 which means a total charge of £89.00 for the Parish Council.

Who Yer Going to Call? (For those who do not have the telephone number for Ghost Busters)

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

The Rt. Hon. Stuart Andrew MP for the Daventry Constituency
Unit 25, Icon Innovation Centre, Daventry, NN11 0QB
01327 304803

stuart.andrew.mp@parliament.uk www.stuartandrew.org.uk

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Leader – Mark Arnall (Ward: Kingsthorpe North)
mark.arnall@westnorthants.gov.uk

The current Chairman is Cllr Alison Eastwood

She is supported by Cllr Peter York as Vice-Chairman.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/>

Telephone: 0300 126 7000

Lines are open: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/contact-or-visit-us/contact-us>

Address for correspondence is:

West Northamptonshire Council, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1ED

Ward Councillor for Naseby

Christine Ware
christine.ware@westnorthants.gov.uk, christine@wnld.org.uk

Tel: 07836 368888

Planning and Building Control

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control>

Local Transport Plan:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/place/transport-strategy-and-action-plans-consultation/>

Draft: Active Travel Strategy, Rail Action Plan, and Mobility hub Action Plan

Village Hall Lotto Winners

October:

Stephanie Robbins
Rod Goldberg
Tony Robbins

November:

Allan Ullah
Cheryl Charter
Stuart Gilbert
Norah Daykin
John Benjamin

Lisa Kinch

December:

Stuart Litchfield
Phil Clarke
Emily Curtis
Andrew Captainino
Kevin Hill

Christmas Super Draw Winners

Stuart Stockley £50
Rachel Garwood £30

Jan Winterburn £20

Now time to purchase your numbers for the next 6 monthly cycle. Please, where possible, purchase your tickets via Bank Transfer making payment to **Hollowell Village Hall, Sort code: 08-92-99 Acc: 65884371** and mark your payment "LOTTO". Tickets are £10 each. Alternatively you can pay cash to any Village Hall Trustee.

THORNBY NEWS

THORNBY ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

Our annual Carol Service held on 21st December, conducted by Rev Caroline, was hugely supported by nearly 40 people. The church was beautifully decorated by members of the PPC.

An enormous thank you to Thornby villagers and supporting local villages including Hollowell, Ravensthorpe & Cold Ashby. All were in great voice for the traditional Christmas carols. Readings by Thornby residents.

The event concluded with refreshments and our now tradition of warm homemade mince pies.



Thornby Village Hall

Hire charge
£10 per hour

Fully equipped and newly decorated hall with a capacity to hold 40 people.

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CHURCH NEWS

MESSAGE FROM REVEREND CAROLINE BURNETT,
THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES



It's time I revealed one of my big secrets. Yes, I'm writing at the turn of the year and feel that this one I've kept too long. Here goes: I really want to go to bingo. It started, probably, with community lunches in Cold Ashby run by the wonderful, late, Christine Sellers with delicious meals cooked by Sally from Creaton. The meal would be followed by a quick game of bingo and I was surprised by how exciting I

found it. Luckily I'm not burdened by an addictive personality so a gambling addiction isn't a worry for me, but I did find the game fun and even a little bit thrilling. I'd love to be able to go along to a bingo hall with a group of friends and enjoy a few games and share some drinks and snacks. So, I looked at the website for a local venue – my goodness it's complicated! There are so many options and prices, and that's before you even get there. And then how does it work when you actually start to play? Inevitably I keep putting off going and live in hope of someone who already goes asking me along with them.

When I saw all the lovely people gathered in our churches over

Christmas, it got me wondering, would anyone really like to come to church at other times? And if so, is there a 'Bingo factor' stopping them? Church can seem very complicated with all the different kinds of services and times of day and standing up and sitting down and shaking hands and arriving and leaving – pretty terrifying when you don't know where to start.

I'd just like to say that if anyone reading this WOULD like to give church-going a go, please get in touch with me or another one of the vicars or talk to someone you know who goes to church. We can find someone who's more used to it to give you a hand over the first few hurdles so that you can find out whether you'd like to make it a part of your life. All our congregations have people who are police checked and trained in safeguarding (a necessary requirement for lots of people who have responsibilities in the church) so there'd be no need to worry on that score.

I tell you what, if more than one person approaches us about this, I'll take it as my challenge to brave it and give bingo a go.

With my prayers and blessings,
Rev Caroline
01604 328629
Caroline_burnett@btinternet.com

Lent Lunch 2026



Saturday 21st February

12 – 2pm

Guilsborough Village Hall

High Street, Guilsborough.

Offers of soup or cheese would be appreciated.

Pay on the day

£6 Adults £3 Children

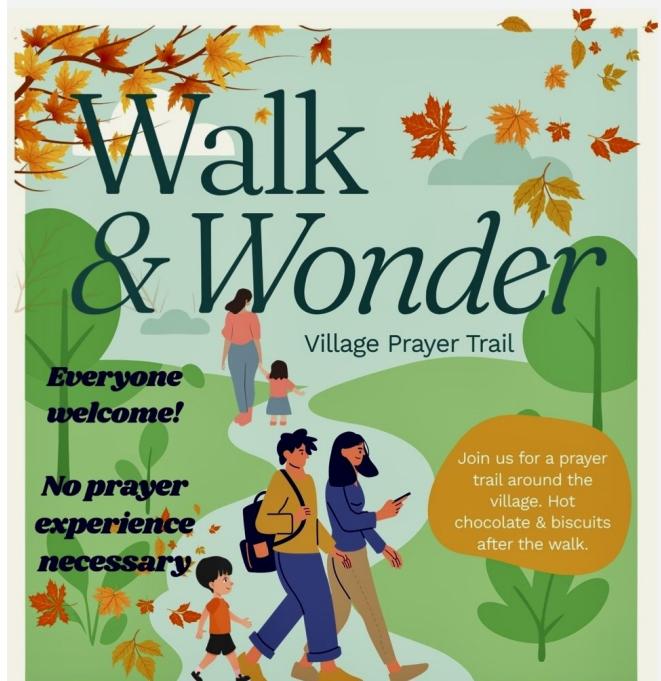
Craft activities for children.

All are welcome.

Please bring donations of food or toiletries for the food bank.

There will be a raffle for the Leprosy Mission.

Contact - Janet: 01604 740640



Second Saturday of
the month,

2-3pm

Gather at the Church,
end at the park.

www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk

14th Feb Guilsborough

14th March Cold Ashby

11th April Creton

9th May Ravensthorpe

13th June Hollowell

11th July Cottesbrooke

CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group of Churches Service Planner February and March 2026										
	1 st February Candlemas	8 th February	15 th February	18 th February Ash Wednesday	22 nd February	1 st March	8 th March	15 th March Mothering Sunday	22 nd March	29 th March Palm Sunday
Cold Ashby					9.30am BCP Communion			9.30am BCP Communion		10.00am Group Service Spratton
Cottesbrooke	11.00am BCP Communion					11.00am BCP Communion				3.00pm Songs of Praise
Creaton	9.30am BCP Communion					9.30am BCP Communion				9.30am BCP Communion
Guilsborough	11.00am CW Communion					Brunch @ 11 Village Hall				11.00am Service at URC Church
Hollowell					6.00pm Evensong	9.30am CW Communion	11.00am CW Communion	9.30am BCP Communion		6.00pm Evensong
Ravensthorpe	8.30am BCP Communion					11.00am CW Communion				11.00am CW Communion
Spratton	11.00am Worship for All				11.00am BCP Communion	8.30am BCP Communion	9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Communion
Thornby	9.30am BCP Communion						9.30am BCP Communion		11.00am CW Communion	



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Simon, Louise & The Red Lion Team



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Guilsborough Bridge Day



The winners (left)
Katie Kennedy (R)
and Vanessa
Barrow and
players in action
(below)



Joe Carpenter and Son



The churches of Spratton and Guilsborough hosted evenings of music, dance, rhyme and drama on 12th and 13th of December in a production of Joe Carpenter and son, a nativity play with a difference. There were great performances by vicars, hand bell ringers, guitarists, and many members of the local community from every age group providing a fun and heart warming evening of entertainment followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Pam Townsend directed the play and Roger Brandon Jones in his inimitable inventive way provided the camels for the 3 wise men as well as the clever set.

It was a wonderful evening full of community spirit. Thank you to everyone who made the two evenings so successful.

Buckby Library & Hub

Buckby Library & Hub

Our February art exhibition is **Through the Lens** – a display of photographs of wildlife by Long Buckby photographer, Sue Ebbage. Sue says: “Having countryside on the doorstep is fantastic. It has an amazing variety of subjects and is a constant source of inspiration and enjoyment. Capturing a moment in time, freezing the subject forever, is challenging, can be frustrating, tremendously exciting and rewarding. Wildlife, whatever form it takes, is fascinating. Embrace and value it.”

Monthly film nights: our February Film

is **Roofman**: “A charismatic criminal, while on the run from the police, hides in a hidden space of a toy store. There, he adopts a new identity and becomes involved with an employee, beginning a relationship as unlikely as it is risky.” In March we are showing **The Choral**: “A choral society’s male participants enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding choir master Dr Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together they experience the joy of singing while the teenage boys grapple with impending conscription into the army.” Our films are on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30

(doors open at 7). Tickets are £7.50 from the library or the Peephole in Long Buckby High Street. Refreshments available, including ice creams.

For all our **regular activities**, and **other events** coming up, just go to: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/whats-on/>

And please do think of becoming our **Friend**! You can find out more about this scheme here to help sustain our community managed library and hub into the future: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/friends/>

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Guilsborough Primary School Bake Off Winners above left
and the Autumn Term Winning House Team above right