Issue 136 August/September 2026

Local news from Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Teeton & Thornby
www.villagelink.org.uk

VILLAGE LINK

Highlights from Hollowell, Guilsborough's Garden Stage and Creaton's Blooming Boost

Recent weeks have offered plenty to talk about in and around Hollowell. Parish Clerk, Gill Greaves (top right), enjoyed a memorable trip to Buckingham Palace for one of this Spring's Royal Garden Parties, while St James' Church hosted a touching birthday-day baptism when the Reverend George Frost baptised his mother, Jane - both reports on page 17. Early July also brought the familiar sight of heavy horses and gleaming engines as the Hollowell Steam Rally filled the village with its usual mix of noise, nostalgia and good humour (report and more photos on page 16).

In other villages, Creaton reported a fantastic result for its annual 'Creaton in Bloom' event - see page 10 to find out how much they raised for local causes, while having a lovely day out.

And Guilsborough thespians young and old charmed audiences in a stunning garden setting (see photo below) to bring to life a tongue-in-cheek retelling of English history, but perhaps not as you know it! See page 14 for the report and more photos.

Did You Know? Cold Ashby Open Gardens has raised over £120,000 for church funds since it began in 1991!

Inside this issue

Cold Ashby	P 4 & 5
Cottesbrooke	P7 & 8
Creaton	P9 - 12
Guilsborough	P13 - 16
Hollowell & Teeton	P17 & 18
Thornby	P19
Church	P20 & 21
Long Buckby Library	P22
Cycle 4 Cynthia, & Get to know ...	P24

WHAT'S ON

AUGUST

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events
8th Creaton Walkers
9th Thornby Meditation Course
12th Creaton WI visit to RO
13th Guilsborough Friends
30th Cottesbrooke Craft & Produce Show

SEPTEMBER

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events
1st Guilsborough Friends
9th Creaton WI talk
10th Guilsborough Friends
12th Creaton Walkers
17th Creaton FOSM AGM & History Talk
18th Hopewell Cafe
27th Thornby Car Boot

AND REGULARLY ...

•Monday mornings: Guilsborough MMM
•Tuesdays: Creaton Singers; Guilsborough Pilates, Yoga & Tennis (pm)
•Thursdays: Creaton indoor bowls; Guilsborough Yoga, NIA & Badminton
•Fridays: Guilsborough Time to Move
•Sundays: Guilsborough tennis; Cottesbrooke Soul Yoga

Long Buckby Library & Hub on page 22.

Creaton Village Shop

Opening Hours
Monday-Friday **7.30am-6pm**
Saturday **8am-6pm**
Sunday **8am-12 noon**

The post office is open whenever the shop is open!
Take advantage of cash withdrawals, banking and foreign currency facilities

POST OFFICE

We stock a wide range of fresh and frozen produce, all your kitchen and household essentials, as well as delicious bread and pastries from our in-store bakery.
There is even free parking right outside the shop!

We offer FREE home delivery!
It couldn't be any easier to shop with us! Just call to place your order.
Within 5 miles and minimum basket of £10

Enjoy our NEW bean to cup takeaway coffee
We now offer a wide variety of takeaway coffees, which pair perfectly with a fresh croissant baked on-site!
Save 50p if you use your own reusable cup!

Shop Local
While we stock a wide variety of well known brands, we are proud to champion local makers, such as:
- Joseph Morris, meats and pies
- Jo's Your Cool Ice Cream
- Verdes Sandwiches
- Sally's Freezer Meals
- Wesses Bread

Shop Local

Our Shop
Your Shop
2a Welford Road, Creaton, NN6 8NH
www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk
Tel: 01604 328877
COMMUNITY FUND

Osteopathic care for patients of all ages that maybe 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.

BRIXWORTH OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC

Lamport Manor, Coach House 2, Old Road
Lamport, Northants, NN6 9HF
01604 328 260
info@brixworthosteopathy.com
www.brixworthosteopathy.com

COMPASS ENERGY
Delivering fuel to homes in your area.

Trevor Reay

From 1983 Trevor has worked alongside Tony Watson developing an oil distributor in the area.
After a change of ownership Trevor left the company in May 2018.
Trevor has now teamed up with Compass Energy to once again provide a reliable personal service.
Our chairman, Tony Watson has clearly defined our values.
SERVICE – TEAMWORK- SAFETY

Why Choose Compass Energy?
- ✓ No Brokers – price savings go direct to you.
- ✓ Competitive pricing.
- ✓ Reliable personal service you can trust.
- ✓ Our own fleet of Tankers permitting a rapid response for urgent deliveries.
- ✓ Years of industry knowledge and experience.

Call Trevor to obtain a quote or place an order.
01604 345526 | 07702867349

Visit our website for more information
compassenergy.co.uk

VILLAGE LINK

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

Editorial team:
Andrea King 07920 107903
Tony Hart 01604 740535
Sarah Dalzell 07917 608238
Katie Fulcher 07747 604067
Eve Wooldridge 07711 335771
Richard Hollingum 07887 652599
Liz Sibbald 01604 743566
Richard & Lunn Furnell 07754 298666

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

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, eigth 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 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EDITION: FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

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

COUNCILLOR NEWS

News from Cllr Christine Ware

Hello everyone
The role of a West Northants Councillor is full of variety. I have responsibilities that are council wide, for example sitting on one of the planning committees, contributing to full council meetings and my appointment by council as a trustee of Spratton Town and Charity Land.

The work I enjoy most is working within the parishes that fall into the Naseby ward. I have eleven parishes that I represent and my case work covers a range of different things. At the moment I am working on a number of highways issues and yes, this does include potholes, white lines and rumble strips! It also covers some safety concerns and the ongoing work around the traffic survey on the A5199 to find out the impact of the North West Relief Road on traffic travelling along the A5199 through Spratton, Creaton and Thornby to the A14. Planning concerns include issues raised about the site at the junction of A5199 and A14 as well as several specific applications. I have been supporting residents who need a little help to get things done by the council as not everyone uses the internet. I like that I never know what the day will bring and I always enjoy a challenge.

Back to WNC news, we have a number of full council meetings coming up including an extraordinary one on 13 August when council will be asked to approve the appointment of a new Chief Executive for the council. Planning meetings will continue and work towards the new Local Plan is progressing. In my ward, Creaton and Naseby are working on their Neighbourhood Development Plans and these will be an important contribution to planning policies. Planning processes are changing as a result of Government policy but more of that in the next issue of The Village Link.

Please do get in touch if you have issues to raise or if I can help at all - my contact details are below.

With kind regards
Christine
Christine Ware
Ward Councillor for Naseby
e: christine.ware@westnorthants.gov.uk
e: christine@wnld.org.uk
Tel: 07836 368888

BIRDING NOTES

Tree Sparrows in Northamptonshire

I usually write on here about a rare or scarce migratory bird that I've found on the local patch. This spring and summer have been very quiet on that front: the "something will turn up" mantra that I repeat to myself has been tested and found wanting! There have been some summer highlights: we still have reasonable numbers of Swifts around Hollowell village, and Spotted Flycatchers returned to the area around our garden for a second year, visible from the patio and kitchen window as they visit an apparent nest site in a neighbour's hydrangea. I've written about 'Spotflies' already on here, so this piece isn't about them, but an increasingly scarce *resident* bird: the Tree Sparrow.

In Northamptonshire, Tree Sparrow is a scarce and declining resident, a continuation of a trend that began several decades ago and one which mirrors the national picture. They are one of the UK's 67 most vulnerable 'Red-listed' species. In the 1996 Northants Annual Bird Report, Tree Sparrows were reported from 52 localities, with large counts including c80 birds at Pitsford Reservoir and 49 at Earls Barton Gravel Pits. That report also mentioned a recent decline in this species. Sadly, this has continued: my most recent complete annual master file contains records from just 7 locations in 2024, with a maximum count of 6-20

/contd p22

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Heritage tea and Sunday Café

Thank you to all who joined us for our heritage May Day tea back in May. We feel it is important to the village history to keep these events going and we are always grateful to those who come and support us at these events.

Our ever-popular café always receives good support and it's great to be able to provide a regular event where residents can catch up with neighbours and friends over a delicious breakfast. Thanks to all those who join us to make it such a successful community morning. Thanks also go to Carole Oliver, Julie Webb, Kim Oliver, Mandy Carson and Fiona Gunn-Stokes for their help with these events.

Cold Ashby Open Gardens

Cold Ashby Open Gardens is a long-established event in the Cold Ashby calendar. The brainchild of Maureen Lill, back in 1991, the event was introduced to raise much-needed funds for St Denys church. Being one of the first open gardens in the area, it soon became popular with gardeners near and far who visited year on year to enjoy a summer's afternoon wandering around up to 26 gardens before enjoying a fabulous cream tea in the village hall. In the early days people would be queueing up to the phone box and it wasn't unusual to welcome over 800 visitors to the village over the course of the weekend. Well times change, and although we don't achieve those numbers these days, we are still very grateful to those who do attend and enjoy the hospitality of our friendly and welcoming village - this year was no exception. To date we have welcomed approximately 16,400 visitors and amassed a total of £121,002 for church funds. Not bad for a tiny community who come together and work hard to make the day so successful. Our thanks once again go to all the volunteers who pulled together and worked so hard to make 2026 another wonderful year. (More details of this year's event will follow in the next edition.)

Everyone is welcome to join us from 7:30pm on:

Sat 15th August
and
Sat 19th September

Come along and enjoy a drink, a chat or a game of pool, darts or skittles.

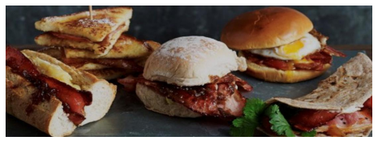
Join us on:

Saturday 5th September at 7:30pm

For our cash prize bingo
50p per card

Pasta Bake and garlic bread available to preorder at £6

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall



Sunday Cafe
Join us for breakfast between 9:30-11:30am
Sun 9th August
Sun 20th September
Bacon, Sausage, Egg rolls,
Toasties and cakes available to eat in or takeaway

COLD ASHBY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Cold Ashby events for August and September

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
Wed 5th August	Skittles	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 9th August	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-11.30am (note new time)
Sat 15th August	Social Evening	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 19th August	Skittles	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 26th August	Skittles	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 5th September	Bingo night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm (see poster)
Wed 16th Sept	Skittles league pairs contest	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 19th Sept	Social Evening	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 20th Sept	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-11.30am (note new time)
Wed 30th Sept	Skittles league presentation	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm

Pool nights some Mondays from 7.30pm at the Cold Ashby Playing Field Pavilion. Bar open. Check village Facebook pages for further information.

Daniel's Landscapes

Patios, Paving, Pergolas, Fencing,
Planting and other Garden Projects
Call for a free, no obligation quote
07801 352707
danielslandscapes@yahoo.co.uk
York Cottage, Nortoft, Guilsborough, NN6 8QB

J.M. BILLINGS
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

OIL AND GAS SERVICE, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE
BATHROOM AND UNVENTED HOT WATER INSTALLATIONS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE
A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION PLEASE CONTACT JIM ON:

M 07810 800876
E JIMBILLINGS@ROCKETMAIL.COM
BASED IN CREATON

Learn to drive
with
MERRICK
School of Motoring
est.1980

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

No room in the garage
or the attic?

LOC-BOX
SELF STORAGE

Rent storage space by the week or
for as long as you need
Archive Documents
House Contents
Business or Domestic
Tel 01604505050
email: George@Loc-Box.co.uk
Loc-Box Self Storage Creaton Northants
www.Loc-Box.co.uk

WillsDirect
Will Drafting Service
1 Judges Court, Creaton, Northampton NN6 8NS
Mobile: 07899 938255
Email: willsdirectbusiness@gmail.com
www.willsdirectnorthampton.co.uk

There is one important job you've
been meaning to do for years...
Make a Will!

Wills Direct Northampton has been established since 1993 offering a professional, expert Will Writing Service to people throughout Northamptonshire and the surrounding area. With Wills written for over 12,000 people, Wills Direct can help you to write your Will simply and quickly with our affordable FREE HOME VISIT SERVICE.

The Society of Will Writers
Safe to do business with
Code Compliant

Coffee and Clean Morning

A huge THANK YOU to those that came to the coffee and clean event at the village hall on Saturday 2nd May.
It was tremendous to see so many villagers (new and longstanding) come together to support our little community and give back their time and energy in sprucing up our wonderful little village hall.
The cobwebs were lifted, floors mopped, kitchen inventory completed, shelving built, cupboards organised, windows washed inside and out, the lawn neatly edged and mown, and all completed with coffee and cake in hand!

Coffee Mornings

We need some volunteers to run our monthly coffee mornings 10 am – 12pm; without them they cannot go ahead. If you would like to help but do not feel confident setting up on your own, please speak to Holly/Sally who may be able to pair you up with someone in a similar position. Our next coffee mornings are Saturday 1st August (no host at the time of writing), Saturday 5th Sept (not hosted at the time of writing).

COTTESBROOKE 8th ANNUAL PRODUCE & CRAFT SHOW 2026

SUNDAY 30TH
AUGUST 2026

COTTESBROOKE VILLAGE HALL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2PM

HOMEMADE REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE

RAISING FUNDS FOR COTTESBROOKE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

All enquiries to Derek on 01604 505627 or Holly on 074931 65731

The Grange, photographed for the Langham Estates Sale cataloque in 1911

CREATON NEWS

Creaton Singers

Many thanks to everyone who came to listen to the Creaton

Singers whilst having tea at Creaton in Bloom. We were delighted and flattered by the positive comments we received. As you can see from the photo we were singing lustily!
If you are interested in joining us, come along to Creaton URC on Tuesdays at 7.30pm for a taster session.
Save the date! Our next Concert is on Sunday 27th September at 2.30pm in the URC. Tickets from Creaton Village Shop.
Please come and support your local singing group as we sing to raise funds for charity.

Walkers

What a wonderful summer it has been so far for walking! As I write, we are in the middle of a record-breaking heatwave which has had many regular walkers outside by 6am and at 10pm so they can walk in the cooler parts of the day.
The June walk of the Creaton Walking Group was a dry, sunny day and the group enjoyed the flora and fauna around Great Brington, especially the show of poppies in the photo.
The July walk is planned from Foxton in Leicestershire finishing with lunch at the Shoulder of Mutton.
If you enjoy walking do join this friendly group. We walk for about 3 hours, followed by an optional pub lunch, on the second Saturday of the month. Meet at Creaton lychgate at 10am. Well-behaved dogs are always welcome.
Next walks are on Saturday 8 August and Saturday 12 September.

Creaton WI

Below is our programme for the rest of 2026; how time flies! Please do join us at 7.30 p.m. in the URC, you will be most welcome.

October 14th Re-introducing the Eurasian Beaver to the Nene Wetlands - The Wildlife Trust
November 11th Willow Weaving with Trudy Neale
December 9th Christmas Party

For more information contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546 or email wicreaton@gmail.com

Creaton Playing Field Association

Charity No. 1085011

The playing field has undergone a recent overhaul and has been updated with the latest safety play bark chippings. This was made possible thanks to the hard work of a volunteer team from JaguarLandRover, who spent the day weeding the area and distributing a 3.2 ton delivery of the chippings.

The playing fields were also open for the Creaton in Bloom event, serving as a busy car park for visitors to the village.

Join our committee!
We are actively seeking new committee members to help plan future improvements for the playing field. By getting involved, you can help us enhance the facilities for children in the village and the surrounding area. For more information contact
Mark Woollven – Treasurer 01604 505534

Over the Counter

The shop was delighted to support Creaton in Bloom by sourcing the meat, many of the drinks, the bread, and the strawberries. And our valuable Post Office helped with the floats and then banking all the cash. A true village effort.

That was early June but as the month progressed, the heat increased. However, it may have been in the high thirties outside, the air conditioning inside the shop brought people in and kept many of them longer than usual! And it was not uncommon to see staff clad in cardigans and jumpers. It is the cool place to be!

Of course, the upside of the weather for the shop is the increase in sales of ice-cream as well as barbeque items, meats, salads, beer and wine. And we were worried that people would not want to eat in the heat.

As the summer holiday period approaches, it is great to see our younger volunteers back in the shop. And don't forget that new volunteers are always very welcome, no matter your age.

Whilst most volunteers serve behind the counter and keep the shelves stocked, there are a few who do other jobs as well. One them is the morning baking. We bake croissants, pastries and bread every morning and are looking for one or two more to join the team. If you are one those who wake up at 6:30 in the morning and wonder what to do for the next couple of hours, this is just the volunteer job for you. Full training is given and it is not as difficult as you might imagine!

Finally, the bank holiday at the end of August will be on us before we know it. So that you don't miss out, order meat, salad or fruit a few days beforehand to make sure you have what you need for the long weekend.

Creaton in Bloom

Aerial photograph of The Green

The floral displays in the Church had the theme of the 800th anniversary of St Michael & All Angels, and the Friends of St Michael's were on hand to talk about the history of the Church.

Friends of St Michael's History Group

The 2025/26 season drew to a close with a walking tour of Cottesbrooke in early July. Led by Cottesbrooke resident Derek Daw, we learned about the alms houses, the school and the forge, including tales from Derek's childhood, stories that made the village in the recent past come to life. Mixed in with the lighter anecdotes were darker ones about the opening of the crypt in the Church and the subsequent deaths of all who went in. The curse of the Pharoahs, Northamptonshire-style. Despite that, the church is well worth a visit. It is Grade 1 listed and has a fine array of commemorative tombs and tablets for the Langham family.

Back in Creaton, it has been quite a busy year, particularly because of the church celebrating its 800th anniversary. As part of the celebrations FOSM held a number of Creaton-centric events including two talks about the history of the church (and I am sure there are more to come!), a guided walk around the village, and a well-attended talk about the Orland family who held a windmill in Creaton as well as mills in the surrounding villages. The Friends have also produced a calendar, cards, and a new church guide, replacing the one published in 1976. We wonder if the new version will last fifty years.

The new season of talks starts on September 17th and we continue to meet then on the third Thursday of the month through to May 2027. The talks cover a wide range of subjects:

- September 17th 2026: AGM followed by
  A History of Creaton Post Office
- October 15th 2026
  Northamptonshire Saints Rugby Club and Their Heritage
- November 19th 2026
  "For All Thy Saints" - Northamptonshire Saints - Medieval Superheroes
- December 17th 2026
  Stars of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company
- January 21st 2027
  Convalescing at Cottesbrooke Hall
- February 18th 2027
  The Battle of Naseby – how were the battalions billeted and catered for?
- March 18th 2027
  Conservation of the National Trust's Libraries
- April 15th 2027
  Creaton in 1921 – Secrets of the 1921 Census

Information about the new season will be available on the Creaton Heritage website (creatonheritage.wordpress.com) and on the Facebook page of Creaton History & Old Pictures. Alternatively you can join the FOSM email list by contacting the Chair, Richard Hollingum, at FOSMCreaton@icloud.com.

Creaton URC		
You are warmly welcome to join us for our Sunday Worship		
Sunday	August	
2nd 11am		Jon Heard
9th 11am		Rev Nigel Adkinson
16th 11am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
23rd 11am		Suzie James
30th 11am	Service at Long Buckby URC	
	September	
6th 11am	Holy Communion	Jon Heard
13th 11am		tba
20th 11am		Andrew Howes
27th 11am		Allan Pope

Poppies Coffee Shop is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 12 noon. You will be made very welcome.

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 https://creaton-pc.gov.uk/ and are also posted on the noticeboard on Violet Lane. We also have a Facebook page.

New Website Address
The Parish Council's website address has changed to
https://creaton-pc.gov.uk/

This follows the change of the Clerk and Councillor email addresses to gov.uk addresses.

Parish Council Meeting dates:
Meetings are held bi-monthly usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The remaining 2026 meeting dates are:

1st September
3rd November

West Northants Council Consultations
West Northants Council hold regular consultations on a range of issues. Full details of current consultations can be found online:
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

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/

Speed Watch Volunteers

The Parish Council is still seeking 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. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered.

New Parish Councillor
The Parish Council would like to warmly welcome new Parish Councillor, Richard Hollingum, who was co-opted at our July meeting.

We no longer have any vacancies on the Parish Council but welcome volunteers for various initiatives such as the Speed Watch Campaign so please contact the Parish Clerk if you have some time you would like to give to support the Parish.

Creaton Neighbourhood Plan

I wish to thank all those who took the time to respond to the pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. I appreciate that there are many things that occupy your time, but the Neighbourhood Plan is a serious document that relies on the community becoming involved in the project.

We are three years into this work now, and only when the community takes an interest, does it seem worthwhile. The six week consultation period is at an end, and the business of collating the feedback is being undertaken. Your comments are all added to the relevant parts of the document, and changes are made before the next appraisal.

We hope to submit the document to West Northants Council by the end of the summer, for their final endorsement, and then adoption.

Yours
Cllr Christopher Reading

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Hopefully by the time you're reading this, the new Basket Swing and the Climbing Net play equipment will be in use. Currently they're still fenced off and not in use. They've been an awfully long time coming, none of which has been caused by us. The weather played a big part right at the start, way back in January when the ground became so water-logged the contractor had to suspend the installation. Once the ground had drained, we've been battling to get them back in site to get the job finished. Finally, they have returned and are now telling us that the work is completed. This means that all that is left is for an inspection to be carried out to make sure all is safe. I would like to say a big thank you to Hugh Lowther for coming to the rescue with a water tank for us. We had 24 hours notice that turf had been laid and it was our responsibilty to water it and although much of it is looking very dry, it has rooted and should recover once (or is that if!) it next rains.

A reminder, with the continuing heat wave, to make sure that your homes are secure when you go out as there's frequent posts on local social media of suspicious characters taking a lot of interest around various properties. It's so easy to forget a window is open.

At the time of writing, we are in an area that is covered by a hose pipe ban. This prohibits the use of a hose for many circumstances but there are a few exceptions. More information can be found on Anglian Waters website - https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/hosepipe-restrictions. Some medical conditions entitle you to register with the Priority Services Register which would make you exempt.

Have you downloaded and registered with West Northants Council's app, available for Android and I Phones and devices. It gives you direct access to lots of information including:

- Which bins are due to be collected (you can even sign up for an alert to be sent to your device at 4pm the day before collection!)
- Report it - this replaces the "Fix My Street" service. You can report more or less anything that WNC are responsible for from potholes to fly tipping to stray dogs to street cleaning and loads more!
- Local Information
- News and Alerts to help you keep up to date with the latest news from WNC and any disruption to local services.
- Book a Household Waste Recycling Centre visit

It really is a very useful tool which comes highly recommended!

Might you have a view on the proposed major improvements at our church, St Etheldreda's?

*See the plans. *Talk to the church council.

*Hear a presentation.

At the church Sunday 30th August 2-4pm
(presentation at 3pm).

At the Village Hall Monday 31st August 730pm to 9pm
(presentation at 8pm).

Christian Aid Collection 2026

The Guilsborough collection in May raised £220 (plus some Gift Aid). This year, apart from donations, we also had very successful tombola, book and plant stalls in the Village Hall on the NGS Open Gardens day. Thank you to all who supported in any way

Guilsborough Playing Fields News

Successful Bottle Stall

GPFA held a bottle stall as usual at Hollowell Steam fair and raised £1200. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the stall, setting up and taking down, donated bottles or bought tickets from us at the steam fair. The money will be wisely used to help keep the playing fields running.

This England — A romp through four thousand years

GMADS' production of "*This England*" in June was a quirky retelling the nation's story, served with a generous helping of satire, slapstick, and affectionate irreverence. From its opening fanfare — "This royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle…" — the show was both celebratory and cheerfully chaotic, whisking the audience through our history as they progressed around the garden of "Four Acres". A huge thank you to Gay and Mark Webster for allowing GMADS to roam wild over their amazing garden.

The script was hugely inventive: Roman surveyors threatened to flatten Doncaster in the name of straight roads and the Battle of Hastings was re-enacted with tapestry-makers hawking their wares while Harold complained, "I was stitched up!" Tormented by scuttling rats, flagellants whipped out ill humours in plague-ridden Spitalfields. The recurring letters from Osric, the perpetually disgruntled everyman, added a delightful thread of continuity.

The packed audience was treated to songs, chants, mock-lectures, audience participation. The finale came with elegant painted galleons and an English fireship battling through the Spanish Armada. It's history, but not necessarily as we know it!

Perfect summer weather and a beautiful village garden made the ideal backdrop. Directed by Pam Townsend and Roger Brandon-Jones (who also wrote some of the original and lively songs), the cast and crew were drawn from local villages and ranged from eight to over 80 years' old. Thank you to Guilsborough church for the delicious refreshments.

For more information on GMADS, visit www.gmads.co.uk or follow us on Facebook GMADSAmateurDrama

Above left: the Knights, middle: Crusaders, right: the Armada

Primary School News

We had a great summer term with lots going on and Niall has been very busy with the sports here at Guilsborough. These have included lots of competitions and tournaments with neighbouring schools, house competitions and Pacesetters events. Thank you to all parents who could join us for these events.
Year 4 have been taking part in swimming this term which they have thoroughly enjoyed. The progress the children are making is brilliant and their water safety lesson went really well last week! Well done Year 4.
Our Year 6 children had a fantastic time on their PGL residential this year, even with the rainy weather! Their enthusiasm never dipped, and they threw themselves into every challenge. You can see all the adventurous activities they took part in on our Instagram page.
The following week, the whole school enjoyed a brilliant trip to The Black Country Living Museum. The children explored what life was like in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, discovering how much everyday living has changed. They even tried traditional chips and experienced a very strict 1940s style school lesson. The children left feeling very grateful that our school is quite different today.
We are very excited for our end of term Year 5/6 performance of 'Cinderella Rockerfella '. The rehearsals are in full swing and I must say… both the teachers and children are very excited!
We also look forward to our Year 6 leavers afternoon on Thursday 16th July at 2:00pm.
Transition Day will be taking place on Monday 6th July and all children will be spending the day with their next years teacher. They will be completing lots of getting to know you activities throughout the day. Year 6 children will have their own transition to their secondary school on this day.
The following children have achieved a Values Based Certificates this term:

Reception/1: Tabitha, Romeo and Alex
Class 2/3: Thorsan, Summer, Freddie, Leo and Ed
Class 4/5: George, Luca and Olivia
Class 5/6: Jasmine and Florrie
These children have demonstrated so many wonderful values in recent weeks, including Responsibility, Quality, Resilience, Determination and Thoughtfulness. Well done to you all, you make us very proud!

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 and Follow us on X (aka Twitter) @GuilsboroughPri / X and on our Instagram account instagram.com/guilsboroughprimaryschool

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs K Shilliam
Headteacher

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
- And plenty more besides

£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 3 months:

Thursday 13th August Brington - Historical Walk and Talk. Followed by a visit to The Coach and Horses

Tuesday 1st September Afternoon - Visit to Nuneaton Animal Sanctuary

Thursday 10th September Illustrated Talk about Western Canada, including a trip on The Rocky Mountaineer

Thursday 8th October Ooh Matron - talk by Steve Dimmer about the famous Carry On Films

For further information contact:

Janet Minney 01604 740640 Elizabeth Southgate 01604 740064

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, scan the QR code or contact Graham on 07894 424328.

HOLLOWELL & TEETON PARISH COUNCIL

Gillian Greaves (Clerk) Tel: 07771980598
12 Berry Lane
Wootton
NN4 6JX
Email: clerk@hollowellandteeton-pc.gov.uk

Web: https://hollowellandteeton-pc.gov.uk/

Street lighting upgrade to LED

The Parish Council continues to evaluate the options to upgrade the remaining street lights to LED which has the potential to reduce the charges for maintenance and electricity.

This is particularly relevant to the four lights located in Highfield Park which have a higher wattage.

The receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds has enabled the Council to fund recent upgrades and it is intended to continue this process with the lights in Highfield Park.

Hollowell Pocket Park

The Park is owned and maintained by the Parish Council and the cost of annual maintenance is part of the Council's Annual Budget and Precept. This includes having an Annual Safety Inspection which provides the Council with information of maintenance and repair issues.

Several items of equipment were installed ten or more years ago and are beginning to show effects of use and weathering.

The Hollowell Pocket Park Action Committee (HPPAC) was formed to support the Councill in purchasing and maintaining equipment through grants from organisations including the National Lottery. HPPAC is still in existence but has not been actively seeking funds.

The Council is reviewing the information in the recent Inspection report to determine a cost-effective process of addressing maintenance, repair or replacement issues.

It is hoped this can be achieved without the need to substantially increase the Parish Precept but parishioners should be aware that this may have to be considered going forward.

A. G. Crisp

Chairman

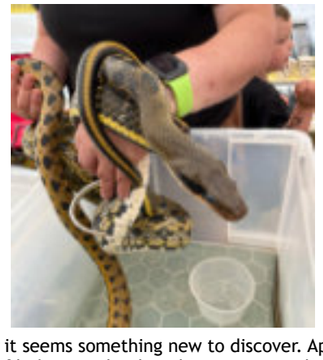
Hollowell Steam Rally returns in full glow

Yellow signs appear, it's early July and there is a faint smell of smoke in the air; yes, it can only mean one thing, it's time for the Hollowell Steam Rally.

So many people work so hard to make the rally a success so when the crowds gather and there is a sense of excitement for those coming through the gate, there must be a collective sigh of relief amongst the team.

Starting with a relaxed gathering on the Friday night, the real event was in full swing on the Saturday and Sunday. There was something for everyone: vintage cars, heavy horses, interesting stalls to rummage through and of course, let's not forget the stars of the show, the steam engines.

One of the beguiling things about the Steam Rally is the pride those involve take in what is shown. From the smallest to the largest exhibit, each is gleaming and loved and its hard not to be fascinated by the history of it all.



Every year it seems something new to discover. Apologies to Ron the Snake if he's a regular, but this year was enlivened for some of us by his attendance.

So thanks to everyone involved for a great day out and see you there next year!

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

A Right Royal Day Out for Hollowell's Parish Clerk

Hollowell & Teeton Parish Clerk Gill Greaves was delighted and honoured to receive an invitation to one of this spring's Royal Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace. Gill, who has worked in local government in Northamptonshire for more than 47 years, was selected by the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, which each year nominates two councillors or clerks, along with their guests, to attend the prestigious event.

"It was such an honour to receive the invitation," said Gill. "It made me feel quite teary."

Gill was accompanied by her daughter, Claire, who also works in local government, making it a special family occasion just days after Gill's 70th birthday.

Among the distinguished guests they spotted Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales, along with Zara Tindall and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and Sophie.

"The most striking thing was the wonderful colour of the occasion," Gill recalled. "There were beautiful traditional African outfits, elegant saris, military uniforms and butlers in full regalia. Everywhere you looked there was something amazing to see."

Throughout the afternoon, two military bands entertained guests as they strolled through the magnificent palace gardens. Refreshments included traditional lemon barley water and a delicious afternoon tea served in the tea tent.

"We really did feel very special," said Gill. "I felt like a Queen Bee for the day."

A memorable 70th celebration for Jayne Reynolds

Whenever you decide to throw a party, you always feel a degree of trepidation about its likely success. Well Jayne needn't have worried when she decided to throw a 'Bash' for her significant birthday. Before the first guest arrived the wonderful weather, the perfect view of over the valley from the paddock and the delicious smell from the hog roast ensured that this party would be memorable. Nearly a hundred people gathered to celebrate with Jayne. Delicious food kept on coming, the wine and beer (yes you know who you are!) flowed, and the party resonated with laughter. Having been forbidden to bring gifts, friends from the village instead bought a large cake to accompany the traditional round of singing to mark Jayne's special day. When guests reluctantly left, we all agreed that it had been a day to remember. So thank you Lovely Jayne, you may be 70 but you can show us all how to host a great party!

Village Hall Lotto Winners for May and June were…

Hugo Mesquita	Stuart Gilbert	Kevin Hill
Simon Hunt	Paul Mourant	Simon Wilkinson
Gavin Statham X 2	Crawford Craig	Hannah Oswin
Paul Charter	John Benjamin	

Cheese, glory and questionable aim: Hollowell's Gouda, Bad and the Wobbly

A huge and lively crowd gathered at The Steam and Whistle, all eager to compete for the prestigious and gloriously wonky, plasti-shiny, Hollowell Skittles Cup.

After a few practice throws for the newcomers, six hastily assembled teams of four battled through two double rounds of cheese-flinging. Techniques ranged from graceful backhand spinners to relaxed underarm tosses, although conspicuously absent were any forehand power merchants. The combined scores determined the four teams progressing to the semi-finals.

As the evening wore on, standards inevitably dipped in direct proportion to the amount of liquid refreshment consumed. However, players developed a greater appreciation of the finer points—and occasional mysteries—of the Northamptonshire skittles game, such as persuading the cheeses to land on the table, or indeed anywhere near the skittles.

Despite this, the semis-finals were closely fought, and victors were the bar staff team, "Ask Hannah" (Hannah, Julia, Mike and Hugh) and team "Amazing Things" (Chris, Ellie, Sally and Paul); these teams lined up for a double round, head-to-head final.

The crowd offered generous encouragement and even more generous unsolicited advice as Amazing Things took an early lead. Ask Hannah mounted a determined comeback in the second round, but it wasn't enough, as the Amazing quartet pulled away at a canter, to claim victory. The famous trophy will now grace mantlepieces in two Hollowell households until next year's gripping contest. Forget the Shoe Army**—it's the Cheese Army marching in, in Hollowell!**

Son baptises Mother on her birthday in special village service

By request, the Rev. George Frost baptised his mother, Jane Turland, of Cold Ashby, on Monday 1st June. The day also marked Jane's birthday.

George is Rector of the Astwick Vale and grew up in Hollowell. The small service took place in the village church of St. James in Hollowell, located near the family farm.

Mrs Turland began attending church regularly a few years ago when St. James' faced closure.

Reflecting on the service, Mrs Turland said: "My baptism in Hollowell Church by my son George was the truly special and memorable occasion I had always hoped for."

The Reverend Frost said that he was honoured and delighted to be asked to take the service. He added that, being only one day into June, it had already been a very interesting month.

Hopewell Coffee Mornings

There will be no coffee morning in August, whilst we take our usual annual break. The coffee morning in September will be held on Friday 18th.

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, or for help with transport, please call: Paul on 07780 265614 or
email: wearehopewell@gmail.com

HALF-DAY MEDITATION COURSE
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST
Sacred Sounds
The power of mantra
with Kadam Bridget Heyes
NKT-IKBU National Spiritual Director for the UK

Nagarjuna Kadampa Meditation Centre
Centre for Modern Buddhism • Thornby Hall NN6 8SW
Tel: 01604 743 976 • info@meditateinnorthants.com
Charity No. 1039957
www.meditateinnorthants.com

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

Last car boot sale for this year will be held Sunday 27th September 10.00 - 1.00pm, in the field off Cold Ashby lane, behind Thornby church

Turn your unwanted goods, clothes, bric a brac etc into cash.

Pitches £10 cash payment only

All enquiries Ann 0779 6466948

M J Burdett
Plumbing
Plumbing & Heating Engineer

Central heating installations, repairs & service
Oil fired boilers supplied & fitted
Full bathroom installations
For all your plumbing requirements
No job too small
Over 20 years' experience
Call Mark on:
07841 572458
01604 740704
mjburdettplumbing@btinternet.com

Thornby Village Hall

Hire charge
£10 per hour

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

Ideal for intimate gatherings, childrens parties, courses, talks and meetings etc.

Tables, chairs and gazebos available for use on and off site.

Contact Alex Todd - 07872839199

Message from the Uplands Group for all Village Link readers

Many people will be aware that in the last few months we have bid farewell to Revd Allison as she moves to pastures new, to Revd Caroline as she retires from active ministry, and to both of our curates Revd Jo and Revd Cecily as they complete their training posts. It has been a real gift to us all to have such a rich variety of ministry amongst us and we wish them all well.

We are now entering a period of 'Vacancy' as we seek to find new ministers to come to the Uplands.

Volunteers will be beavering away to keep as much as possible going whilst we wait for a new leader. The Uplands Group of Churches website https://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk has information of who to contact if there is anything you need through the church, e.g. Christenings, Weddings, Funerals or Pastoral Care etc.

We look forward to a new Rector being available to contribute to Village Link in due course.

Spires and Towers
Uplands Churches in the Village Link area

St Michael & All Angels, Creaton

The church of St Michael & All Angels was once referred to as "a small and unpretending edifice" which may have been intended as a slight upon its character but it does make one want to look a bit closer, to find out that even such a church has much worth seeing and celebrating. We hope you will find the time to call in and have a look to make up your own mind.

This year is a special year as the building is celebrating 800 years of being part of the community. It is always difficult to pin an actual date on the start of a church but the first Rector, William of Creaton was appointed in 1226.

Since then, the church has seen the ups and downs of religious life in the village and in the country. As with all churches in England, prior to the Reformation, St Michael's was Catholic. Little memory of that period remains besides a water stoup in the porch, a recess for accessing the rood screen, and two piscina for the cleaning of communion ware.

There is also little documentary evidence from this period but we do know that in addition to St Michael and the Virgin Mary, there were statues to St Christopher, St George and St John that received gifts and bequests.

Post Reformation and the Civil War saw most of the old Catholic religion swept away to be replaced with a simple interior, probably white-washed walls and no screen between the nave and the chancel. After the Restoration of the Monarchy, embellishments crept back in and large boards called tables, with the Lords Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Creed were placed upon the walls along with the royal coat-of-arms.

However, the main issues with the building was its upkeep. From the early 16th through to the 19th century records crop up about the dire state of either the floor, or the roof, or both. By the 1630s, the south porch was ruinous and consequently fell into disuse.

Inside the nave, a gallery was added, no doubt to contain a group of musicians to accompany the hymns, but also for the schoolchildren to sit, kept in check by the headteacher sitting underneath with a twelve-foot cane! Later the galleries and the old box pews were removed, as fashion and church decreed. In 1857 the South Aisle was added and the nave roof repaired (again). Despite all the additions since the Restoration, out they all went and the Victorians brought out the whitewash and laid slabs on the ground, covering, in some instances, graves.

Towards the end of the 19th century an extension was added to house the organ and the chancel was given a major makeover with the East window, altar, decor and lamps. Most of this remains to this day though the original painted walls and ceiling have gone following the chancel roof being replaced in the 1960s.

Old buildings need constant care and attention but they also need to find a home in the hearts and lives of the community. In recent years the church has received a new screen to the tower to help reduce heating costs, and a toilet. Both are important additions to allow it to widen its appeal, to create opportunities to take it forward, as a building, and to enable it to retain its place in the history of the village.

To find out more about the history of St Michael & All Angels, a guide is available to buy in Creaton Village Shop for £3.00.

		2nd Aug Trinity 9	**9th Aug Trinity 10**	**16th Aug Trinity 11**	**23rd Aug Trinity 12**	**30th Aug Trinity 13**	**6th Sept Trinity 14**	**13th September Trinity 15**	**20th September Trinity 16**	**27th September Trinity 17**
		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Cold Ashby					9.30am BCP Communion	10.00 Group Service Cottesbrooke				9.30am BCP Communion
Cottesbrooke				11.00am BCP Communion					11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	
Creaton		9.30am CW Communion					9.30am BCP Communion			
Guilsborough		11.00am BCP Communion		Brunch @11			11.00am CW Morning Worship		Brunch @ 11 Village Hall	
				6.000m Evensong					6.00pm Evensong	
Hollowell			11.00am CW Communion					11.00am CW Communion		
Ravensthorpe		8.30am BCP Morning Prayer		9.30am Communion	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Morning Prayer		9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All
Spratton		11.00am Worship for All	8.30am Communion/ Morning Prayer		11.00am CW Communion		11.00am Worship for All	8.30am Morning Prayer Community Led		11.00am CW Communion
Thornby			9.30am BCP Communion					9.30am BCP Communion		

LONG BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB

Summer Reading Challenge: The theme is Read to the Beat – "to engage young minds with the magic of music". Children are encouraged to explore 6 or more books over the summer holidays. Designed for any children aged 4-11 years, we also have a mini challenge for those under 4 years; children over 11 may also take part. Pop into the library on, or any time after, the 4th July to sign up.

Children's Fun Craft Sessions: Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm-3.30pm. They are suitable for children taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge and anyone who enjoys stories, crafts, and exploring the library. Each session will include a story, a themed craft to make and take home, and a library hunt. Dates: 28th July, 4th August, 11th August, 18th August, 25th August.

Book sale and tombola: we will have a book sale and tombola stall at the Buckby Feast on August Bank Holiday (31st August). Come along and get your bargain books and tombola prizes. The Feast is on the sports fields down Station Road in Long Buckby. Here is the Buckby Feast website for further information. It looks exciting, doesn't it? https://buckbyfeast.org.uk.

Please also look out for the following events in September:

Talk by Jenni McDonald, Thursday 10th September. You may have been to her fascinating talk about herbs and plants that you can use for common summer ailments. She will now give a second talk on what to use for common autumn and winter ailments. Jenni will provide a layman's introduction on how to make teas, tinctures and salves from the plant life in your garden and fields. She is self-taught and doesn't have any qualification in herbal medicine but she has used everything that she is going to talk about herself! Doors open 7pm; talk starts 7.30. Get your free tickets from the library or Peephole in Long Buckby High Street when available nearer the time. Refreshments available.

Possible Craft Sale: please look out for information on our website of a possible craft sale on Saturday 26th September.

New film season: this will start again on the last Tuesday of September (29th). Please check our website for information nearer the time.

Volunteering opportunities at Buckby Library & Hub:

Do you enjoy connecting with people and making a difference? Could you help support our much-loved village newsletter, the Buckby Buzz? We're looking for an advertising lead to join our team. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy - or you know someone who may be interested - please get in touch: sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org.

Would you be interested in leading on some of our events and activities or fundraising, either as a volunteer or as a trustee? We would love to hear from you! Exploratory no-commitment enquiries are welcome. Please pop in or contact:
sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org.

Please do check our website and calendar for our many regular activities, including all our health and wellbeing support.

https://buckbylibraryhub.org; https://buckbylibraryhub.org/calendar/

/contd from p3

Tree Sparrows in Northamptonshire

birds. One of these locations was Pitsford Reservoir: in recent years I've seen Tree Sparrows regularly around the feeding station there, where a colony has been sustained by provision of food and nest boxes. Away from Pitsford, the last Tree Sparrow I saw in Northamptonshire was one near Holdenby Mill in 2002. While walking along the Jurassic Way near Sibbertoft recently, I was therefore delighted to hear one calling from a nearby ash tree. I paused to watch it for a few minutes as it perched on branches and explored cavities; it could also be seen carrying sheep's wool in its bill, suggesting that it may be nesting nearby. I was unable to see more than one bird, but since then I have seen a report of a group of Tree Sparrows near Naseby, so it's possible that there is a breeding population remaining in this part of the county.

Tree Sparrows are rather similar to House Sparrows but can be identified by certain features and by some general characteristics, including size: they are slightly smaller than House Sparrows. Adult birds often seem to be more neatly marked: the chestnut-coloured cap and black cheek patch are particularly distinctive. Tree Sparrows are, like House Sparrows, rather vocal: to my ear their calls sound 'brighter' and *slightly* more musical. While they may breed around farm buildings and dwellings, they are more likely to be encountered in mature hedgerow trees in open farmland, so if you hear or see sparrows in this type of habitat you may have discovered another undiscovered local colony. If so, I'd be delighted to hear about it.

Jon Cook
joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com
@jcbirder.bsky.social

50 for 50 in the anniversary edition of C4C

Popular cycling challenge Cycle4Cynthia, organised by Cynthia Spencer Hospice Charity, is urging cyclists to raise a minimum of £50 in sponsorship to mark the hospice's 50th anniversary in 2026.

Since its launch 23 years ago, the charity bike ride has raised more than £800,000 for Cynthia Spencer Hospice care and this year, organisers hope to have a record-breaking year to mark the milestone birthday with the Big 50 support.

Cycle4Cynthia 2026 will see cyclists bike through the Northamptonshire countryside, from 8am on Sunday 27th September, starting and finishing at Holdenby House.

Whether you're riding for fun, fitness or a personal challenge, it's a fantastic way to support local hospice care.

Participants can choose from 10 miles, 25 miles or the Big50-mile anniversary route, meaning that there's something for everyone, from first-time riders to seasoned cyclists.

A fundraising page will be set up automatically for each cyclist upon registration, however you can also download a printable sponsorship form on the Cynthia Spencer website.

And the event isn't just for cyclists, there are plenty of family friendly activities in the Charity Village at Holdenby House and at the finish line on the day for spectators and cheerleaders to enjoy.

In 2023, Kate Stamp completed the 10-mile course in memory of her friend Rachel who was a patient at the hospice.

She said: "My friend Rachel passed away a couple of years ago from cancer and she was at Cynthia Spencer Hospice. Events like this are a good thing to do to give back."

ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS	
Abstract Limited, Architects - p22	Flower & Farmer - p23
AGA Wise Boiler Service - p23	Jomidar Lounge, Creaton - p23
JM Billings Plumbing & Heating - p6	LocBox Storage Solutions - p6
The Barn, Welford Xmas Tree Farm - p8	Michael Babb Foot & Health - p8
Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic - p2	Millie's Bakery - p13
Chestnut Developments - p 11	MJ Burdett Plumber - p19
Compass Energy - p2	Merrick School of Driving & Towing - p6
Creaton Village Shop - p2	Ted Stoves & Sweeps - p5
Daniel's Landscapes - p6	The Paper Apple Co - p8
Ewe Move Estate Agents - p12	Wills Direct - p6

Get to know ... Hollowell Sailing Club

Founded: 1966

Location: Hollowell Reservoir, between Guilsborough and Hollowell

Affiliation: Royal Yachting Association (RYA)

What they offer

- Race sailing, casual sailing, adult learn to sail and re-learning to sail. Junior start sailing, youth squad training.
- Dinghy hire
- Paddleboarding
- Canoeing & kayaking
- Model yachting
- Sculling
- Powerboat courses
- A welcoming, volunteer-run community with year-round membership

Facilities

- Clubhouse with galley, changing rooms and hot showers
- Boat park with space for members' dinghies
- Dedicated training fleet for beginners
- Ample lakeside space for rigging and launching

Membership snapshot

- Open to individuals, families and juniors (learn to sail from aged 8).
- New members welcome at any time of year
- All membership enquiries email membership@hollowellsc.org.uk

Last 'learn to sail' training dates for 2026:

Juniors:

Beginner course 20 & 21 August

Beginner and improver course 12 & 13 September

Adults:

15 & 16 August

26 & 27 September

For more information visit: www.hollowellsc.org.uk

Copy deadline for the October/November edition: ***Friday 4th September***