



Christmas Picture Winners 2021



Thank you very much to everyone who entered the Christmas Picture Competition. The judges had difficult decisions to make, and chose the two pictures shown here, both for their striking imagery, their originality and humour.

Winner of the Adult's Category (left) is Chris Benbow, with her picture "Brian at Christmas" (the distinctively shaped pine tree on the road just outside Guilsborough towards Hollowell).

Winner of the Children's Category is Eleanor Clarke (aged 7) who sent in her colourful collage of Father Christmas with his sleigh and reindeer.



The well deserved runners-up; Mary Fowler, Sophie Caldwell, Oscar Wilson and Lucas Gibson, are all shown on the back page.

Inside this issue:

Cold Ashby	P3
Cottesbrooke	P4
Creaton	P5-8
Guilsborough	P9-11
Hollowell	P12-14
Thornby	P16
Church	P17-18

WHAT'S ON

DECEMBER

3rd Coffee morning Guilsborough Surgery
5th Lighting up of church tree Guilsborough
5th Craft & Gift Fair Cottesbrooke
7th Carers drop-in Guilsborough
8th WI Christmas Party Creaton
8th SSPPG meeting Guilsborough
10th Thornby Merry Christmas
11th Creaton Walking Group
11th Cafe Christmas Hollowell
11th Wellingborough Gospel Choir, Spratton
17th Hopewell Cafe Hollowell
21st Creaton Singers Christmas Concert
22nd Carol singing Guilsborough
Church Services: SEE VILLAGE PAGES & PLANNER

JANUARY

1st & 8th Creaton Walking Group
21st Hopewell Cafe Hollowell
AND REGULARLY ...
Monday mornings, MMM Guilsborough
Monday evenings Knitwits Guilsborough
Tuesday evenings, Creaton Singers
Thursday morning, Indoor bowls, Creaton
3rd Friday of Month—Hopewell Cafe Hollowell
Sunday am and Tuesday pm - Tennis Guilsborough

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DISTRIBUTORS,
CONTRIBUTORS, VOLUNTEERS AND READERS!
WISHING YOU A HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON AHEAD.

NEXT EDITION: FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ... HAVE YOUR SAY!

Send your articles and ideas to the editor for the next edition. Email editorial@villagelink.org.uk by Monday 3rd January

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www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk

Creaton Village Shop

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VILLAGE LINK

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

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Wherever possible **please email** your contributions to. editorial@villagelink.org.uk. This saves considerable time re-typing information! When providing hard copy materials, please post to Angela Hubbard, The Old Sun, High Street, Guilsborough.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
Monday 3rd January 2022

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A NEW WALL FOR ST DENYS CHURCH



Here in Cold Ashby, we are delighted that after a huge team effort by so many, the new wall in St Denys' churchyard is finally complete and is looking fabulous. Work began on rebuilding the wall back in August and after four weeks of work by various craftsmen the wall now stands proud and safe in our churchyard.

At a cost of nearly £17,000 we are thankful to many benefactors who helped to make the rebuild possible. The whole process took well over a year from start to finish and various grants were applied for and were sometimes refused. But with sheer determination, The Friends of St Denys Church managed to secure the funding needed thanks in part to grants from Northamptonshire Community Foundation, The Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust, The John Warren Foundation and Cold Ashby Parish Council.

Other private benefactors also contributed and include Alice Morgan, the sister of Billy Lee who lived in the village, who kindly left a legacy to St Denys' Church. A commemoration plaque will be built in the wall to her memory.

In order for the work to take place, permission had to be sought from The Diocese of Peterborough and Daventry District Council and the services of an archaeologist had to be employed in case anything unusual was dug up during the excavation of the old wall.

Now that the wall is complete, the garden that surrounds it has been replanted. The new planting really complements the stonework and together we hope that they both stand safe, strong and tall for centuries to come.

Fiona Gunn-Stokes



**At the heart
of Christmas**



Cold Ashby Church
Christmas Services

Carol Service
18th December 5.00pm

Christmas Day
9.30am

Also, all are welcome at:
Ravensthorpe Church
21st December 7.30pm

'Blue Christmas' service for those who are sad or struggling through this season.

Creton Church
Walking Nativity Crib Service
23rd December 2.00pm

COTTESBROOKE NEWS

At the heart
of Christmas



Cottesbrooke Church Christmas Services

Carol Service

19th December 3.00pm

Christmas Day

11.00am

Also all are welcome at:

Creaton Church

Walking Nativity Crib Service

23rd December 2.00pm

Ravensthorpe Church

21st December 7.30pm

'Blue Christmas' service for those who are sad or
struggling through this season.



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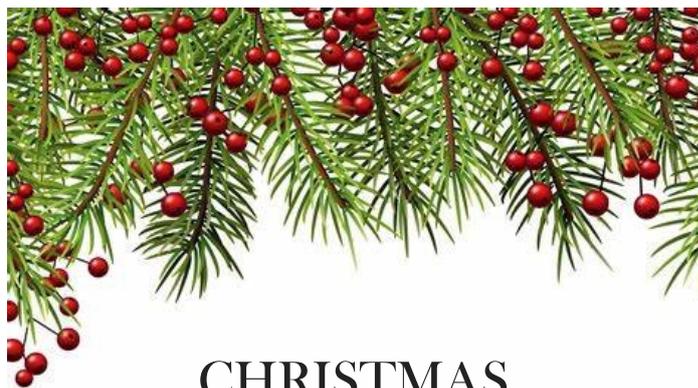
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issue or whether you want to understand the best nutrition and
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Cottesbrooke Village Hall

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CREATON NEWS

Creaton WI

We have been very much enjoying the return to our regular monthly meetings, seeing each other "face-to-face".

December 8th will be our Christmas party and in January we plan to meet on Zoom once again, as that will be easier for everyone during the worst of the winter months.

Please do join us in December at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reform Church. Telephone President, Daphne Clark, 505546, or email wicreaton@gmail.com for more information about these events and our New Year Zoom meetings.



in the URC, Creaton High Street. No previous experience necessary, just a willingness to join in and have fun singing together.

FOSM History Group

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

- December 16th Steve Dimmer
"Ooh Matron!" A History of the "Carry On" films
- January 20th Tracey Clarke.
The History of Wicksteed Park

Complimentary refreshments afterwards

Creaton Walking Group

Living in and around Creaton means we are very blessed with many beautiful footpaths, often by water.

The Creaton Walking group in October walked from Brixworth to the reservoir and then westwards along the shores to Scaldwell before looping back via Hanging Houghton. The sun shone and the countryside was at its best. The group were joined by visitors from near the New Forest and from Snowdonia who commented on our stunning scenery and lovely walks!

The November walk explored the footpaths around South Kilworth which again has beautiful Stanford reservoir on its doorstep.

If you enjoy walking and can manage a 3 hour / 8 mile walk off road then come and join this friendly group. Well-behaved dogs welcome. We walk on the second Saturday of the month at 10am, meeting at Creaton lychgate. We also walk on New Year's Day at 11am.

Next walks are on:

Saturday 11 December 10am

Saturday 1 January 11am

Saturday 8 January 10am



Creaton Singers

The Creaton Singers are delighted to be back together in person, albeit with some precautionary measures in place, and have been especially pleased to welcome new singers. They have been practicing hard for Christmas and have a wide range of new and old carols and songs to entertain you.

The Creaton Singers are very pleased to have been invited to sing at Cottesbrooke church on Sunday 19th December at 3pm and would love you to come along and support them.

Also, on Tuesday 21st December the Singers are thrilled to once again be able to put on their annual Christmas concert in Creaton, starting with carols round the tree on the Green at 7pm, carolling through the village to the village hall for a concert at 7:30pm. As usual, the concert is free with a voluntary collection for charity which this year is Macmillan Cancer Support. It will be so lovely to see everyone again.

Anyone interested in joining the Creaton Singers should contact Jane on 07879604029. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:30pm until 9pm

Indoor Bowls

Indoor Bowls is back at Creaton Village Hall

Thursdays at 10:00am

Coaching is given and bowls are available, just bring flat shoes or a pair of socks.

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BASED IN CREATON



CREATON NEWS

Over The Counter

How quickly the seasons come and go. By the time you are reading this, Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night will all be a distant memory, albeit a memory full of light and sound. Creaton Village Shop, always a place for wizard food, did its bit with scary ice cream and what seemed like a pumpkin for every customer. However, we look forward and although you have now missed the wine-tasting that was held in November - it was a great success, thank you for asking, and provided some fabulous ideas for gifts for Christmas and for celebratory consumption - the Shop is here to help you plan, and order, your festive fare. Shopping local not only helps fight climate change, it also avoids the supermarket queues and that last minute rush. You can order your meat, vegetables and indeed all your Christmas food from the Shop. In particular, orders for turkey crowns (rolled breasts, with or without bacon) are now being taken but unfortunately not for whole birds.

Simon Robinson, part of the original team behind the community shop and the person responsible for getting the products on the shelves, is stepping back from the role of Operations Manager, a voluntary role he has carried out since the shop opened. His experience and expertise was a significant part of the jigsaw when the idea of a community shop was first mooted. However, a new chapter starts as a Shop Manager, a paid role, is now being sought.

This post will cover operations and continue to promote the customer-friendly, efficient side of the shop.

Finally, but by no means least, the volunteers are amazing but there are not enough of them! The Shop is open 7:30am to 6pm during the week and 8am to 12noon at the weekend. To support this, there needs to be over 80 hours a week of volunteer time. This is usually in 2-hour blocks, so not onerous, and need not necessarily be at the same time each week. Please see what time you can offer, and ask at the Shop for more details.

Creaton Village Shop Christmas & New Year Opening Times

Date	Post Office	Shop
24th Dec	7.30am - 4.00pm	7.30am - 4.00pm
25th & 26th Dec	Closed	Closed
27th & 28th (B/H) Dec	Closed	8.00am - 12.00pm
29th & 30th Dec	8.00am - 6.00pm	8.00am - 6.00pm
31st Dec	8.00am - 4.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm
1st Jan	Closed	9.00am - 12.00pm
2nd Jan	Closed	8.00am - 12.00pm
3rd Jan (B/H)	Closed	8.00am - 12.00pm
4th Jan	Normal hours resume	Normal hours resume

**At the heart
of Christmas**



Creaton Church Christmas Services

Carol Service

18th December 5.00pm

Walking Nativity Crib Service

23rd December 2.00pm

Christmas Eve

10.00pm

Also, all are welcome at:

Ravensthorpe Church

21st December 7.30pm

'Blue Christmas' service for those who are sad or struggling through this season.

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CREATON NEWS



Wellingborough
Community
Gospel Choir

Working in harmony
with the Community

Saturday December 11th 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church, Spratton.

Presented by St Andrew's Heritage Society Spratton
and St Michael and All Angels, Creaton.

Ticket price £10 with complimentary glass wine/juice.
Tickets available from Spratton and Creaton Village Shops.

David Bennett : dhb48@btinternet.com
Ruth Davies : ruth@creaton.me.uk



Creaton URC

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

Sunday	December	
5th 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
12th 11am	Gift Service & Holy Communion	Jon Heard
19th 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
25th 10am	Christmas Day Service	Rev Ann Jack
26th	No Service	
	January	
2nd 11am	Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
9th 11am		Jon Heard
16th 11am	United Service with St Michael's - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Rev Geoff Townsend
23rd 11am		Rev Craig Muir
30th 11am	North West Pastorate Zoom Service	Rev Liz Adams

Poppies coffee shop is now open two days a week from 10am
to 12noon on Wednesdays and Fridays only.

Poppies will be closed for the Christmas Holiday from 12noon
on Friday 17th December and will re-open at 10am on Wednes-
day 5th January 2022.





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*
Guilsborough GP Surgery
7/12, 1/2/22, 5/4, 7/6



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Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

Parish Clerk: Regrettably, Katrina Jones has left the council to take up a position as Clerk to Brixworth Parish Council. We wish her every success and good luck in her new, enlarged role. Katrina has been an invaluable member of our team since she joined us in January 2017, and we thank her for her support and hard work over the last nearly five years.

Whilst we recruit a replacement clerk, you can contact Creaton Parish Council by email at creatonpc@gmail.com or by telephone on 07795 412321.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the village website www.creaton.org.uk



The parish council also has a facebook page.

Meetings are held bi-monthly. Please check the parish council website for details of future meetings and agendas.

Parish Council Meeting dates

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of the month (bi-monthly) at 7.30pm. The date of our next meeting is 11th January 2022 in the Village Hall. Details are subject to change depending on government public health guidance.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In February the Queen will have been on the throne for 70 years. The Parish Council have decided to mark and celebrate the



occasion by planting a tree in Her Majesty's honour.

We are currently working on which species will be planted, but the location selected is The Green, alongside a number of other trees planted to mark

historic moments in our past, including The World Wars.

Planning Applications

Please visit the Daventry section of the West Northamptonshire Council website for full details of all Planning Applications. www.westnorthants.gov.uk

Christmas Tree

Thank you to Welford Christmas Tree Farm for once again supplying the wonderful Christmas Tree on The Green.



Parish Council Vacancies

Clerk, RFO and Burials Officer: We have a part time vacancy (10 hours per week) for the position of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Burials Clerk (single position). A full specification is available on our website, facebook page or through the contact details below. **Applications by 14th December please** addressed to James Hill, jameshillcpc@gmail.com, Grooms House, Grooms Lane, Creaton, NN6 8NN or call 07795 412321 to discuss any queries.

Parish Councillors

The council currently has two vacant seats for Councillors. If you can give 1-2 hours of your time a month to help make decisions about how various matters in Creaton are managed and funded then please make contact.

As a Parish Council we have the ability to make change or influence outcomes in our community.

Contact us for more information about what is involved, the day to day tasks and projects we have in mind for 2022.

In the meantime we wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

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GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Neighbourhood Development Plan

With Guilsborough's Neighbourhood Development Plan (GNDP) being completed in January 2019 but started almost 6 years ago, we now need to keep it updated. This is normal practice anyway, just to ensure it remains fit for purpose, but with the formation of the two Unitary Councils for Northamptonshire we need to amend some of the references. Despite all of the changes being minor we still have to hold a public consultation which will run until 7th January 2022. We have produced a consultation document which is available from our website, Guilsboroughpc.org.uk, or printed versions are available by request from our Clerk, Carol Hollifield, on 01788 824425. Please do take the time to complete the questionnaire if you're a Guilsborough Parishioner.

Fundraising Committee

The newly formed committee to raise funds for the playground development held their first meeting early in November. If you would like to be involved, please contact the PC Chairman (07917 101008) who will forward your details on.

Bus Service

We have been advised that if the 59/60 bus service is to continue beyond March '22 it is very likely we will need to subsidise it again, as we have been doing over recent years. We have agreed a subsidy of no more than last year.

Phone Box Book Swap

Our book swap has now moved to its permanent location in the now completely renovated phone box. Please do make good use of it; we're hoping it will continue to offer good books for you to enjoy and pass on to others. Our thanks go to Cllr Ian Miller, David Manning and Richard Franklin for all your hard work!

Lastly, we wish you all a very festive Christmas time.



See page 19 for Guilsborough Music and Drama Society's most recent news.

CHRISTMAS IN GUILSBOROUGH

CAROL SINGING

We hope to sing around Guilsborough on Tuesday 21st Dec meeting on the Green at 6.30pm, in aid of the Northampton Centre for the Homeless. All welcome.

More details to follow on The Hub or contact Katie 07747604067.



A LIGHT FOR A
LOVED ONE
AT CHRISTMAS



Guilsborough church invites villagers to remember a loved one from whom they are parted this Christmas, by sponsoring a simple white light on the trees by the churchyard gate. Each light will shine out through the Christmas season as a symbol of comfort to all. As well as the light outside the church there will be the opportunity to have a message written on a star to be hung on a tree inside the church. The lights will be switched on at a short outdoor ceremony on Sunday 5th December at 4.30pm to which all are welcome. Details and forms are available from Guilsborough Shop, the church porch, Monday Morning Meet or contact Janet Minney on 01604 740640.

At the heart
of Christmas



Guilsborough Church Christmas Services

Carol Service

19th December 6.00pm

Christmas Day

11.00am

Also all are welcome at:

Ravensthorpe Church

21st December 7.30pm

'Blue Christmas' service for those who are sad or struggling through this season.

Creaton Church

Walking Nativity Crib Service

23rd December 2.00pm

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GROUND MAINTENANCE

Now that another cricket season has finished, the cricket square needs its end-of-season treatment, as part of work programme so that it is fit for use next season. Alex Thompson of Thompson Ground Care of Guilsborough completes the work, involving end-of-season, winter and pre-season treatments. Post-season work can include deep scarification or verti-cutting, top dressing with county loam, a pre-seed fertiliser, an over-seed and aeration. Winter treatments include aeration and further fertilisation, and pre-season works include scarification/ verti-cutting, an iron treatment to take care of any moss accumulated over the winter, first cut and first fertilise. The GPFA finances this work.

A new football pitch for the Under 12s has been marked-out so that the adjacent one created from the old bowls green can recover from last season; R&G Grounds Maintenance of Creaton are to reseed some bare patches by drilling in seed. It is also planned to apply for grants to improve the football pitches at the sports field over 6 years, through applying to the Football Foundation, which allocates grants from the Football Association (FA).

NEW TREASURER

The GPFA is delighted to have a new Treasurer, Milly Plant of Nortoft, who has opened new bank accounts for the GPFA. The retiring Treasurer, Mike Alcock of Church Mount, has been thanked for his contribution over many years.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SPORT

Northamptonshire Sport are part of Northamptonshire County Council, and will again be using the GPFA pavilion and sports field on six occasions during weekdays in 2022 for school sports events such as Kwik Cricket.

FOOTBALL

West Haddon u15s football team are currently playing their home games at Guilsborough Playing Fields on Sunday afternoons. The club have pitch congestion on Sunday afternoons at their West Haddon ground and GPFA has proven a successful and welcoming overspill. The u15 squad consists of 16 boys drawn from West Haddon, Guilsborough, Crick and the surrounding villages. They have had a great start to the season and are currently 2nd in the B league with a game in hand. The relationship with West Haddon Junior Football club continues to go from strength to strength and plans are in place for future seasons for two teams to play there each season and a plan to improve the pitch using FA funds.

CRICKET

Haddon Cricket Club which plays at Guilsborough and the Haddons will be running winter training from January 2022, the club is always keen to recruit new players across both senior and junior sections, we welcome both competitive and social players. Please contact junior.cricket@haddoncc.co.uk or Jim Houghton on 07748920176 for more information.



Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group Autumn 2021

The SSPPG are a group of patients that work with the Practice to make it the best it can be. We always welcome new members to our group.

Our meetings are held every two months, alternating between both surgeries. The next SSPPG Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th December at Guilsborough Surgery, 6.30pm.

The Practice will be launching its Christmas Raffle with Coffee Mornings at Brixworth Surgery on Friday 26th November 10am – 12noon and at Guilsborough Surgery on Friday 3rd December, 10am – 12noon. All proceeds will go to Cynthia Spencer Hospice

Northamptonshire Carers Association are offering a Drop-In sessions for carers and the cared for on Tuesday 7th December at Guilsborough Surgery, 1.30pm – 3pm. There will be refreshments available and Carers Association staff will be present to give advice and support.

For more information about the SSPPG contact the Secretary, Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email hoggbc66@gmail.com There is more information about our meetings and events, on the Saxon Spires website and on the SSPPG Facebook page.



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GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

PRIMARY SCHOOL



It's been a super Autumn Term for us so far with lots of learning and also curriculum enrichment days. We've completed a Maths day, held our European Day of Languages, as well as welcomed Chris Skelley, Gold Medallist Paralympian,

who hosted a series of Judo workshops with us all.

We were delighted to welcome prospective parents as they came to have a good look around our wonderful Reception/ Year 1 environment. Our Head Boy and Head Girl took part in the visits, speaking confidently to parents about their school experience so far. Thank you Theo and Ella, you did a super job!

We held our first School Council and Eco Warrior meetings this term and already have some brilliant ideas to make our school even better. We're all very excited to see what takes place over the next academic year!

Looking ahead, we have lots to look forward to. We have a visit from Fizz Pop Science planned, various PTA events and, of course, our Christmas celebrations. I hope to be able to arrange more Phonics workshops for our reception parents and Year 3 will be very excited to know that their whole class Ukulele lessons will continue too. Year 6 will also have the chance to take part in their Bikeability Award during November.

And just in case you hadn't heard, we have been nominated for 'Primary School of the Year' in the Northamptonshire Education Awards 2021! We've recently found out that we're one of the finalist schools, which of course we're all beaming with pride about, after getting this far. I know you'll all keep your fingers crossed for us as we wait to hear the outcome. To find out about all of the exciting things we are doing at our school and for any important updates, please see our school website www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk and Twitter profile @guilsboroughpri



Chris Skelley,
Paralympian Gold
Medallist during his
visit

MMM



Monday Morning Meet

Guilborough Village Hall

9 – 11am every Monday

(excluding Bank Holidays)

All welcome, baby – OAPs.

Baby & toddler toys for youngsters.

Meet for a chat, knit, hot drink & cake.

Only £2/adult - includes refreshments.

Children are free.



CHRISTMAS AT MMM

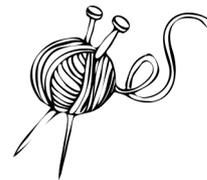
Monday 13th—Christmas Party

Monday 20th—Christmas Crafts and Festive Food

We will need to adhere to government Covid guidelines during the session.

For more information contact: Janet 01604 740640

GUILSBOROUGH KNITWITS



Open to all

Guilborough Village Hall

Monday's 8 - 9.30pm

Bring your knitting or crochet along

Hot drinks are provided and sometimes cake!!

Cost £3 to cover hire of hall

Sue 07771926519

Shoe Boxes and Blankets 2021

Thank you

To everyone who contributed to the Shoe Box & Blanket collection this year. We have sent 52 blankets & 116 shoe boxes in support of the Blythwood Project. They will be going to families in Romania.

Janet.



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

HOLLOWELL AND TEETON PARISH COUNCIL



“There’s Many a Slip –”

At the time of writing the weather is unseasonably mild, but, being ever the optimist, it seems appropriate to remind all residents that if the weather turns to frost & snow the few grit bins located around the Parish may come into play.

Some of these are maintained by Northants Highways and some are the responsibility of the Parish Council (all thanks to the budget dilemmas of the former County Council!). Each bin is labelled to indicate which organisation is responsible for maintaining it.

Either way, if you have a need to use the bins and note the stock of grit is low please advise the Clerk ASAP giving details of bin location.

You are reminded that the grit is provided for use on public highways (roads and paths).

Gillian Greaves (Clerk) Tel: 07771980598

12 Berry Lane, Wootton
Northampton NN4 6JX

Email: pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk

Web: www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk

‘But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?’

(With Apologies to WS)

All street lamps within the Parish are maintained by the Parish Council.

If you notice that a street light is no longer shining brightly please note the location and unique reference number (marked on each lamp post) and notify the Clerk who will inform the Parish contractor to initiate repair.

Bob the Builder (with apologies to any builder named Robert)

If you are contemplating undertaking any building work that will require approval of the West Northamptonshire Council (Daventry Area) it is likely that the Parish Council will be notified by WNC and requested to submit comment. The Parish Council produced a Village Design Statement, which was adopted as a Supplementary Planning document by Daventry District Council in 2008, and this remains the definitive guidance for any building work within the Parish. It is available to view on the Parish Council web site:

<https://www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk/about-the-parish>

Please refer to the VDS in advance of submitting you application to WNC and consider approaching the Parish Council to discuss your intentions.

A. G. Crisp Chairman

On behalf of Hollowell & Teeton Parish Council

MARATHON UNDERTAKING

Congratulations to Hollowell's London Marathon runner Becky Gane who battled round the 26.2 mile course, with forty thousand other runners at the beginning of October.

A life-long chronic migraine sufferer, Becks was raising money for the Migraine Trust which offers support for sufferers and carries out research into the condition. Unfortunately Becky started with a migraine on arriving in London the night before the race and had to medicate just to get through. She also battled a knee injury during the run, but says, “I loved every minute of it, and it’s amazing what you can achieve with determination, a worthy cause to fight for and amazing support. A big thank you to everyone who donated, gave me words of encouragement and supported me. It really meant a lot”.



Becky has raised an impressive £2,100 for research and support for migraine sufferers. There is still time to support her fund-raising effort at: <https://justgiving.com/Becks-78>

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR HELP WITH YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS OR FUEL SUPPLIES?



The Miss Jane Letts (Hollowell) Charity is run independently by three parish councillors who are appointed as Trustees.

It was created in 1940 by a bequest from the estate of James William Boothe Letts. The bequest established an income to purchase coal or blankets for distribution amongst the “poor widows

In the mid 1990s, the terms of the Charity were altered so that it could also contribute towards household electricity bills.

To benefit, you must be a resident of Hollowell or Teeton. Evidence that you are in receipt of a means-tested state benefit is helpful.

Please email the Jane Letts Trustees at janelettscharity@gmail.com or write to them, care of March Barn, Church Hill, Hollowell NN6 8RR. Just send the trustees your contact details and they will get in touch.

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

HOPEWELL CAFE

It was great to see the Hopewell Team back in action for the first village coffee morning since the first Lockdown. Seventeen people came along to the Village Hall for a catch-up, coffee and cake. The Hopewell coffee mornings are on every third Friday of the month, with the next one on Friday

CAFE CHRISTMAS HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 11th December 10am to 1pm

Bacon rolls, and other savouries, hot drinks and homemade cake

Authentic bean-to-cup espresso coffee serviced by our baristas

Craft and art stalls

If you would like to have a stall at this event, contact Viv or John 01604 743760



NEWCOMERS

Welcome to new arrivals Ellie Martin and Elliott Jones who have moved into Fairview on Creaton Road. Ellie is a student equine vet nurse and Elliott is a paramedic and they have two miniature dachshunds, Winnie and Roo. Ellie says they are thrilled to become residents of Hollowell village.

"My grandmother, Janet Wearing, grew up in Hollowell and as a family we are very proud to attend the remembrance service at the church each year where her father's name, John Hancock, is recorded on the church memorial wall."



NEW HOLLOWELL BABY

Congratulations to Amy and Scott and siblings Ebony and Joshua Heap on the arrival of Rannoch James Heap.

Rannoch was born 11th September, weighing 8lb 5oz. We all look forward to meeting him.

HARVEST THANK YOU

Gill Brown and the team at St James Church send a big thank you to everyone for all the donations of food received for the Harvest Service in Hollowell. Gills says,

'We were very pleased with all the donations and so was the Daventry Food Bank. We had a lovely service, with a good turn out.'

Traditional Christmas Carol Service

St James Church, Hollowell

10pm Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December

Carols and readings for all.

At the heart
of Christmas



Hollowell Church

Christmas Carol Service
24th December 10.00pm

Also all are welcome at:

Ravensthorpe Church

21st December 7.30pm

'Blue Christmas' service for those who are sad or struggling through this season.

Creaton Church

Walking Nativity Crib Service

23rd December 2.00pm



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HOLLOWELL & TEETON

BIRDING NOTES: THE MARSH TIT

While out walking early this morning I was delighted to hear the explosive 'pitchew' call which revealed the presence of a Marsh Tit. Scanning the nearby hedgerow, I could see that there were in fact two birds, both moving constantly, restlessly gleaning insects and other food among the branches and leaves.

The Marsh Tit, scientific name *Poecile palustris*, is a scarce local resident, thinly distributed in Northamptonshire, usually frequenting deciduous woodland, parkland and damp scrubby areas. They can also be seen in gardens, often frequenting garden feeders. In my experience they are generally more visible through the winter, probably because they have to forage further for food, also perhaps being more conspicuous when trees and hedgerows are not in leaf. This photo, taken in April this year, is of a Marsh Tit 'nectaring' on blackthorn blossom; they are known to be surprising and effective pollinators.

The almost identical Willow Tit is even scarcer locally, in fact after a period of decline now sadly occurs at just a couple of sites in the county and in dramatically reduced numbers. It would appear likely that it will become extinct as a breeder in the county before too long. Although you are much more likely to encounter a Marsh Tit, they too are declining in the county and also in other parts of their range. Both species are now on the 'Red List' of 67 vulnerable species which are under significant threat in the UK.

In terms of identification, the safest way to separate Willow and Marsh Tits is by their diagnostic calls. They exhibit plumage



differences, but these are marginal, the Willow Tit sometimes having a larger black bib and all white cheeks, also sometimes showing a silvery wing panel, but these differences are often impossible to see in the field.

A more likely confusion species is the much commoner Coal Tit, which will also be visiting gardens through the winter. Coal Tit is smaller, with a slimmer build and plumage differences including a white nape and a double white wing bar.

If you are interested in building your expertise on bird songs and calls there are a number of apps and many free online resources, including Xeno-canto, now one of the largest databases of bird recordings and a great example of 'citizen science', with many of the recordings being uploaded by amateur birders and naturalists. See xeno-canto.org.

If you see a Marsh Tit in Northamptonshire, I'd be interested to hear about it, so please feel free to contact me at joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com or see my website joncookbirding.wordpress.com for more about my work as county bird recorder.

LOTTO WINNERS and RENEWAL TIME

Jan Craig, Linda Gilbert, Norah Daykin, Ann Wyatt, Hilary Worton, Lee Gane, Diana Wells, Wendy Evans, Sheila Spencer were our most recent lucky winners, each receiving a crisp £10 note.

It is time to renew your annual subscription to the Village Hall Lotto, which starts in January each year. It is £10 to buy a number for the year, although you can purchase as many numbers as you wish. If you would like to renew your numbers, or join the lotto for the first time, please make a bank transfer to the Village Hall Account below and email Becky Gane:

beckyjgane@gmail.com to confirm your renewal and how many numbers you would like. Alternatively you can pay in cash by delivering your subscription to Becky at 9 Church Hill.

(Penultimate house on the right at the top of Church Hill). All funds raised go towards the maintenance and running of the Village Hall so please support us.

Bank Details.

Hollowell Village Hall
Sort code: 08-92-99
Acct number: 65884371
Ref: Village Lotto

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Hollowell and Teeton Village Hall hosted their first ever Halloween Party on Friday 29th October and were overwhelmed by the incredible (and very spooky!!) turnout. Prizes were awarded for some fabulous costumes and our Halloween guests were treated to some very gruesome looking sweets and cupcakes! We had a fantastic night and would like to extend a huge thank you to everybody who supported us on the night. Our younger guests gave us lots of ideas for our next event... so definitely watch this space for what comes next! We were also really pleased to talk to parents about future bookings for the hall, it is a perfect venue for parties and local events. Our Bookings Clerk, Lee Gance can be contacted on 07720 778861.





JOIN US THIS FESTIVE SEASON FOR OUR
CHRISTMAS MENU

AT THE RED LION THORNBY

MENU AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER TO FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

LUNCH SERVED 12 NOON - 2PM
EVENING SERVICE FROM 6PM - 9PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER & SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

A DELICIOUS FESTIVE 4 COURSE MEAL INCLUDING TABLE DRINKS,
LIVE MUSIC & DANCING

BOOKING ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL
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THORNBY NEWS

THORNBY VILLAGE HALL

THORNBY MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

VENUE: THORNBY VILLAGE HALL

DATE: FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER

TIME: 7:30pm

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

Contact for tickets - Ann 01604 743860

Thornby Village Hall Hire

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.

Hire charge £10 per hour

Contact Alex Todd - 07872839199

Thornby Merry Christmas – Any donations for our Christmas Hamper Raffle would be greatly appreciated, please pop them to my house or leave on my doorstep or contact me for collection. If you are unable to attend but you would like to support the event by giving a donation or buying raffle tickets. Please put your donation in an envelope with your name and address and put in my post box. All raffle tickets sold will be named and any winners if not in attendance will receive the prize within the following couple of days. Good luck!

Many thanks, Alex
Warriner House - Thornby
07872 839199

At the heart
of Christmas



Thornby Church Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight*

19th December 3.00pm

Christmas Day

9.30am

Also all are welcome at:

Ravensthorpe Church

21st December 7.30pm

*'Blue Christmas' service for those who are sad or struggling through this season.

Creaton Church

Walking Nativity Crib Service

23rd December 2.00pm

* ST. HELENS CHURCH

Carol Service

19th Dec at 3pm

Enjoy a glass of wine, mince pies and a chat after the Carol Service.

We will be closed on a Monday throughout the winter months.



One December, quite a few years ago, I found myself particularly bothered by the Christmas music playing in Tesco. I think that at this quite stressful time of year what we need in shops is something soothing like whale song or womb noises or something, not tinkly, over-exuberant ditties that just remind us about all the things we've still got to get done. Don't get me wrong, I love Wizzard's 'I wish it could be Christmas every day', but not when I'm trying to shop for a normal family week plus Christmas all on a tight budget.

Unwisely, when I got home, I did a mini-rant on Facebook about it and one of my 'Friends' responded 'Oh, I love it when the vicars get upset about the commercialisation of Christmas.' It's always upsetting to be misunderstood (I hadn't mentioned commercialisation), but with this I was upset because I'd been saying something that I hoped would ease people's stress.

Vicars do have a bit of a reputation for being party poopers about the Christmas season which seems to begin at the start of December and then ends rather abruptly on the 25th. Mostly we clerics tend to give in to this and put the decorations up and sing Christmas carols with everyone else. But fifty-odd years ago my parish priest wouldn't allow a sprig of holly or a cheery carol anywhere near our church until late on Christmas Eve. Even then he was thought of as a spoilsport, but he was trying to cling on to the Church's season of Advent which is quite distinct from Christmas.

As I've got older and learned more about life I've come to realise how important the season of Advent is. There are various ways to describe it, but for me it's a season of longing. So not a time for feverish excitement, but a season when we breathe into the

things we long for most. And I'm talking here about the real stuff of life things – longing to see my parents again, longing for peace in the world, longing for kindness to reign in human hearts, longing for my children to find fulfilment in life. The hymns that have been written for Advent express this longing really well and for me are wonderful to sing.



If we've observed an Advent of longing, when Christmas comes we celebrate big time, because our longings are met by a baby in a manger who will grow into a man who shows us how to be human in the way that God created us to be. And traditionally the feasting would continue for twelve days into January with some decorations staying up until the beginning of February.

Maybe we vicars aren't party poopers, and because we've spent four weeks meditating on the things that the human heart truly needs and longs for, we have a whole lot to celebrate when Christmas comes.

So to make Christmas go with a more profound bang than usual, we could do worse than make a little bit of time for longing through December; giving our hearts voice to speak to us about the things that matter deeply to us and to the world. Then our wonder and joy at God coming from heaven to earth will lift our souls and allow us to celebrate in a way that nothing that comes in gift wrapping ever can.

Happy Christmas.



THANK YOU...

Guilsborough PCC would like to thank all those – individuals and village groups – who supported our daffodil project. On a sunny Sunday afternoon in October we planted 300 white and scented daffodil bulbs of two varieties in the churchyard and the cemetery. Thanks to your generosity we have enough in the kitty to plant more next year and the project also raised some funds for the work of the church. Please come and look at the new daffodils in the Spring!



GUILSBOROUGH CHURCH—SPONSOR A CHRISTMAS LIGHT ON A TREE TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE.....SEE PAGE 9

ADVENT WINDOWS

Sharing a little light and joy and the message of Christmas this December! You can play your part by taking part in a community wide living Advent Calendar. Advent Window Trails are taking place in **Cold Ashby, Creaton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Thornby and Spratton.**

How it works...(Timings shown are for Guilsborough, other villages may vary).

- * 24 volunteers agreed to decorate a street-facing window (an 'advent window') on a nativity theme, each is assigned a date.
- * A new window 'opens' (appears and is lit) every day from 1st to 24th December.
- * Each window then remains 'open' from its opening day from at least 4pm until 26th December.
- * A trail leaflet is created for each village and we have an advent window trail that anyone can walk around and enjoy. Some may choose to do it as December progresses, and others may prefer to wait until they're all open and follow the completed trail all in one go.



CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group Of Churches – Sunday Service Planner December 2021 and January 2022									
Christmas service times are publicised separately on each village's page									
	5 th December	12 th December	19 th December	26 th December	2 nd January	9 th January	16 th January	23 rd January	30 th January
	Purple	Purple	Purple	White/Gold	White/Gold	White/Gold	White/Gold	White/Gold	White/Gold
Cold Ashby								9.30 BCP Communion	
Cottesbrooke	11.00 BCP Communion				11.00 BCP Communion				
Creaton	9.30 CW Communion		9.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion		9.30 BCP Communion		
Guilsborough	11.00 CW Communion	10.00 Group Service Cottesbrooke	Brunch@11 (Village Hall)	10.00am Group Service Spratton Said Holy Communion	11.00 CW Communion	10.00 Group Service Guilsborough	8.30 BCP Communion Brunch@11 (Village Hall) 5.00 BCP Evensong	9.30 CW Communion	10.00 Group Service Thornby
Hollowell			11.00 BCP Morning Prayer				11.00 BCP Morning Prayer	11.00 CW Communion	
Ravensthorpe	8.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion		8.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion		
Spratton	11.00 Worship for All		8.30 BCP Communion		11.00 Worship for All		8.30 BCP Communion	11.00 CW Communion	
Thornby	9.30 BCP Communion				9.30 BCP Communion				

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Paul Chant
Branch Director



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TRY SOMETHING NEW IN 22!

Local drama group looking for backstage helpers

In spring 2022 GMADS will perform *Around The World In 80 Days*. We have already cast all 80 parts, welcomed several new faces and begun rehearsals.



Passengers on the Dover boat train in rehearsal

After Christmas we will need support for backstage, costume, props, sound, lighting, scenery, publicity - no experience necessary just a willingness to have a go. As it's a musical we would also like to hear from musicians who would like to perform with us, even if you can only commit to a small part. Roger Brandon-Jones, our multi-talented stage director, has specially written it as a unique production for what will be GMADS 50th year. We rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Guilsborough Village Hall. Save the dates: **Performances will be 31 March, 1, 2 April.** Call our chair Dorothy Whittaker on 01788 510392 or come along to a rehearsal to see what we do. More information at www.gmads.co.uk

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN OUR VILLAGES

- What's already happening and why?
- What more can/should we do?

If you have ideas, success stories, suggestions or questions ... please send them in to Village Link. Our next edition will throw a light on initiatives large and small across the villages. Email: editorial@villagelink.org.uk

AGAWISE

BOILER SERVICE

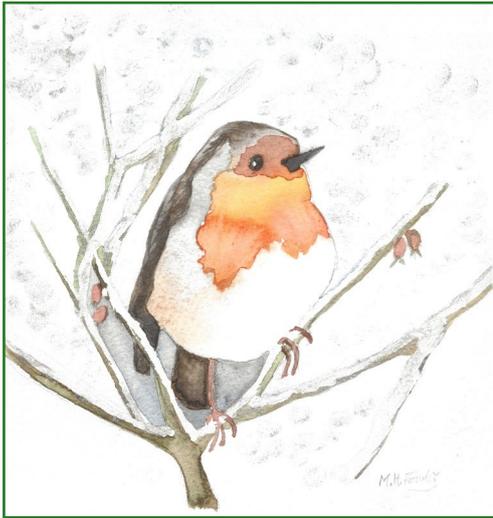
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COMMISSION
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OIL COOKERS

agawise.co.uk
sean@agawise.co.uk
01604 385138
07759 630068



SAME MAN,
NEW VAN!





CHRISTMAS PICTURE COMPETITION

On the left is Mary Fowler's delightful festive robin, runner-up in the Adult Christmas Picture Competition.

All winners will receive festive prizes.

Below is Lucas Gibson's (age 8) picture of Father Christmas, a snowman and a Christmas tree; one of the three runners-up in the Children's category of the competition.



Below is Sophie Caldwell's (age 10) Christmas gingerbread house.



Above is Oscar Wilson's (age 8) wintery elfish picture.

WINTER SCENE

An entry from Norah Daykin, received too late for the judging, but thought to be such an evocative winter scene, we've included it below:



ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS

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- MJ Burdett Plumber - p13
- Merrick School of Driving and Towing - p4
- The Red Lion, Thornby - p15
- Wills Direct - p6

CHRISTMAS POLYGON

Always using the middle letter, how many words can you make, of three letters or more? No plurals. All letters used make up a nine letter festive word.

