



PARISH CHURCHES NEED MORE SUPPORT



Despite welcoming more people over Christmas than for some years, the Upland Churches are suffering from a lack of support in their running.

In October it was reported that the church of St James in Hollowell was desperately seeking ways to keep the church open. In her letter in this issue of Village Link, Rev Allison Twigg talks about how each church is managed by a voluntary council but at the moment fewer and fewer people are coming forward to help. You can read the Rev Allison's letter on page 21.

From Creaton to Journeys into the Heart of Football

They say that it takes a village to raise a child. And apparently, it takes the village of Creaton to raise an author. Local boy done good, Ruben Clark - writing as RM Clark - has recently released his debut book with the respected independent sports publishers, Pitch Publishing.

Winner Stays On: England with The FA Cup for a Compass is a unique journey through the heartlands of English football, using only fixtures from the 2022/23 FA Cup to plan the route. With original research and rich, thought-provoking prose, the book blends elements of travel writing with football culture and barstool sociology. It is also funny (Sometimes). Continued on page 10



WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

- See p5 for all Cold Ashby Events
- 8th Guilsborough Friends
- 9th Hollowell, Quiz night
- 10th Cottesbrooke, Coffee Morning
- 10th Creaton, Walkers
- 14th Creaton WI
- 15th Creaton, FOSM History Group
- 16th Hollowell, Hopwell Café
- 16th Guilsborough, Village Hall Quiz

MARCH

- See p5 for all Cold Ashby Events
- 9th Cottesbrooke, Coffee Morning
- 9th Creaton, Walkers
- 14th Guilsborough Friends
- 21st-23rd Guilsborough "House Guest" GMADS
- 23rd Creaton, FOSM Quiz Night
- 29th Guilsborough Good Friday MMM

AND REGULARLY ...

- Monday mornings MMM, evenings Knitwits Guilsborough; Tuesday evenings, Creaton Singers; Thursday mornings Indoor bowls, Creaton; Sunday am and Tuesday pm, Tennis Guilsborough; Thursday evenings, Badminton Guilsborough. Thursday evening Nia Guilsborough.
- See p20 for Buckby Library & Hub



Cottesbrooke Head Gardener 'niffing' on Gardeners World.

To find out more, see page 6.

Creaton Village Shop



OPENING HOURS
Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 6.00pm
Sat/Sun: 8.00am - 12 noon



We stock a wide range of fresh & frozen produce, as well as all your kitchen and household essentials, drinks, magazines, newspapers and cards. We also sell fresh flowers, compost, instant BBQs, coal, logs and kindling, and have a dry cleaning service!

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Creaton Village Shop is a community enterprise, run largely by local volunteers as a valuable community asset.

We source products from around 30 local suppliers!



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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.

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Advertisements

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Monday 4th March

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GUILSBOROUGH FIRE STATION, NOT JUST FOR GUILSBOROUGH



Guilsborough has had a fire station in the village for over 75 years. Currently there is a crew of seven firefighters responding from the station to all manner of incidents in the local vicinity and throughout the county, including road traffic collisions, fires, animal rescue, assisting the ambulance service, flooding, and many more.

The crew train on Monday evenings 7-9pm, and then respond via mobile pagers when required to attend incidents. This year the stations crew have responded to over 90 incidents countywide.

If you feel that you would like to be a part of the fire service, the station is always looking for new recruits. If you live or work within eight minutes of the station and would like to help provide an essential service to the local community, you will be supported and guided throughout the process. Further information and an initial interest can be expressed and submitted on the website, www.oncallfire.co.uk, or simply call in at the station on a Monday evening between 7-9pm, for a chat.



Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group - JANUARY 2024



The SSPPG is a collaborative team of Patients and Practice Staff, including GPs and Practice Management. Practices are required by the NHS to have a PPG

The SSPPG works on behalf of Saxon Spires Practice at both Brixworth and Guilsborough Surgeries. Our meetings alternate between the two sites. We meet to review issues and identify ways of assisting the practice in its effort to improve the services available. Our next meeting is at Brixworth Surgery on Wednesday 21st February at 5pm.

The Practice serves a large rural area and our group membership aims to reflect the interest of patients from a number of villages. We would like to see more representation from Guilsborough and the surrounding area. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved. Watch our Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group Facebook page for regular announcement on all activities or for more information drop us an email on ssppg2022@gmail.com or phone 01604 880552

COLD ASHBY NEWS

Thank you from the Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who joined the numerous celebrations over the festive period. Special thanks go to Dave Harris for hosting Our Christmas Cracker Social Evening on 16th December. Great fun was had by all who attended and enjoyed the tabletop Christmas quiz. It was so lovely to see so many of our community attending the many events and helping to make the season so merry and enjoyable. The Village's support towards the upkeep of the hall is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hosting many more events in 2024.



Advent windows a beautiful sight

Thank you to all the villagers who volunteered to display an advent window in the village in December. This year was particularly poignant as it was in memory of Chris Sellers who started the tradition back in 2020. It was a pleasure to walk round the village and see the beautiful and artistic efforts and it really did brighten up the village.



News from St Denys Church

St Denys PCC would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Craft and Gift fair in November. Special thanks to Fiona Gunn-Stokes for organising it and Margaret Harris and Wendy Bates for serving the refreshments. A grand total of £370 was raised for church funds.

The Tree of Remembrance was lit in the churchyard throughout December which again was well supported, and the PCC would like to thank everyone who sponsored a bulb in remembrance of a loved one. A total of £480 was raised in aid of St Denys.

Children's Christmas Party welcomes over 100 guests!

On 22nd December, over 100 guests descended on Cold Ashby Golf Club for the Cold Ashby Children's Christmas Party. This was our biggest family event to date and was a huge success. We had a fabulous time with a disco, games and pizza. All the children also visited Santa's grotto and received a gift from the man himself!

Jenny, Katy and Rinat would like to thank Cold Ashby Golf Club, Richard & Rachel, Tina & Toby, Laura & Richard, Duggie and John for their kind and generous donations which enabled this event to happen.

We'd also like to thank Colin Ritchie, Katie Caldwell, Ruth Sleigh and Matthew Stuart for all their hard work behind the scenes.

We're already busy planning some more family events for 2024 so watch this space!



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COLD ASHBY NEWS

COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

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

Date	Event	Place	Details
Fri 2 nd Feb	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 9 th Feb	Skittles CA v SFC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 10 th Feb	Social Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 24 th Feb	Curry & Bingo Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm Chicken or Veg Curry £5 (prebook only) Bingo £1 a ticket
Tues 27 th Feb	Film night (TBA)	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm £5 includes cheese and wine
Wed 28 th Feb	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 9 th Mar	Social night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 13 th Mar	Skittles CA v CR	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 15 th Mar	Skittles Pairs	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 22 nd Mar	Skittles Presentation	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 23 rd Mar	Social Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Tues 26 th Mar	Film night (TBA)	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm £5 includes cheese and wine
Wed 27 th Mar	Skittles CA v LBRC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm

Pool nights Mondays from 7.30pm at the Cold Ashby Playing Field Pavilion. Bar open. All village pool players welcome. Please check village Facebook pages for further details of planned events listed above.

CURRY AND BINGO

Please join us on
Saturday 24th February
for Curry and Bingo night

**£5 for Chicken or Vegetable Curry,
Rice and Naan Bread**

**£1 per bingo card (cash prizes) Curry
at 7:45pm followed by Bingo at
8:15pm**

Prebook with Fiona on 07488373629



COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Defibrillator Installed



Cottesbrooke now has a public use defibrillator installed at the Village Hall. The unit is available and accessible 24/7. It is located on the gable end of the Hall nearest the road. Its fetching green colour will make it hard to miss. Hopefully it is never needed. However, if it is all the instructions are on the unit. Most importantly, the access Code is obtained by dialling 999 as it has been registered on their database.

The Village Hall has entered into a Contract for the upkeep of this unit to ensure it is kept fully maintained and in working order should it ever be needed. This incurs an ongoing charge but one we see as essential. To cover this ongoing cost, the Village Hall has requested donations for this potentially life saving piece of equipment. Please see Tom or Meg for more information or to make a donation. A huge thank you to those who have donated already.

Coffee Mornings

All Village Residents welcome to attend.

10 February, Pay it Forward - Celebrating World Kindness Day

9 March, Crochet & Chat (bring your yarn and needles) - or just pop in for a cuppa!

Upcoming Events

The Cottesbrooke Village Hall Committee is busy planning events for a fabulous 2024! Leaflets will be posted through your doors with further details.

'Niffing' the Roses



At the end of December, our awesome neighbour and Head Gardener at Cottesbrooke Hall, Jenny 'Niff' Barnes was featured in a segment on BBC Gardener's World showing the artistry of her amazing rose sculptures.

Jenny can be seen on Episode 3 of the Winter Specials on the BBC iPlayer.

You can also follow Jenny on Instagram. Just look for niff_barnes.

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Creaton Playing Fields Association



Doug McEwan collecting for the winning team

Creaton quiz night was the main event of the social calendar for 2023. Quiz master Rod Goldberg had been working on some of the best questions for over a year and the competition was intense. We didn't expect that the combination of vintage people, Wi-Fi and smart phones would create so much excitement when the answers were revealed. One of the village's regular teams won the top prize while the young village team, returning for their second year, enjoyed the spirit of the evening and won the beans again. Maybe some more young teams would like to take the challenge next year?



Sally Goldberg organised the most amazing raffle prizes, and everyone appeared to go home with a prize or two. Please leave your name and contact details with the village shop if you would like to join the Playing Field committee.

Creaton Walkers



After a lovely, albeit slightly shorter December walk due to the heavy rain, the Creaton Walking Group celebrated Christmas with friends and supporters at the Jomidar Lounge in Creaton. A fun evening was had by all!

The New Year was rung in with style with a walk over to Blueberry and Haselbech with a good turnout of well-behaved walkers and dogs, or should that be the other way round? Due to the wet conditions the January walk was a circuit of Pitsford reservoir, punctuated by a coffee break, organised by Barry.

In February the walkers will continue walking the Via Beata as it goes from Walgrave across to Brixworth and on to Five Ways. If you enjoy walking and have good walking boots, meet us at the lychgate in Creaton on the second Saturday of the month at 10am.

Next walks are on:

February 10th

March 9th

April 13th

Creaton Singers

December was very hectic for the Creaton Singers! After singing at the Christmas Tree Farm in Welford at the beginning of the month and then at Cottesbrooke Carol Service, on 19th December the Creaton Singers went carol singing around the village and then put on a concert at the church. This was well attended and, thanks to voluntary donations, £341.50 was raised for the Hope Centre. Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

The Creaton Singers had planned a month's break but were invited to sing at Doreen Kimberlin's funeral at the beginning of January. As well as leading the congregation singing, they performed Panis Angelicus, which Doreen had requested be sung at her funeral. Tony Ambrose also sang 'Some Enchanted Evening', which was Doreen's and her late husband Peter's song. Glennis Ambrose was the organist and Musical Director and kindly fitted in a rehearsal.

Now the singers' attention is focused on the Spring and learning new music. If you like singing, come for a taster session to the URC in Creaton High Street on Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm to 9pm.

FOSM History Group

Thursday 15th February:

Witches in Northampton

A talk by Chris Rowe



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH

Creaton Village Hall at 7 for 7.30 pm

CREATON NEWS

Creaton WI



Master Chocolatier Tom Phillips and WI President Daphne Clark



In November we were joined by guests for an evening of chocolate making and tasting with Master Chocolatier Tom Phillips. Before our eyes Tom created an amazing chocolate snowman, a masterpiece which was then raffled.

December saw us enjoying a festive evening of "Humour and Music" with Ken Nokes, including a singalong fuelled by mulled wine and mince pies!

Our February meeting is a fascinating insight into the secret work of "The Women Warriors of Bletchley Park". The meeting will be held on February 14th on Zoom; non-members are most welcome to join in from the comfort of your armchair!

Our March meeting is the AGM.

A date for your dairies – April 10th 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church, an evening of musical entertainment from "Three in Accord", a wonderful trio whose members have sung at the Royal Albert Hall and Windsor Castle! All welcome.

Please contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546 or email wicreaton@gmail.com for more information or a Zoom joining link.

Over the Counter

Notes from Creaton Community Shop

Many thanks to everyone who supported the shop during the Christmas period. We had record sales helped by an increase in the number of orders. There were also many new products on offer during the festive season and several will continue to be sold. Come and see what's new. And given the time of year, don't forget you can get logs, kindling and coal at the shop – or the shop can deliver to you.

On the volunteer front, a big shout out for the youngsters who helped out during the school holidays! Hurrah! Alas, with the youngsters back at school or university we need more volunteers please. It is great fun working in the shop and we are very flexible so why not make your New Year's resolution to give it a go?

In addition to helping out by serving and looking after the stock, we have a baking team that is getting very stretched. If you are up early in the morning and like to be home in time to get the rest of the day done, then joining the cooking crew may be for you. All those fresh breads and pastries don't heat themselves. It is very easy and full training will be given. All expressions of interest gratefully received!

Everyone sends Sue Tew their very best wishes and hopes to see her back in Creaton soon.

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



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www.Loc-Box.co.uk

Doreen Kimberlin

1930 - 2023



Doreen and her 'Maserati'

Doreen was born in Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire and lived most of her life in and around Leicester. Despite the war Doreen had a wonderful childhood full of various antics with her friends, long walks with the dogs and her Mum, and of riding her beloved Raffles, a Welsh Mountain pony. In 1955, she was introduced to Peter Kimberlin, the son of her Father's business colleague. It was love at first sight and after a whirlwind 3 weeks they were engaged. The young Mrs Kimberlin's ambition in life was to be a good mother and wife and that she certainly was! She was a fierce defender of her children and dedicated all her life to them, with summer holidays packed with days out and weekday evenings full of activities. The slightest interest in something was met with lessons and activities: swimming pools, tennis courts, squash courts, gymkhana rings, and in the 1980s pounding the streets of Chelmsford, knocking on doors to persuade people to vote for her son! When her husband Peter became Lord Mayor in 1990, Doreen took on the role of Lady Mayoress though she much preferred helping with the washing up at functions, mayoral chain and all, rather than the limelight. Doreen moved into her daughter Jane's home in Creaton in 2005. Embracing her new life in the village, she joined the History Group, the WI and took charge of the Creaton Walking Group supporters which meant organising the pub lunches and picking up limping and exhausted walkers! Always enjoying being active, in the last heavy snowfall in Creaton, Doreen was seen tobogganing down the field adjacent to Teeton Lane! In the last few years, when getting out and about proved a tad harder, Doreen would be seen zipping round the village and the lanes on her 'Maserati'. Doreen passed away peacefully at home on Saturday 23rd December 2023. A Requiem Mass was held at Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church, Market Harborough. Doreen is survived by her son David, daughter Jane and granddaughter Rebecca.

Creaton URC

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

February		
Sunday		
4 th 11am		Jon Heard
11 th 11am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
18 th 11am		tbc
25 th 11am		Rev Ann Jack
March		
3 rd 11am	Holy Communion	Jon Heard
10 th 11am	Mothering Sunday with St Michael's at the URC Chapel	Rev Geoff Townsend
17 th 11am		Rev Tim Huc
24 th 11am	Palm Sunday	Rev Jay Phelps
31 st 11am	Easter Sunday	Rev Geoff Townsend

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



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BASED IN CREATON

CREATON NEWS

Creaton Heritage Project

A group of volunteers have started to explore and document the history of the church in Creaton and its village surroundings. The results of the research will be made available in a variety of formats for both Creaton and the wider community to help enrich people's knowledge of our local history and culture.



This project is in its early stages. Hopefully we will start to make the research available from March 2024. Watch this space and the Church porch notice board. Eventually this project will lead into a celebration of the 800 year anniversary of the church in 2026.

If anyone has any stories, memories or photos of Creaton that they would like to share we would be happy to receive them for possible inclusion. Likewise, if you would like to volunteer to help in this project please get in touch.

We would love to hear from you.

Bob Tomalin

bobatcreatonheritage@gmail.com or

9 Welford Road, Creaton, NN6 8NH

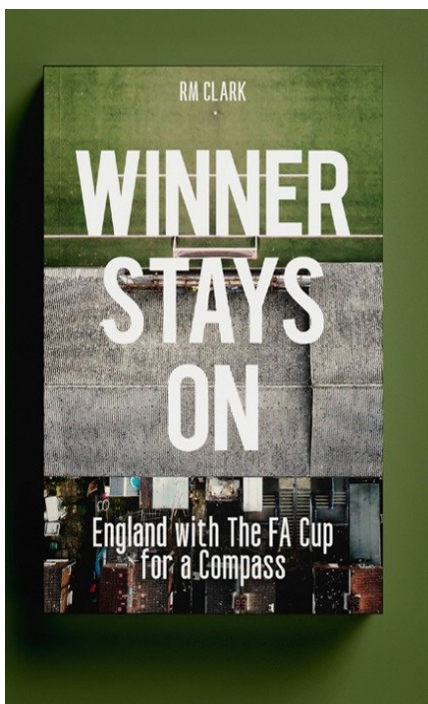
From Creaton to Journeys into the Heart of Football

Cont'd. from Page 1

Ruben was educated at Great Creaton Primary School and Guilsborough Secondary School. Whilst his SATs were by all accounts reasonable, his A-Level results left much to be desired.

Now living in Manchester and backed by a supportive family, patient girlfriend, and the all-important arrogance of youth, Ruben has at last succeeded in clawing back some dignity to his name, leaving the *Ungradeable* mark he received in English Literature to be little more than an ironic footnote upon a soon to be flourishing career. He writes here today in third person. He is, perhaps, a little embarrassed to be sharing his good news. Nonetheless, if he were to truly commit to the meta self-indulgence of this paragraph and push himself, as an interviewee - and not an interviewer - into providing a quote, he might well say something like this:

“Please buy my book. It is genuinely quite good and I am very proud of it. Thank you”.



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CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

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

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

Parish Council Meeting dates:

Meetings will now be held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall instead of the second Tuesday. The next meeting date is: 5th March 2024.

The meetings for 2024 are:

- 5th March;
- 7th May;
- 9th July;
- 3rd September;
- 5th November.

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>

Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you

would like to apply or for further details please contact the Parish Clerk.

West Northants Council Consultations

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

Police Liaison Representative Update

KEYLESS CAR CRIME ON THE INCREASE

Cars with keyless entry automatically unlock within a short distance of the vehicle. Keep yours keys safe do not leave them lying around. Thieves only need to be a few metres away to be able to clone your key and capture the signal.

Here are 3 simple methods to protect your keyless entry car:

1. When at home keep your keys well away from the car
2. Put your keys in a screened or signal pouch when you are out
3. If you are able, turn off the wireless signals on your fob

Keep Safe

Cllr Ian Horne

Christmas Tree

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

We've got a plan for you!

This headline will appear familiar as each household and business in Creaton should have received a flyer kickstarting the dialogue regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. Shortly you will receive a questionnaire that we would like you to complete.

The questionnaire gives you - resident or business owner in Creaton - the opportunity to express your thoughts so that the Plan reflects your opinions. Please respond so that the Plan represents our community, and future plans consider *our* wishes. The questionnaire can be completed on line (details on the form) or you can complete the paper version and either hand it in at the shop or at Lilac Cottage, High Street.

The Localism Act of 2011 has given local residents the power to shape the future of their village and neighbourhood. Under the Act we can have a say in housing design, appearance and location. But it is not just about housing. The Plan can include policies to protect green spaces, heritage assets, community facilities, parking, and transport. Perhaps more crucially for Creaton we can have a say about what facilities and opportunities we can create to attract and retain small businesses in the village.

So please get involved now and have your say. Help shape the future of Creaton.

This questionnaire is an important part of the process. It will be used to understand the Community opinion as a whole. This then provides the basis for the draft Plan to be written, as a reflection of the consensus views of all the residents of our Parish.

Following the questionnaire, there will be a number of public consultations where you will be able to find out more.

For more information, go to the Parish Council website www.creaton.org.uk or contact Cllr Chris Reading, Lilac Cottage, High Street, Creaton



GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GUILSBOROUGH FRIENDS

Are a local friendly group for ladies and gentlemen, usually meeting at 7.30pm, at Guilsborough Village Hall, the second Thursday of the month.

During the summer months we arrange outside events.

Weather permitting.

Social activities include

- Guest speakers
- Garden visits
- Meals out
- Visits to local places of interest
- and much more

£3 per meeting, unless otherwise stated, which is used to cover refreshments, costs and make charitable donations.

We are looking forward to welcoming new members.

Our Programme for the next 3 months:

Thursday February 8th Charity Supper Proceeds to Cynthia Spencer

Thursday March 14th Historical Talk by Derek Blunt (Local Historian)

Thursday 11th April Arthur Cockerill, local Northamptonshire Philanthropist – talk by Dr Isabella Robinson

For further information contact:

Janet Minney T 01604 740640

Elizabeth Southgate T 01604 740064



MMM



Monday Morning Meet Guilsborough Village Hall
9 – 11am every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)

All welcome, baby – OAPs.

£2.50 per Adult, Children Free

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



Good Friday - Easter Eggs & More.

10-12am

Craft activities.

Hot Cross Buns & Hot Drink

£2.50/adult

For more information contact Janet 01604 740640

Village Hall News



Come join us for a Quiz Night with friends and/or loved ones on Friday 16th February 2024 at 7:30pm Guilsborough Village Hall

£10 per person

Quiz and Sharing Ploughmans *(please advise of any dietary requirements at time of booking)*

Cash Bar
Raffle



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

Sue Needham 07771926519 theneedhamfamily2@gmail.com or

Sue O'Neil 07713622127 sue@nortoft.co.uk

Raffle donations to Emily Cheney 07818823558 emilylc81@yahoo.co.uk



Activities in Guilsborough Village Hall



Monday:

3M's Coffee Morning

Bowl's

Knitting

Tuesday:

Pilates, Yoga

GMADS

Wednesday:

Pilates, Guides

Thursday:

Nia

Friday:

Morning Fitness

7am - 8am

Contact information for all classes is on the notice board at the entrance to the hall.

Other bookings via website or phone 07342 382706

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

Message from your Parish Council

At our December meeting we agreed the budget for the financial year that runs from April 2024 to March 2025. We have included the same contribution towards our bus service as we made this year in the hope that we will continue to benefit from at least the same level of bus service as we currently do. However, this is far from certain as the current operator, Uno Busses, are withdrawing from all bus operations. Our services have been put out to tender and we await the outcome of this process. We have also budgeted to begin a rolling replacement of our older street lamps with new LED ones. This will be over several years and the benefits are that it will reduce our energy costs, as they use significantly less electricity, as well as reduce repair costs to the older lamps.

Having agreed our budget, we have also set our precept for the next financial year. A Parish Council's precept is its main, if not only, source of income and is collected on our behalf by WMC as part of your Council Tax. Last year, as we were benefitting from having entered into a fixed price for our street lighting electricity, we were able to keep our precept the same as the previous year. This time, we have had to increase the precept due to our fixed price agreement coming to an end plus insurances, as for everyone, have gone up. As a council, it is considered by our National Association, if not a requirement, then prudent to keep reserves equal to half of our precept which means if we increase our precept then we are expected to increase our reserves. Accordingly, our precept has increased by just under 13% which equates to, based on the average band D property, £0.69p per Council Tax payment or just over £6.90 per year.

Tony Hart

Chair

guilborough-pc.gov.uk



VILLAGE SHOWCASE AND MARKET

This year the Parish Council will not be holding an Annual Parish Meeting. Instead, they will be hosting a free to attend 'Village Showcase & Market' on **Saturday June 22nd**. Based in the Village Hall and on the Green this event will be YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE YOUR ORGANISATION to the village!

Invitees include all parish-based organisations: clubs, societies, businesses, crafts, services, sports groups, produce makers, charities, etc.



Are you interested? Several groups are already talking to us here at the Parish Council – so please register your interest with:

David O'Neil councillor.oneil@guilborough-pc.gov.uk
or 07801 700909

Lisa Phillips councillor.phillips@guilborough-pc.gov.uk

1st Guilborough Guides



We would love to welcome you to our unit to enjoy activities, company & much more!

Girls aged: 10-14 yrs

When: alternate Wednesdays & Fridays
7—8.30pm

For more information Contact: Pauline
p.jacobs59@outlook.com



10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 152 countries worldwide

Experiences and opportunities.
Fun and excitement



GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

CRICKET

Could cricket be for you?

Haddon Cricket Club are a village club based at three beautiful grounds at Guilsborough, East Haddon and West Haddon. The club offers both social and competitive cricket for men, ladies and juniors of all standards.

The club runs 4 junior sides, a ladies team and 6 men's sides in the summer, so there is something for everyone.

Winter training runs indoors at Brixworth from January to April. If you are thinking of returning to cricket, looking to give it a go, or have children that could be the next Ben Stokes then please do get in touch by contacting Jim.houghton72@outlook.com.



Bowls club members were on the committee for 30 years, but the green maintenance became too onerous for its elderly members, and maintenance by contractors was too costly. The GPFA welcomes others to join its committee; contact Graham.Byars @hotmail.com or 0771269833.

The Use of the GPF

How the name of Guilsborough Playing Field was agreed is lost in time, but Playing Field is what was intended in the original conveyance, as team sports were listed as the primary purpose for the Field.

Public Benefit by Private Charity

GPF is not a public space that is open and accessible to the public but is private and those wanting to use the Field do so with the agreement of the GPFA. It is managed by volunteers who raise around £12,000 annually for fixed costs from clubs, organisations and schools using the Field and from fundraising events. More details on the GPFA can be seen at <http://guilsboroughplayingfield.com>

How Guilsborough Playing Field came about

In 1978 the land for the Playing Field was sold by Sir John Lowther to 4 Trustees: Ivan Langton May, Harry James Townsend, Albert John Thompson and Peter Chapman, all of Guilsborough.

Current Ownership

In 1981 the trustees transferred the ownership to the Official Custodian of Charities at the Charities Commission on behalf of the Guilsborough Playing Field Association (GPFA). The Official Custodian is a corporation created by statute to hold land on behalf of charities.

Committee

The organisations that can be invited to be part of the management committee include a) the current users, the cricket and football clubs who are on the committee, and b) other clubs such as hockey and athletics that the current facilities enable.

Fund Appeal 2023

The GPFA has thanked all those who responded to the 2023 appeal for funds; £560 came from single payments, and £60 (£720 p.a.) came from monthly payments. Further contributions are welcome, and if you can help us please contact us through the link on the GPFA website. The 2023 GPFA Annual Report can be seen on the GPFA website

GPFA Maintenance Controller

The GPFA is seeking a Maintenance Controller for the pavilion, tractor shed and machinery, currently performed by the ageing GPFA secretary. Part of the role would involve coordinating with contractors, the maintenance work on the buildings, and organising machinery servicing when required. Those who would like to find out more should contact Graham.Byars@hotmail.com or 07712649833.



Welcomes new and existing members from ALL VILLAGES for the 2024 season! Friendly club playing social tennis.

Tennis continues throughout the winter and spring months (weather permitting) on THURSDAY nights under floodlights from 6pm to 8pm until the clocks change, then on TUESDAY nights from 6pm after March 31st, and on SUNDAYS 10am to 12 noon. Family Membership is kept at £10 for 2024, subscriptions due on 1st April.

For more information contact Graham on 07894 424328 or Caroline on 07840 846842.

Carol Singing Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who came carol singing in December and to those who listened and donated. We are especially grateful to Colonel and Mrs Evans who kindly fed and watered us en route.

We raised £180 for the Hope Centre in Northampton where they look after people experiencing problems of disadvantage and marginalisation, including hardship, homelessness, addiction and mental health.
Katie and Mike Fulcher

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

From the Headteacher...

Wishing our Guilsborough family a very happy 2024!

Throughout the Autumn term, things have been non-stop here at Guilsborough C of E Primary School! Our Nativity play by Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3 children was a real treat and I'm so proud of all children for their first-class performances. They even performed to residents of Sibbertoft Manor Care Home. The residents left the performance with huge smiles on their faces. I'd like to thank all involved in putting this perfect production together.

We are very thankful to the parents and staff who made our recent 'Bake-off' event so special. The cakes made blew us all away. Graham Leah our Chair of Governors had such a hard time judging but found a winner in the end, so well done to Willow in Class 2/3! Also well done to our School Council and Mariann in class 2/3 who thought of this super idea. They all had the pleasure of judging the teacher bake-off, which Miss Patrick deservedly won!

The children really enjoyed seeing Santa and I hear the special gifts given put a magical smile on all faces. We are also grateful for the donations for the 'Northampton Hope Centre' which were collected over the festive period. We continue to collect for this organisation all year round so further donations are always welcome. And our whole school disco was a great success, with all children leaving very happy.

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

Our end of term house winning team is.....WATER! They had a super traditional party to celebrate with party food and games. Fun was had by all!

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

Please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilsborough Primary we have lots of information on our website – www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk – or you can keep up to speed via our Facebook account – Guilsborough C of E Primary School (a closed group for parents, guardians or carers) – or through our Twitter profile – @guilsboroughpri and YouTube channel.



House Guest 21-23 March 2024

GMADS presents House Guest by Francis Durbridge from 21-23 March, a gripping tale of love, intrigue and murder. This dark and exciting thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat.

It's at Guilsborough Village Hall, bar opens at 7pm, performance at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10, available from Karen Shuter on 07981 754852 or www.wegotickets.com/gmads

You can email info@gmads.co.uk, visit our website at www.gmads.co.uk or follow us at facebook.com/GMADSA Amateur Drama



Find out more about the work of Guilsborough Fire Station and the crew on page 3. With thanks to Mark Hazle for the words and photos!

Guilsborough Music & Drama Society presents

House Guest

by Francis Durbridge

21-23 March 2024

Guilsborough Village Hall, NN6 8PT
Bar opens 7pm, performance starts at 7.30 pm



A gripping and intense tale of love, intrigue and murder. This dark and exciting thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat.

**Tickets £10 from
Karen on 07981 754852 or
www.wegotickets.com/gmads**

This amateur production of "House Guest" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



www.gmads.co.uk facebook.com/GMADSA Amateur Drama

HOLLOWELL NEWS

An ode to the Snowdrop to pull us through these dark days.

Snow blossom

And through the mist the beauty swoops
To rest on roosted Cherry Tree,
While dawn slips through to light the scene
I'm struck by Winter's pedigree.
Although the silent landscape rests
Beneath the soil a subtle stir,
The crone of darkness builds her nest
And cleanses it with ancient myrrh.
For soon the light will come again
And spring will force her way to burst,
To waken us as trusted bloom
Throws milk white pearls on winter's gloom.

Theresa Kelleher



Hollowell Hens Wreath Making

In December, the Hollowell Hens spent an enjoyable evening constructing Christmas Wreaths in the Village Hall. This year many opted for a more sustainable design, by using soaked willow branches as the basis for each ring. The evening was organised by Chief Hen, Sarah Mourant and wine and nibbles fueled the creative flow. Thank you to all for such a jolly start to the Christmas Season



Cafe Christmas

Thanks to everyone who came along to Cafe Christmas in the Village Hall on a wet Saturday morning in December. The bacon and egg rolls were delicious, the coffee frothy, and the stalls by local artists and crafters were great fun. The event raised £500 towards the maintenance of the Village Hall. Well done all.



Quiz Night
Hollowell Village Hall
Friday 9th Feb 2024
7pm for 7.30 start.

A fun-filled evening of wide-ranging quizzing awaits you. Bring a team of up to 6 members or just turn up to be placed with a team created on the evening. £5 per player to include some hot snacks at half time.

Licensed bar serving Real Ale, Wine and soft drinks.

All proceeds will go towards the c.£8000 annual running costs of the Village Hall (Charity number: 269391)

HOLLOWELL NEWS

Autumn steam & whistle skittles night

Hollowell Village Hall played host to 30 enthusiastic villagers, including some new friends, in November for another edition of The Steam and Whistle pop-up pub. Two award winning Real Ales from Great Oakley Brewery, 'Gobble' and 'Wot's Occurring', were eagerly imbibed, along with plenty of prosecco and wine, and crispy nibbles too. The principal entertainment on this occasion was a Northamptonshire table skittles tournament – nearly everyone present had a go, making up 7 teams of 4 players; there were 2 rounds of 2 goes each, followed by knockout semi-finals and final for the top 4 scoring teams. Congratulations to the eventual winners of the eagerly followed final "You, Me and Bill, plus I" seen here collecting the sumptuous Hollowell Cup which they will now share and polish until this time next year! Our next evening of this type is a full-on sit-down quiz with multiple rounds, and prizes – join us on Feb 9th 2024.



HOPEWELL "COFFEE AND A CHAT"

Usually the third Friday in the month.

Next date: Friday 16th Feb

Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a piece of delicious cake and a catch up with friends. We meet in Hollowell Village Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm

For more information please email:

wearehopewell@gmail.com.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

Village Hall Lotto Winners

Rachel Cook, Martin Leach, Martin Walding,
Ellie Humphries, Jackie Kitchen, Helen Brown,
Hector Morris, Anne Wyatt



Pensioners' Christmas Party

It was a cold and rainy Sunday for my first experience of the Hollowell Steam Christmas Dinner. It's not because I've come of age recently, I hasten to add, haha! A dear friend, whose husband passed away this year, asked me to be her plus one, as she'd never attended without him before. It was a first for both of us. Arriving at Creaton village hall, we were a little early, but the helpers didn't mind and couldn't have been more welcoming, all easily identifiable by their festive attire. I've been wondering what the collective pronoun for a plethora of Christmas jumpers is and I've decided it's a Pudding. There were sequins and Santas, mistletoe and snowmen. My favourite was a large Rudolph with a huge red nose wearing a festive scarf.

Christmas tunes were plonking from the piano. A very accomplished pianists was our entertainment for the afternoon. The hall was very festive. Someone had been up the ladder festooning the rafters with chains of gold and the Christmas tree shimmered by the door.

We hadn't been sitting long when we were offered drinks, and that continued the whole afternoon. We didn't have to leave our seats. The helpers were generous and warm. The Reverend Alison said grace.

After our dinner of smoked salmon tartlets, turkey with all the trimmings and Christmas pud we had a great sing song. Well known Christmas carols, some poignant war songs and a rousing rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas kept us in full voice. Our team had the rousing 'five gold rings' line which we sang, arms outstretched, with aplomb.

The afternoon was finished off with a very generous gift giving. And even though I'm not yet a pensioner (see what I did there, tee hee), they very thoughtfully had a little something for me too.

It was a lovely warm celebration with good company and very attentive volunteers. With thanks to the organisers and best wishes to all for 2024.



Theresa Kelleher

HOLLOWELL NEWS



A WAXWING WINTER

At the end of 2022 my piece in this column was speculatively titled “Will it be a Waxwing Winter?” Alas, it proved not to be. Despite some promising early reports in the north of the British Isles, the roaming

flocks that year didn’t generally venture south in any numbers and reports dwindled away as winter progressed. 2023-2024 on the other hand, has turned out to be a vintage Waxwing winter, giving most of us the best chance since 2013 to catch up with this characterful and attractive species. As I write this in the first week of January, we have had recent local reports from Higham Ferrers, Northampton, Corby, Duston and Brixworth – with hundreds more reports from across much of the UK.

Waxwings are annual winter visitors to the British Isles, but generally only scarcely and in small numbers. In some years however, there will be an invasion, or irruption of these birds, with large numbers dispersing from northern mainland Europe, usually due to a shortage of suitable food sources, particularly berries. In irruption years Waxwings are often seen in residential areas or commercial or municipal spaces, where they may be attracted by plantings of berry-bearing plants such as Cotoneaster. A favoured food in their normal wintering grounds is Rowan berries, so they will also often be found in Rowans, or

other Sorbus trees, including garden varieties.

Waxwings can be very confiding and tend to be mobile and lively, so they are often easy to see; birds in a group will also frequently call - a high-pitched and far carrying “siirrrr”, with a pleasing trilling, silvery quality. When seen well, Waxwings are unmistakable, being greyish pink overall, with a black bib and eye mask, a rufous cinnamon-coloured undertail, black, white, yellow and red wing markings and a yellow end to the black tail. They also have a prominent crest, which may be flattened in flight or at rest, but often raised conspicuously when the bird is active. The name Waxwing derives from the fact that small extended red tips to some of the wing feathers can appear like blobs of sealing wax. When not feeding, flocks can rest quietly in treetops and bushes, and may be easily overlooked, so it’s worth checking any group of Starling-sized birds seen in these habitats. The full name of the Waxwing most often seen in the British Isles is the Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*. There are two other species in the genus: the Cedar Waxwing, an extremely rare visitor from North America and the Japanese Waxwing, a species found in north-east Asia. Waxwings may be present in the UK until March, and flocks will continue to be mobile as trees and bushes become stripped of their berries, so you may be lucky enough to catch up with these striking birds as they pass through Northamptonshire before heading off to their Scandinavian breeding grounds.

Jon Cook.

<https://joncookbirding.wordpress.com>

Tribute To Longstanding Hollowell Resident Ted Hunter

by his son-in-law, Tim Malynn (extract)

Ted was born on the 8th March 1930 to Harry and Alice. He and his four sisters lived at number 9 Henley Street, Far Cotton in a small terraced house. His childhood was typical of pre-war England playing in the street, in the fields, enjoying the luxury of an outside toilet and no bathroom. A tin bath in front of the fire was the norm.

Ted’s father, Harry, worked on the railway so it was not surprising that Ted would follow in his footsteps when he left school aged 14.

In late 1947 Ted contracted TB which resulted in the removal of his left lung and two ribs and a 2 year stay in Creaton Hospital. Ted features in a book entitled ‘A Country Cure’ by Sue Longworth. His memories in there are priceless. He recalls, “After 2 years in Creaton Hospital I was discharged and told by my doctors that I would not be able to do manual work. I was offered a green card which was for a disability, but I was 20 years old and had different ideas. Two years later I was playing Town League football”.

“After leaving hospital I worked at S&W Motors in Abington Street and then for a time on the buses. There was no support from the local authorities..... At the end of my working life, I was Manager of JCB Digger Yard and retired in 1995. I am enjoying

life on one lung.”

Whilst working as a Bus Conductor Ted met Vera and they married in July 1954. At first they had a room in Semilong, Northampton and moved to Church Hill, Hollowell in early 1955. Ted worked shifts, swept chimneys, cleaned windows and did anything to make ends meet.

Ted was a longstanding Southampton supporter and took his neighbour’s son Paul to many matches. Paul’s relative was a defender at Southampton hence they were able to go into the changing rooms and onto the pitch and meet all the players. The highlight was the 1976 FA cup final when the team beat Manchester United. The programme of that match was a cherished keepsake of Ted’s and is buried with him.

Sadly, Vera passed away suddenly in April 2003 leaving the family in shock and Ted feeling lost. We really didn’t know how he was going to cope without her.

Fate intervened when Ted and Cathy met. It was clear right from the start that Ted had found love for a second time. Cathy gave him something to live for. Ted moved from Hollowell in April, after nearly 70 years, to live with Cathy in Creaton so she could better look after him. Ted passed away in his sleep at Northampton General hospital, on 7th October.

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

In Stillness, find WISDOM



with Kadam
Bridget Heyes
NKT-IKBU National
Spiritual Director
for the UK

WEEKLY MEDITATION CLASSES

Wednesdays 7.15 - 8.15pm
Starting 7th February

Dates: February 7, 14, 21, 28

Cost: £7 per class / £21 whole course

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



Not much Thornby news for this edition ... please do send in photos, articles and any other village events for the next issue ... and don't forget to support your local Village Hall!



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OTHER LOCAL NEWS

Buckby Library & Hub

If you are not a member, why not join the library? It's free to join! Buckby Library & Hub provides many library services as well as supporting group activities and organising events. With books for all ages and interests, we provide access to computers and wifi, photocopying, printing and laminating, and can access many other services besides. Here are some services you might not be aware of (and there are more!):

Borrow Box

This is your access to ebooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines. There are hundreds and they are free to download. You can borrow up to 5 items of each; the borrowing period is 3 weeks.

Taking your driving test?

You can access Theory Test Pro, which is a highly realistic online simulation of the UK's driving theory test. It contains the entire official test question bank, hazard perception video clips and an online version of the Highway Code. You need to register (for free). Just contact Buckby Library & Hub to see how to go about it.


Interested in your family's history?

You can use our Northamptonshire Libraries People's Network computers to access Ancestry and Find My Past and search billions of family history records.

And do remember our books for sale – both on the book trolleys and our premium books. Come and see what we have!

Monthly film nights - Tuesday 27th February, we are showing *The Miracle Club*. "There's just one tantalising dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. Ballygar, Ireland, 1967. A hard-knocks community in outer Dublin marches to its own beat, with a little benevolent interference from its cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night." Doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start. Refreshments available. Tickets, £7, from the Peephole in the High Street in Long Buckby, and the Library & Hub.

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- Athletes Foot

For more information and to book an appointment please call or email:



07969 139000



Michaelbabbfoothealthcare@outlook.com



Our villages churches have been central to the life of our villages for many hundreds of years. The spires and towers of our village churches can be seen for miles around. Many seek out the churches as places of calm and quiet and as a place to draw closer to God in times of thanksgiving and in times of trial. Many in our local community see the village church as their spiritual

home and the venue of choice for the important moments in the lives of their families, whether that be a marriage, the christening of a child, or the funeral of a loved one. Our buildings exert a powerful pull and in they embody in their brick and stone God's unchanging love. This is good news.

For many in the villages the Autumn and Winter services, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas are celebrated faithfully and the church community are glad to serve the village in this way. Over Christmas in 2023 we welcomed more people to services in church than we have in many a year. This is also good news.

In spite of this it saddens me to let you know that some of our village churches are not flourishing. In fact some are really struggling. We are struggling to have a full compliment of lay officers serving on our Parochial Church Councils. A Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate charitable body, a managing committee of a Church of England Church and

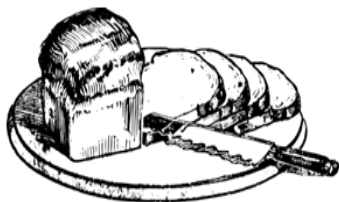
consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives of the congregation. Legally the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets. It also assists the clergy in the management of church affairs, and promoting the mission of the church. Some of those that are serving in this way are feeling tired and, while still loving the churches and worshipping faithfully, they feel that it is time for them to step down from the positions that they have occupied for many years. This presents a problem, while most of our churches are financially just about getting by, we don't have the people needed to sustain the worshipping communities. Hollowell particularly are struggling, and as a church we have written to every household in that village to explain this, but our other churches also have to look to the future and plan as to what will happen next. At a most simple level, if there is no congregation, eventually there will be no church. I don't want to see that happen and along with the PCCs and the congregations we are doing everything we can to ensure the church survives into the future for as long as it has served in the past.

I was asked, what is needed to keep the church open? The answer – just come, come to church, support us with your presence. You will always be welcome.

Please do call or email me if you would like to know more. I would be glad to talk about it.

Reverend Allison

Lent Lunch 2024



Saturday 2nd March

12 – 2pm

Guilsborough Village Hall

High Street

Guilsborough.

Offers of soup or cheese would be appreciated.

Tickets or Pay on the door

£6 Adults

£3 Children

Craft activities for children.

All are welcome.

Please bring donations of food or toiletries for the Hope Centre.

Contact - Janet: 01604 740640

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL RAISES SMILES, SPIRITS AND £800!

A big thank you to all who supported this very successful event. We had 23 trees decorated by different groups in the village. As before they showed much creativity and imagination! We had 3 events after dark when the trees were lit up as well as all the church candles – so very atmospheric. The GMADS-led performance on the Friday evening was both very entertaining and also informative.

On Sunday we had the traditional much-loved Carol Service, and on Tuesday a Christingle service for children. In addition, many people wandered in over the weekend to browse around. Over £800 was raised for Church funds, with the Christingle collection in aid of the Childrens Society. Many thanks to all who were involved in any way.

Guilsborough PCC.



CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group of Churches Service Planner February and March 2024

	4 th Feb 2 nd Before Lent	11 th Feb Next Before Lent	14 th Feb Ash Wednesday	18 th Feb Lent 1	25 th Feb Lent 2	3 rd March Lent 3	10 th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	17 th March Lent 5	24 th March Palm Sunday	28 th March Maundy Thursday	29 th March Good Friday	31 st March Easter Day
Cold Ashby	Green	Green	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple/Rose	Purple	Red	White	Red	White
		10.00am Group Service	9.30am Group Service		9.30am BCP Com		10.00am Group Service		10.00am Group Service	7.30pm Group Service	2.00pm Group Service	9.30am BCP Com
Cottesbrooke	11.00am BCP Com	Cottesbrooke	Holy Communion			11.00am BCP Com	Gulfsborough		Hollowell	Holy Communion	Stations of the Cross	11.00am BCP Com
Creaton	9.30am BCP Com		Gulfsborough	9.30 CW Com		9.30am BCP Com		9.30am CW Com		Creaton	Ravensthorpe	9.30am CW Com
Gulfsborough	11.00am CW Com			Brunch@11 Village Hall	9.30am CW Com	11.00am CW Com		Brunch @ 11 Village Hall				9.30am CW Com
				5pm Evensong				5pm Evensong				
Hollowell					11.00am CW Com							11.00am CW Com
Ravensthorpe	8.30am BCP Com			9.30 CW Com	11.00am Worship for All	8.30am BCP Com		9.30am CW Com				11.00am CW Com
Spratton	11.00am Worship for All			8.30 BCP Com	11.00am CW Com	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Com				6.00am Easter Dawn Com
Thornby	9.30am BCP Com					9.30am BCP Com						11.00am CW Com
												9.30am BCP Com

Compline:

Monday 25th March

Gulfsborough 7.00pm

Tuesday 26th March

Thornby 7.00pm

Wednesday 27th March

Cold Ashby 7.00pm



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CHRISTMAS CREATIVES COMPETITION WINNERS with their prizes ...



Left to right from top:
Sophie, Katie, Chip, Diana, Oscar, Libby, Florence, Lucas, Coen and Eleanor. Well done all, and thanks for taking part!



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Guilsborough Academy News...

As an academy, our aim is to pursue and promote sustainable excellence in the provision of 11-19 Education for the benefit of our students, staff, parents/carers and the wider community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local community for their support in what has been a challenging few years for the academy.

Throughout 2024 and beyond there will be a huge focus on identifying community needs and resources that can support student learning and achievement. Guilsborough Academy has always been and will continue to be at the heart of our local community and one of many focuses this year is to identify and pursue local opportunities to help shape our young people, so they can make a difference on their doorstep and beyond. We're dedicated to improving student outcomes, strengthening community ties and supporting economic, social and cultural development locally. Through fostering these relationships, we can build stronger partnerships that will benefit both the academy and our local communities for many more years to come.

The end of last term saw lots of activity involving the local community. Students across all year groups were involved in various community events including litter-picking in Guilsborough, the Christmas Tree Festival at the Church of St Etheldreda's, Christmas activities at Guilsborough Village Hall, our annual Christmas Concert and spreading festive cheer at Daisies Wellbeing Café, supported by West Haddon Parish Council, to name just a few.

We already have lots of exciting things planned for 2024, and we will be reaching out to community members, businesses and organisations to explore potential partnership opportunities. We strongly encourage everyone

within the local community to support us. Please contact us with any potential opportunities and keep up to speed with what we're doing by checking our website or following us on social media – <https://linktr.ee/guilsboroughacademy>

Your ongoing support is much needed and very appreciated. Mr Simon Frazer

