



STONE HOUSE WHILTON  
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# WHILTON NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1988

EDITORS' NOTES

An early edition this time due to the fact that printing is done in "school time" and the school holidays will soon be here; as Easter will be with us at the beginning of April. Remember, too, that Summer Time begins this month! Clocks go FORWARD one hour on Saturday, 26th March - Have we missed out on yet another Spring?

Keep your news and views rolling in. If they cannot be used in the next issue they will always keep till the following one.

Contributions for the next Newsletter by Tuesday, 10th May, please.

Happy Easter Everyone,

Fds.

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PARISH CHURCH

Sundays: 1st & 3rd - Sung Eucharist 6pm  
2nd & 5th - Evening Prayer (sung), followed by the Communion  
4th - Family Service, followed by the Communion, 9.30am

(At all these services there is opportunity, for those who so wish, to leave after the Service of the Word (i.e. before the Communion))

Sunday School: 1st & 3rd Sundays, at 10.30am

The combined Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings will take place on Friday, 25th March, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, for the Appointment of Churchwardens and Election of Representatives of the laity, according to the rules, consideration of the Accounts for 1987 and other appropriate business.

Holy Week Palm Sunday 9.30am  
Maundy Thursday: Commemoration of the Lord's Supper,  
7.30pm at Whilton  
Good Friday: Commemoration of the Lord's Suffering,  
7.30pm at Norton

Easter Day 6pm

Easter Monday: Eucharist (said) at Brington, 11am. (An opportunity for those who have not been able to fulfil their Easter obligation on the Sunday).

Next P.C.C. Wed. 18th May, at 7.30pm (Standing Comm. Wed. 4th May, 3pm)

We are most grateful to Phil and Jean Waights for the "Wine-tasting Evening" in aid of our organ fund and for the fine result of £118 duly credited to same.

Organ overhaul Heartened by the splendid response to the fund-raising efforts, the PCC at its last meeting took the decision formally to go ahead with the project of re-furbishing the organ. Following our expert's opinion it seems that we are talking about something hopefully not exceeding £2,500. (providing nothing awful is discovered when it is dismantled!) These things cannot be executed on demand but we believe that the project will be completed by the end of the year. So - the fund-raising will continue unabated! To this end Janet Bowers has kindly offered to act as co-ordinator for the events being, or to be, planned and should be contacted over offers of help - dates - etc.

The last figure in the fund was £1,198.

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WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The Gardeners' Association met on 1st February and we were treated to a most enlightening talk about badgers.

Mr. Bates told us about his hobby - Badger Watching - upon which he has obviously spent some considerable time. He brought along with him Bill, a stuffed  $\frac{3}{4}$  grown male badger who, some years ago, had been bumped by a car and killed.

Badger watching, we were told, is easy and with only a little patience, very rewarding. Badgers are the biggest wild mammal in Britain, after deer, and live a very gregarious life. They are a member of the weasel family. Even when the young are born, in January/February, the previous year's litter will be welcome to stay with the family group, which is unusual in the animal kingdom.

Badgers have excellent hearing and an even better sense of smell. They find the smell of humans unpleasant and frightening, so to watch them it is necessary to stay on the leeward side of the badgers, thus allowing them to get as close as possible to you before catching the smell of you. Their eyesight is fairly poor so they rely heavily on hearing and smelling senses. Their black and white striped faces, when seen in poor light, can create the image of being very large, a good way of frightening off predators.

They are very clean in their habits and never foul their sett. The bedding is changed regularly and may be used again after it has aired thoroughly some distance from the sett. Even though the badgers' tunnel system can stretch to some 40 metres they are nearly always seen to be spotlessly clean when emerging from it. They can live for about 13 years and when a badger does die the body is taken into a chamber in a sett and walled up.

It has been discovered that setts are used for generations; in fact setts in Devon have been in constant use since the time of William the Conqueror.

The cubs, which emerge for the first time in May, have no fear of humans and, if allowed to by their parents, will soon feed out of your hand on morsels of meat (the smellier the better). Of course you have to sit very still and be patient. If, however, the adults see or smell you they will soon warn their offspring and all will disappear rapidly back down the sett.

The badger usually hunts during the night and can be seen emerging at dusk, the best evenings to spot them of course being the clear, moonlight ones, but you must be very still. If after watching a particular sett for some weeks you suddenly find 'no-one at home' it may be that the occupants have gone to visit other badgers in the vicinity. Or, indeed, if your family suddenly becomes rather larger, they perhaps have visitors. The badger feeds on rats, rabbits and other small morsels and therefore is a useful beast to have around.

This most interesting talk was interspersed with a lovely selection of photographs, taken both with artificial light and in daylight, when badgers can occasionally be seen.

Mr. Bates concluded by saying that anyone willing to wrap up well and sit **still** in a quiet, country spot where badgers are known to live, at dusk will be rewarded by the sight of badgers going about their business.

The next meeting of the Gardeners' Association will be on Tuesday, April 5th, when Mr. Watkins will tell us about Indoor Plants.

Please Note : Meeting changed from Monday 4th to Tuesday 5th April.

Anne Heeley

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

At the W.I. meeting held on February 9th some important decisions were made with regard to fund raising. It was agreed that this year we would only take £50 from the proceeds of the Fete and make up the rest by means of fund raising events. Normally the W.I.'s share has been one third of the Fete proceeds, or as little as is needed to cover running costs. The rules of the National W.I. state that we are not allowed to give money to political organisations or to the Church. We feel that by taking only £50 this year we are indirectly going to be able to help the Church and the Village Hall, the two other recipients of Fete proceeds, both in need of extra funds this year.

Ideas for fund raising were mainly directed towards the theme of Craft Evenings. These would be open to non W.I. members. Up to three crafts would be demonstrated and participants would be encouraged to have a go. The people demonstrating would not be professionals but members or friends who are self taught or who have been on an introductory course themselves. Possible subjects would be flower arranging, cake decorating, spinning, embroidery, boning a chicken, basic computing, calligraphy. If there is a skill or craft you would like to learn, or offer to demonstrate, please contact a W.I. member.

Despite having such a lot to discuss, we did have time for a speaker! Mr. Chapman from the Northants Police came to speak on the subject of "Crime Prevention in the Home". He told us that 75% of burglaries in the home take place during the hours of daylight and usually through a kitchen window. Precautions such as window locks, though not infallible, did act as a deterrent. A radio left on will put off a would-be intruder and, of course, lights left on in the room you normally live in. We were advised to mark items such as televisions, videos, computers, etc. with the new security pens. Mr. Chapman encouraged anyone to seek help from the local Crime Prevention Officer, who would come to our homes to give personal advice free of charge.

The evening ended with a quiz, which was won by Mrs. Bowers.

Next month's meeting is on the subject of "Attractive ways with Vegetables".

STOP PRESS !

We have arranged the first of our craft evenings.

"HAVE A GO EVENING"

Wednesday, 25th May, 7.30 - 10.00pm

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

1. Patchwork
2. Calligraphy
3. Cake Decorating

Tickets £2.00, from Gill Houghton

Details of materials required with tickets

Anthea Hiscock

CHURCH ORGAN REPAIR FUND

Enthusiasm to raise funds for our church organ continues, with several events planned for the future. Getting together at these events leads to a very pleasant gathering and aids the community spirit of our village, so make a note of the events and let's make them as successful and enjoyable as those already held. If you would like to add to those planned please contact the fund co-ordinator, Janet Bowers, at "Heritage".

Fun Afternoon for all the Family - Saturday, March 26th

To be held in the Village Hall, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Games, e.g. tiddly-winks, computer and many others. Quizzes - How well do you know your 'Highway Code'? Better get studying as this will be one of several quizzes. Competition - 'Guess the weight of the Easter Egg'. Raffle - Refreshments. NO ADMISSION CHARGE - Entry fee for games, etc. 10p

Donations of refreshments or raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated by Mr. & Mrs. Morris, 8, South View.

Farmhouse Tea - Sunday, April 24th - Roughmoor Grounds - 4pm onward  
(by courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. G. Davies)

Dads - how about giving Mum a break from getting Sunday tea? Bring her and the family to a traditional Farmhouse Tea in a lovely old farmhouse on the hill overlooking Whilton.

Other attractions are a White Elephant/Bring & Buy Stall - Raffle for the adults and Treasure Hunt for the children. Goats, ducks, hens, etc. all add to the interest for the children.

Price £1.50 for adults, 75p for children - Tickets available shortly.

Northampton Junior Philharmonic Choir - Saturday, July 2nd

An evening performance of youthful voices in our delightful village church.

DO BOOK THE DATE NOW. More details in a later issue.

1940's Evening

Proposed date (to be confirmed later) Saturday, October 1st at "INGLENOOK" (by courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Baker)

Remember the days of Glenn Miller music and others of that era.

Enjoy a meal of 'bangers & mash'. Further details later.

Janet Bowers

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ADULT EDUCATION - YOGA

According to the Local Education Authority we do not have sufficient people of the right age\* attending our Yoga class. The right people, according to the Authority, are those who pay full fees! We are threatened with closure if we do not produce enough fees to satisfy the L.E.A.

Yoga can be practised at any level; you can be any age (16 - 106!) and with any measure of agility. If you are at all interested please come along and join us, either before or after Easter, and give Yoga a try.

Monday, 1.15 - 2.45 before Easter

Monday, 1.30 - 3.00 after Easter, in the Village Hall.

\*reduced fees are paid by :- Senior Citizens, the Unemployed, the Disabled and people on supplementary benefit. All others pay the full fees.

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BFST KEPT VILLAGE & CHURCHYARD COMPETITIONS 1988

The Parish Council has just taken the decision to enter these competitions again this year, so it seems an appropriate time to make an appeal, once again, for everyone's co-operation, in an effort to attain a high standard.

You will recall that Whilton won the cup in 1984 for the best kept village in Class 1 (population 50 - 400) and in the following year went one better by winning the "Cup Winners" Cup. Sadly, we do not seem to have been able to maintain the high standard of those years but if we all play our part, children included, no doubt we can reach the heights once again.

What is needed is for all of us to try to keep our own property neat and tidy, especially gardens fronting the road, and if we can do a bit extra, mow the grass verge alongside our property or weed that bit of pathway, this will help tremendously.

We are fortunate in that some people are prepared to take on the responsibility of keeping tidy parts of the village that are not bordering on their own property, but there are still pieces of "no-man's land" that get very little attention and it would be encouraging if more help were forthcoming to keep these areas tidy.

Help is always very welcome, too, in the churchyard. Mowing, raking up grass, trimming round walls and gravestones, weeding paths, are all tasks that need to be done and the more people who are prepared to help the better. Machines for use in the churchyard are housed at the "Old Plough".

Criteria for judging Best Kept Village

The judges will be looking to see whether a village has made the most of what it has. Marks will be awarded for neatness, tidiness, absence of litter, etc. as follows:

Absence of litter and unofficial refuse dumps .....	40
Conditions of churchyard, cemetery, village green, roads, playing fields, village hall and surrounds, bus shelters, telephone kiosks .....	35
Condition of gardens, allotments, outhouses, hedges, fences, walls and trees .....	20
Visibility of Competition Poster (NB at least one official poster must be displayed prominently), orderliness of village notices and advertisements .....	5
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Churchyards will be judged on the following criteria:

Absence of litter .....	25
Care of grass, and around gravestones .....	30
Care of paths, verges, walls, lych gates .....	30
Overall impression .....	15
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Judging Stages

Preliminary Round (on a district basis)	June
Semi-Finals Round (Countywide)	mid July / mid August
Finals Round (Countywide)	late August / early Sept.

Harold Haynes



Before the second world war Whilton was considerably smaller than it is today. Imagine the village without Langton Rise, the Council houses, the new houses opposite "The Plough", all the new buildings along the Brington road and the four or five bungalows in different parts of the village.

Many buildings had, however, disappeared or were in ruins. Here are some of them, many of which are shown on the 1926 O.S. map. Much useful information has been provided, too, by some of the older residents who were born in the village, for which many thanks.

We will start with the Brington Road - Here a number of cottages and the "Wheatsheaf" Inn stood between Lower Farmhouse and the existing barn. A barn adjoined Kunda Cottage, with other farm buildings at the rear.

Main Street - A cottage stood on the ground between "Rose Cottage" and the School grounds (tumbling down in the 1920's and known to the children as "Old Joby's" - presumably with reference to its last occupant!) Where Messrs. H. & M. Clements live was a line of thatched cottages, joining up at one end with the School House and turning up the lane at the other end. Six cottages faced the road and one or two the lane. This row of dwellings was known as the "Big Entry" because they were approached through a central, wide archway, over which was an extra bedroom for one cottage. Where "Rose Bank Cottage" and "Dunlea House" now stand was a cottage, part stone, part mud and wattle.

Village Green - There were four Alms Houses in this area, thought to have been on the ground near the entrance to "Dove Close". A stone house stood where Mr. Tooley's bungalow now stands. The Rectory was joined to the Old Coach House by other buildings comprising servants' quarters and a laundry.

Main Street again - Where "Sira" stands, facing the road was a grocer's and general store, with house attached. Next to this and divided by a passageway were three cottages, one facing the road and two at the rear. Next door and opposite The Plough was a farmyard and buildings, together with a stone-built farmhouse (used as headquarters by the local Home Guard platoon during the last war). On the opposite side of the road a building at the end of the garden at "Inglenook" was originally used as a Wesleyan Chapel. In the corner of the yard at The Plough stood a large coach house, projecting half-way across the present drive to "Dormer Cottage".

Buckby Lane - In the garden of the "Thatched Cottage" were two dwellings facing the lane and one at the rear, still standing. At the end of the lane, where the bungalow now stands, were three cottages facing the lane and one facing the field. There was also a Parish Workhouse, the site of which is thought to have been in the field at the end of the lane.

Over to the Allotments - Here there were two cottages fronting the road and opposite "The Barn". These cottages can be seen on old photographs and were demolished in the early 1920's. "The Barn" was once two houses, both thatched, with a cobbled passage between. Mr. Adams tells me that musk used to grow between the cobbles. There was also another cottage in the garden at "Rose Briar", where the garage is now.

Now let's go down the hill towards Whilton Locks. On the left, just over half-way down you will see the remains of a wall. Here stood the "White House", where the occupants had a smallholding. Mr. Adams tells me that his grandmother, who was blind, used to walk here from Whilton to fetch the milk. Her companion was a large, fierce, black cat!

This domestic story seems a fitting end to my account. Another time I would like to write about Whilton Locks and would be glad of any information.

Trudy Haynes

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

An open meeting was held prior to the last parish council meeting at which a video and presentation was given by Mr. John Bishop, from the Northamptonshire Rural Community Council, on the subject of the "Parish 2000" project. This is an appraisal of each parish carried out by members of the parish and covering subjects from wildlife to amenities. It was agreed that the "Parish Appraisal" project should be discussed at the next parish council meeting on May 16th. If anyone would be willing to help in any way with this project, please contact Mr. H. Haynes or come along to the next meeting.

The following is a resumé of business discussed at the meeting held on 14th March :-

(a) Surface Water - The Area Surveyor was to be approached again regarding drainage of surface water from the road adjacent to the top triangle.

(b) Red Cross Collection - As no-one had volunteered to undertake this, another request was to be made in the next Newsletter.

(c) Brington Road/Buckby Lane/Culvert Bridge - A letter had been received from the Area Surveyor saying :-

- (1) Warning signs are to be erected on the bends outside the village.
- (2) The N.C.C. would not re-surface the lower end of Buckby Lane.
- (3) The area by the culvert bridge would be tidied up. A site meeting could be arranged to clarify these points.

(d) Finances - Deposit Account balance £739.61, Current Account balance £89.95.

(e) Best Kept Village Competition - It was agreed to enter the Village and the Churchyard in the 1988 Competition. Everyone's support for this worthwhile competition is requested.

(f) Road Closure - Whilton Locks - The N.C.C. had informed the Parish Council that the Motorway bridge will be closed for water-proofing from 7th March for approximately 3 weeks.

(g) Allotments - Daventry District Council has been approached by an un-named party wishing to purchase the allotments, and offering alternative ground for use as allotments. The Parish Council holds the lease until March, 1991 and there is no "get-out" clause for either party. The whole of the P.C. were against the giving up of the lease now and are to try and see what can be done to keep the allotments in 1991, as it was felt that the D.D.C., who own the land, would be tempted to sell when the lease expires.

(h) Rates - Daventry District Council has informed the Parish Council that the Sewage Works at Whilton Locks is no longer to be rated and the income from this (approximately one third of the parish precept) would be lost. D.D.C. have, however, agreed to cover the back-dated rates refund.

(i) Next Meeting - Due to the Parish Council elections being on 5th May, 1988, it was decided to hold the May meeting on 16th May, '88.

(j) Planning Application - The P.C. had no comments to make regarding a proposed conservatory at 2, Lodge Cottages, Whilton Locks.

Jim Gardner

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WHILTON PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup would like to thank the people who have kindly given us useful junk since the last Newsletter.

We have made use of most of it and have plans for the rest. The match-boxes were turned into miniature sledges to slide down a card-board hill, yoghurt pots were used to hold "bird cake", a delicious mixture of scraps, seed and lard to be hung up outside, and magazines and Christmas cards have helped us to give the children more practice at cutting and sticking. We have sown mustard and cress in old margarine tubs, and a supply of empty boxes and containers has provided play material when the hall has become a supermarket.

The gift of a reel of lace will be especially appreciated when we make our Easter bonnets.

Anthea Hiscock

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VILLAGE FETE - Saturday, August 20th

If you can offer assistance on stalls or sideshows please contact the secretary, Janet Bowers, at "Heritage". Maybe you can grow plants for the plant stall or make articles for the handicraft stall - all donations will be greatly appreciated.

More details of stalls and stall-holders in the next issue.

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Whilton in the Second World War

Whilton did not change very much. About a dozen men from the parish went to serve in the forces and a number of evacuees came, which made the village school (as it was still open) larger. During part of the war there were soldiers stationed in the Old Rectory and in a field at the bottom of the village there was a searchlight base and anti-aircraft gun. The planes passed over on the way to Coventry. There were one or two bombs dropped between here and Long Buckby. When Coventry was bombed people in Whilton could see the glow in the sky. To supplement their rations people dug up their gardens and grew food. They often kept animals too. When the war ended some of the younger people went to a celebration dance at Long Buckby.

I found out about Whilton during the war for my school project.

Rosemary Hiscock

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Sunday School

Easter Sunday - Children's Service at 10.30, with Easter Bonnet parade for girls and decorated egg competition for boys.

Family Service, 24th April - There will be a coffee morning after this service for the "Save the Children" fund.

Susan Townley

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WHIST CLUB - As the first Friday in April is Good Friday it was decided to hold the Whist Drive on the second Friday instead, i.e. Friday, April 8th.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

- Fri. 25th Mar., 7.30pm, Church Annual Meeting - Village Hall.
- Sat. 26th Mar., 2.00pm, Fun Afternoon - Village Hall.
- Sun. 27th Mar., 2.00am, Summer Time starts!
- Tue. 5th Apr., 7.30pm, Gardeners' Association - Village Hall.
- Fri. 8th Apr., 7.30pm, Whist Drive (last of season).
- Wed. 13th Apr., 7.30pm, W.I. in Village Hall.
- Sun. 24th Apr., 10.30am, Coffee Morning
- Sun. 24th Apr., 4.00pm, Farmhouse Teas - Roughmoor Grounds.
- Wed. 4th May, 3.00pm, P.C.C. Standing Committee.
- Thur. 5th May, District & Parish Council Elections.
- Tue. 10th May, Last date for items for next Newsletter.
- Wed. 11th May, 7.30pm, W.I. in Village Hall.
- Mon. 16th May, 7.30pm, Annual Parish Meeting, followed by  
Parish Council Meeting.
- Wed. 18th May, 7.30pm. P.C.C. Meeting at "Old Plough".
- See Church Notices for Service details.