WHILTON SPRING NEWSLETTER MARCH - MAY 2022



The first hellebore by Gill Denbigh

Editors letter

March - May 2022

As we prepare this Newsletter we look back on a winter of unusual weather. January produced only 10mm of rain, compared with 98mm in 2021, and we are still recovering from February storms. We trust that the spring months will be easier as we look forward to more activities in the village.

As the community wakes up after two difficult years of anxiety and restriction, the various organisations are hoping to return more fully to their activities. There will be planning for the Platinum Jubilee in June, and all are invited to the meeting to be held on 23rd March.

Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1952 with a mixture of sadness at the death of her father and excitement at the accession of a young Queen. Preparations for her coronation took a while, but Whilton entered into the festivities in 1953, as these photos suggest.

Francis William Wright in fancy dress is standing outside 2 South View, where his son, Jack Wright lived. The other photo shows one of the ladies' races in Wadd Close.





Details of spring plans for other organisations can be found in the following pages, and it is hoped that there will be something for everyone.

The Editors

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the time writing, just as the Whilton Parish starts to ease out of the Covid restrictions, we now find ourselves being battered by a series of storms rolling across the UK, but thus far, we appear to have got away lightly with any ensuing damage. Looking forward for the Parish, we have the planning for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in the Parish starting in earnest to develop ideas on how we can celebrate, and more of that will be heard over the coming weeks.

To keep everyone informed, here is what your Parish Council have been up to over the last few months.

• Ideas Required for the Whilton Village Phone Box.

Records have shown that the red BT phone box on the green in Whilton has not been used for some years. In addition, whilst BT are meant to maintain the box, the commitment towards this activity is lacking. Hence, the PC have decided to purchase the box for £1.00 and will now be responsible for the maintenance activities. We are also now looking for ideas as to what the box can now be used for. So any ideas from the Parish would be greatly appreciated. Please send any suggestions to clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

• Speed Limit through Whilton Locks.

After a long 'battle' with Highways, we successfully reduced the speed limit through Whilton Locks from 60 to 40, and finally down to 30mph. However, we are still hearing reports of drivers failing to adhere to the new limits, which is concerning. Hence, we are now working with the authorities with a view to install speed awareness signs that flash to indicate a driver's current speed against the limit.

• Village Hall Wi-Fi.

As we now have fibre enabled broadband in the Parish from Gigaclear, the PC decided that they would fund a wi-fi connection into the Whilton Village Hall. Initially, this should make the hall much more usable because people will be able to connect to the wifi with tablets, phones etc whilst using the facilities. Equally, it also opens up the possibility for other community events, for example, film nights etc.

Whilton Parish Precept.

Precept is the amount added by the PC to the West Northants Council tax bill to pay for local amenities, although the income from precept is primarily aimed towards projects within the Parish. For the tax year 2022/23, the PC proposed an increase of 5%, which equates to a 46p per month impact on Parishioners.

• Irresponsible Dog Owners Around Whilton Village.

A regular item of discussion again, but whilst the village itself appears to be clear of dog excrement, I've had several residents complain to me about the amount of excrement that is appearing along the public walkways around the surrounding fields in the Parish. As an example, along the 120m stretch of narrow walkway between the fields at the bottom of Buckby Lane, I counted 15 piles of dog excrement, and yet there is a dog waste bin at the bottom of Buckby Lane. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal responsibility to clean up after your dog in public places.

Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) Bus Service.

With so few people using the DACT bus option, the service is now on hold whilst under review with the Brington and Whilton PCs

Defibrillators.

There are 2 defibrillators located within the Parish - in Whilton (by the Village Hall) and Whilton Locks (next to the BT phone box on the canal bridge). Each cabinet is locked with a code, which can be obtained from the emergency services when you dial 999 should they be required.

• WHILTON PARISH E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST.

The Parish e-mail distribution list is a closed list to keep people informed of the latest issues and information concerning the Parish. Recent e-mails through this route have been about suspicious activity in the Parish, missing animals and forthcoming community events.

If you are interested in being added to the list to find out what is going on in your Parish, please send your e-mail address to clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

Parish Council Website.

The Whilton Parish Council also do have a website at www.parish-council.com/whilton/ which details all the work that they are doing for the community, together with any notices of interest for the Parish. There are also details of who your councillors are, and how to contact them about any matters relating to the Parish.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Parish Council hold a regular meeting in the Whilton Village Hall every 2 months, which is open to the public to attend and raise any issues.

• The Spinney.

A lot of maintenance and groundworks have been undertaken in The Spinney at the bottom of the village. Safety checks for the area are still completed by volunteers on a monthly basis, but, following periods of inclement weather, there can be occasions where trees or branches may have fallen and have yet to be cleared away. Hence, whilst I would urge all of you to visit and enjoy The Spinney, please also to be vigilant for any hazards that may be in the area. If you do notice anything that may be a danger, please report it to the Parish Council clerk at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

• Your Parish Councillors.

One of the key points that we agreed on joining the Whilton Parish Council was that the team would all be open to the Parish if anyone wanted to talk with us to raise any issues or concerns, or just to have a chat. So it is worthwhile knowing who your Parish Councillors are. So your Parish Council team are:

- Councillor Randal Smith (Chair)
- Councillor Jane Melling (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Ann Gilbert
- Councillor Jonathan Hanslip
- Councillor Adrian Lee
- Councillor Mark Hampson
- Councillor Keith Hiscock
- Sue Porter (Clerk)

• West Northamptonshire Councillors for our Parish.

With the of the new West Northamptonshire Council, the Ward of Long Buckby (of which the Whilton Parish is part of) has been allocated 3 new Councillors. These are:

- Councillor Daniel Lister (daniel.lister@westnorthants.gov.uk)
- Councillor Philip Bignell (phil.bignell@westnorthants.gov.uk)
- Councillor Andrew Morton (charles.morton@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Randal Smith Chair of the Whilton Parish Council Rose Briar

FAMILY NEWS We welcome two new babies in our community.



Congratulations to Ben and Sophie at Millslade. Florence Isabella was born on 1st January 2022 at 00.00 as the fireworks erupted around town to welcome in the New Year.

Congratulations too to Andrew and Hannah at Courtyard Barn on the arrival of Fallon Elizabeth, born on 7th February, weighing 8 lb 4 oz. A sister for Mycroft.





WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



It was encouraging to see 25 members turn out for our AGM on 2nd February. The AGM was followed by a short, team quiz, during which members enjoyed wine and nibbles.

We are hoping to be able to run a full programme once again this year. We have arranged the following events:

- 20th April Mike Johnson, 'Building a Show Garden for the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show'. (Note the move from the 1st Wed of the month, due to VH refurbishment)
- 1st June Whilton garden visits and social/buffet.
- 3rd August Andrew Mikolajski, 'Right Plant, Right Place'.
- 5th October Liz Taylor from the Woodland Trust, 'Standing Up for Trees'.
- 7th December Members' Christmas social.

We shall be looking for volunteers to open their gardens for us on 1st June. Please contact me if you would like to open yours.

In addition to the above programme, we are hoping to arrange a group visit to a stately home garden, or similar, in the summer.

New members are always welcome. There is a strong social element to our meetings and it is a good way for newcomers to the village to meet people. Annual membership costs £15 per person.

Roy Haynes

Email: royandtricia@btinternet.com

ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY

We have already had three work parties in 2022, on 11th and 24th January and 8th February. There was an encouraging turn-out of volunteers and pleasant weather for all, so that we were able to carry out good work. Another work party is planned for 1st March.

The pond and walkways have been cleared of leaves, branches overhanging the field have been reduced and we have made sure that the stream continues to flow without blockages. We have begun to reduce the brash from the tree cutting and the December visit from Western Power, who cleared the area round the power lines.

As we plan for the future, advice has been sought from the Wildlife Trust and we are exploring possible assistance from the Small Woodlands Association.

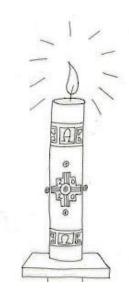
Keith Hiscock Whilton Parish Council

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Reader,

The month of March brings to us once again the start of Lent, this is a penitential season in the church calendar that takes us through to Easter. Shops are already full of hot cross buns, Easter eggs, bunny bunting and egg hunt kits in anticipation of the big day that is to come.

Easter is a glorious celebration in our church year when we recall Christ bursting from the tomb, risen from the dead to new life. I always find it very moving when I stand at the church door on Easter morning with the new pascal candle and make the proclamation that "Christ is risen", the congregation reply by saying "He is risen indeed, Alleluia." And this response becomes louder and louder each time it is said, it sends shivers down my spine, but that is yet to come.



Waiting for something is not always easy. Our minds can be so focused on the thing that is to come that we fail to pay full attention to the here and now. The season of Lent calls us to stop, slow down and wait for Easter to arrive. It is a time for us to look seriously at ourselves and our relationship with God.

Within our benefice we will be marking the start of Lent with the traditional Ash Wednesday service, we shall be running a Lent course and all the other things you would expect such services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday etc. The easiest way to find out what's on is by joining our benefice mailing list, simply send an email to spencerbenefice@outlook.com and then a weekly schedule will drop into your in box or follow us on Facebook, you can find us under The Spencer Benefice Churches.

Easter is coming and it will be glorious to celebrate it once again in those old familiar ways with family and friends but let's not run to get there, may we discover something wonderful in the waiting. What will God reveal to you if you stop and take the time to draw nearer to him this year?

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Church on 8 March at 7.30.

The meeting is open to all villagers so we look forward to seeing you there. Full details of our Services are listed elsewhere. Unfortunately there will not be a Service of Worship in the church on Easter Sunday which is a pity.

A number of new events start in March including a monthly Meditation session so hopefully this will attract some new people to join in our activities.



WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY AGM AND REGENCY MEAL



After a break of nearly two years the Local History Society met in the Hall on 21st January. As has been our custom, the Annual General Meeting was accompanied by a period meal. This year it was based on dishes which may have been provided in Whilton Rectory in 1822 by Christian and Harriet, the spinster sisters of the Rector, Rev John Rose. They would have been contemporaries of Jane Austen (1775 – 1817) and so we thought of her characters as we planned his meal.

There was a choice of white soup or soup 'bonne femme' and then members tucked into roast pork and apple sauce, with fricassee of chicken and of mushrooms, and a savoury vol au vent, accompanied by a variety of colourful vegetables.

This Regency meal was followed by the desserts, which varied from rice pudding with apples to lemon souffle, ginger biscuits, fresh fruit and raspberry tart, all served with cream. We assumed the ladies of Regency Whilton took very small helpings.

The final course was the drinking of tea, both green and black, although there was reluctance to stir in large quantities of sugar and then add cream or milk!

We thank the willing volunteers who contributed to making this meal such a success.

The next meeting of the Society will be on 11th March, when the subject will be *Lords and ladies of Whilton Manor.* After that, on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May we shall be remembering Percy Fleming and his Whilton friends who died in the Second World War, and celebrating the art work of Percy's brother, Eric.

Visitors are welcome to our meetings, and if you would like to join the Society, please contact our Treasurer Brian Melling: brianmelling47@gmail.com

Copies of the first edition of "The mystery of the Whilton Stone" have now sold out, but we are hoping to produce a second edition.

The stone is now in Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, where it is on show as part of the exhibition:"Every object tells a story." The exhibition continues until 16th September.

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2022

7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

LORDS AND LADIES OF WHILTON MANOR



ALL WELCOME NON MEMBERS £3.



MOTHER'S DAY at WHILTON LOCKS GARDEN VILLAGE

Sunday, 27th March

Brunch, dinner and afternoon tea.

See: whiltonlocksgardenvillage.com

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Friday 6th May 2022, 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

REMEMBERING PERCY FLEMING AND HIS FRIENDS.

Saturday 7th May 2022, 10.30 – 4 .P.M. Exhibitions in St Andrew's Church and Village Hall, Whilton.



An exhibition of paintings by Eric Fleming, brother of Percy Fleming from Whilton Locks, who died in October 1940.

Photos and memorabilia of the 4 young men from Whilton, who died in the Second World War.

Refreshments and talks.
All are welcome

Brington and Whilton Pre-School

The children of Brington and Whilton pre-school had a lovely Christmas term learning all about the Artic and Antarctica. The pre-school adopted a penguin which we will get to follow on its journey around the Antarctic.



The pre-school got to visit
Whilton Locks Garden Village ice
skating rink where they had fun
on the ice. Their mummies came
with us too and we all had a
great time whizzing around.





The children dressed up for our outdoor nativity story in the spinney and we also had our Christmas music performance at Whilton church. On our last day of term we had our own very special visitor.



The children have enjoyed our foodie Friday sessions with the children making and baking lots of different foods including apple turnovers, lemon biscuits, scones, mince pies and delicious bagels.

This term the children enjoyed the topic of fairy tales learning all about the story of Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, Thumbelina, Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk.



The children have measured different sized objects, told and acted out their own stories with puppets, planted their own beans at the pre-school allotment and took some home to grow too.

The children also enjoyed some outdoor art at the spinney.



This term we will be learning about people who help us, having visits from a policeman, a nurse, a postman, a visit to a Whilton farm and also having a bus ride into Daventry to visit the library.

If you have a child between 2-5 years old and are looking for a small nurturing pre-school with amazing outside spaces contact Trisha at managerbandwpreschool@gmail.co.uk or if you would like to know more about us find us on Facebook- Brington and Whilton preschool or look at our website- www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk

LOOKING BACK...

After the Christmas carol singing in Whilton, Mary Emery wishes to pass on a this message from the Air Ambulance Service. Thanks to all who took part, provided refreshments and all who gave so generously.



AND LOOKING FORWARD...

A date for your diary



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee there will be a picnic in the Wadd Close field on Sunday 5th June from 12.00 (subject to weather).

All welcome

More events and details for the picnic will be discussed at a meeting on Wednesday 23rd March 7.30 – 9.00pm in the village hall. This is open to everyone but please let me know if you plan to come to the meeting.

teresajleadbetter@gmail.com







Learn to ring your local Church Bells to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Bells all over the country will be ringing out to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June.

Would you like to learn to ring and take part in this once in a life time event?





To find out more about learning to ring please contact: Justin Baker: j.t@lineone.net: 07788 184574



JOIN THE BAND!

- The perfect social activity for all ages (10+)
- · Great physical & mental exercise
- The world's heaviest & loudest musical Instruments - exhilarating!
- For all faiths and none with no need to be musical or strong
- Opportunity to visit amazing places
- Use this new skill to complete part of your Duke of Edinburgh award

Spencer Benefice Churches

Aperture Photography Group



It's so hard to choose!

The group's first photo assignment of the year sounds really easy, 'Select your top three images of 2021'. What could be simpler! Then you start to look through all of the images you've taken, only to find it becomes rather tricky. How do you decide which are your three favourite images when you have so many possibilities?

A few years ago, before we formed the APG, I used to go to another camera club where they used to hold regular competitions. The judge would arrive and he (invariably it was a he) would work his way through our prints or digital images, telling us where we had done well and where we had done less well. At the end of the night, the top three images would be announced and the winner of the competition would be congratulated. Sometimes we agreed with the judge, but frequently there were disgruntled mutterings from the members that the judge had made a mistake. It was something akin to the terraces at a football ground, but without the chanting and swearing. So why the difference of opinion? The judge had been hired because he 'knew his stuff', but clearly we didn't see eye to eye.

So why did this happen? Well for most of us, photography clearly isn't a sport. It has never been recognised by either the summer or winter olympics, although the idea of the 100 metres freestyle photograph is an intriguing one. Let's be clear, photography is not a sport because their are no clear, agreed criteria for what makes a good image. Yes, you can talk about good composition, capturing the right moment, the feelings a photograph brings out, great colour or tone, but like all forms of art, some of it resonates with us and some of it doesn't. I can appreciate Abba were a great pop band who made some really memorable songs, but play one with me in earshot and I will make my exit rather hastily.

So back to my dilemma; what are my three favourite images of 2021? When it comes down to it, they do not have to be technically brilliant, but they must mean something to me. I care not a jot whether anyone else likes them; in fact I don't care if someone actively dislikes one of the images. Photos are like your children, no matter what they do, what other people think of them, they are yours and you will stand up to anyone who casts any doubt. So finding my favourite three images is difficult, but when you have over 6,000 images from 2021 to choose from, there clearly have to be some casualties in the process of coming to a decision. Finding those images that have failed, for whatever reason, is far easier than finding the best three. Many of the failures came about with me seeing if a subject would look good in a photograph. Others failed for many other reasons: poor light, poor composition, the wrong moment, boring!!, "could have been better", etc.

It's when you get down to the shortlist that the problem really starts. I could ask Christine, family or friends to help me, but that won't do. My favourite images have to be mine, they have to mean something to me and not anyone else. So when I get down to that shortlist, inevitably it eventually comes down to those three images that I want to keep forever and which remind me of something, somewhere or someone who means something to me.

Currently, the images below are the ones I am thinking of submitting for the next APG assignment...... but it could change. It's just so difficult!

If you are interested in learning how to take better photos, we would love to have you on board. Complete beginners and more experienced photographers are welcome. Please get in touch and we will invite you to one of our Thursday meetings, so that you can meet the group and decide whether you would like to join. We are a bunch of really friendly and enthusiastic amateur photographers and we will always do our best to make you feel welcome.

Neil Phillips

Telephone: 07966 575972 Email: neilp.apg@gmail.com

Website: www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk







A SAVOURY EASTER RECIPE FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO MAKE

Some people in Whilton keep poultry and no doubt this recipe would be even more delicious if prepared with local eggs.

Even very small children can help by adding the chicks' eyes and beaks.



DEVILLED EGG BABY CHICKS

Ingredients:

- o 6 Hard Boiled Eggs
- o 3 Tablespoons of Mayonnaise
- 1/2 Tablespoon of Mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon of Salt
- o 2 Olives
- Orange Bell Pepper

Method:

- 1. Cool the boiled eggs. Start by cracking the shell and peeling the eggs.
- 2. Slice the eggs longways and carefully remove the egg yolks.
- 3. In a mixing bowl, combine the yolks, mayonnaise, mustard, and salt. Beat the mixture by hand or on medium speed until it is smooth and creamy.
- 4. Spoon or pipe the yolk mixture into the centre of the sliced eggs.
- 5. Slice the olives. Then cut the slices into 1/4 inch lengths. Place two on the top of each chick for the eyes.
- 6. Cut tiny triangle shapes from the pepper to use for the beak.
- 7. Serve with an Easter salad.

The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated to every household within the parish boundary.

The costs are met by the Parish Council, and we thank all who contribute information and articles.

The Newsletter is delivered by volunteers who willingly give up their time to bring this to your door, and we thank them for their help.

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The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter.

The next issue will be the Summer Edition, covering June – August 2022. The last date for contributions will be 20th May 2022.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND CONTACTS

Aperture Photography Group: www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk, 07966 575972 or neilp.apg@gmail.com

Brington and Whilton Pre- School: www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk

St Andrew's Church: spencerbenefice@outlook.com

West Northants Unitary Authority: https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk

Whilton Gardeners Association: e-mail: royandtricia@btinternet.com

Whilton Local History Society: https://whiltonlhs.org

Whilton Locks Garden Village: www.wlgv.co.uk

Whilton Parish Council: www.parish-council.com/whilton

Whilton Village Website: www.whilton-village.net

What's on in Whilton

Spring 2022

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT	NOTES
Tues	8 Mar	7.30 p.m.	Church	Annual Church Meeting	
Wed	9 Mar	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council	
Fri	11 Mar	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society	Lords and ladies of the Manor
Sun	13 Mar	9.30 a.m	Church	Communion Service	
Wed	23 Mar	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Royal Platinum Jubilee planning	
Thur	24 Mar	7 p.m.	Church	Christian guided meditation	
Sun	27 Mar		Whilton Locks Garden Centre	Mother's Day brunch, lunch, afternoon tea	See website
Sat	2 Apr	2 – 4 p.m.	Church	Family Easter crafts	
Wed	6 Apr	Please note Gardeners Association changed to 20th April			
Sun	10 Apr	9.30 a.m.	Church	Communion Service	
Wed	20 Apr	7.30.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association	Building a show garden
Thur	28 Apr	7 p.m.	Church	Christian guided meditation	
Fri	6 May	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society	Remembering
Sat	7 May	10.30 – 4 p.m. t.b.c	Church and Village Hall	Talks, art & history exhibitions. Refreshments	Percy Fleming and his friends
Sun	8 May	9.30 a.m.	Church	Communion Service	
Wed	11 May	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council	
Thur	26 May	7 p.m.	Church	Christian guided meditation	
Sun	5 June		Whilton celebration	n of Queen's Platinum Jub	ilee.

Regular meetings include the Bell Ringers and the Pre-School: see articles in this issue.

SPRING 2022



Whilton Blossom in Lockdown, April 2020





New growth in the Spinney in April 2020

Crocus flowers on South View Bank in early Spring 2022