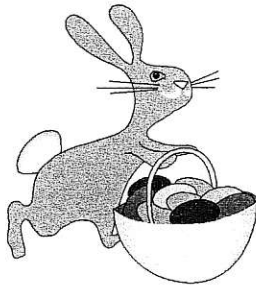


# WHILTON NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2006

# SPRING



Happy  
Easter

## In this issue

- ◆ Parish News
- ◆ Church News
- ◆ Whilton Gardeners' Assoc. News
- ◆ Whilton Photographic club
- ◆ Neighbourhood Watch
- ◆ Reports of past & details of future events
- ◆ Moving to Whilton—40 years ago
- ◆ Early memories of hunting
- ◆ Plans for the future of Whilton
- ◆ A Birth and a Wedding.

NEWS FROM ALL AROUND THE PARISH



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**LICENSING ACT 2003  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR  
THE GRANT FOR A  
PREMISES LICENCE (SECTION 17)**

Notice is hereby given that Whilton Village Hall Management Committee has applied to Daventry District Council for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of Whilton Village Hall, Main Street, Whilton, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 2NN and intends to carry on regulated entertainment including live and recorded music; dancing; indoor sporting events; plays and films.

The Licensing Register may be inspected at the Licensing Authority, Daventry District Council Offices, Lodge Road, Daventry, NN11 4FP between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations to the above address in writing not later than 28 days after the publication of this notice.

It is an offence liable on summary conviction to a fine up to £5,000 under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application.

Mr Derek Brown, Treasurer,  
Whilton Village Hall Management  
Committee

## PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF WHILTON PARISH

Daventry District Council is reviewing their development policies and offers the chance for a Parish Council to prepare their own plan for the parish. This, when adopted, would be a Supplementary Planning Document to be taken into account along with all the other guidance documents in considering applications for development and by authorities generally in considering their policies.

In order to take advantage of this offer the Parish council have decided to prepare a Parish Plan which will address community issues / facilities and development issues.

The Plan will seek to identify the things you like about the parish, preserving and enhancing them, and things you do not like, trying to remove them or reducing their impact. This is an opportunity for everyone to have their say in what sort of parish we will live in, work in and socialise in the future.

The Parish Council has set up a team to generate this Plan and anybody can be a team member. There will be at least two public meetings in the Village and at the Locks together with a questionnaire which will give everybody (young and old) the opportunity to express their views.

When the consultation starts, please take part. There may not be a better opportunity to influence our immediate environment.

The team at present are Councillor Penny Price, Richard Bunce, Jonathan Hanslip, Jeremy James, Greg Lye, Mike Lewis; others will be involved as work progresses.

Philip Waights,  
Chairman Whilton Parish Plan Team ( WPPT )

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE:

**From May 2006 there will be a change in the above service. It will come to the village very third week instead of every two weeks. Dates to be confirmed.**

**The April dates will remain the same: 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and will stop outside the Old Plough in Main Street**



**CONGRATULATIONS**



**On the birth of Frank Andrew Walton to Ibi and Andy on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006, a brother for Delilah**



## ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY



Whilst a Working Party has not been arranged so far this year, mainly due to adverse weather conditions making it unsuitable for working in the spinney, there has recently been activity.

Chris Green and Jamie Ashby are working for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Under the section 'service to the community', they have been carrying out maintenance work in the spinney under the guidance of two or three committee members. Kate Green (Chris's sister) is helping to clean St Andrew's Church as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

This is very encouraging and satisfying to have the involvement of young people and we hope it may inspire others. It is also understood that under the 'skills' section the two boys are being taught to ring St Andrew's Church bells.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in April and is open to the public. If you have an interest in the spinney and would like to become involved, please come along.

Please watch the noticeboards

Management Committee

### Whilton Village Hall 200 Club Draw

#### JANUARY 2006

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	092	R Bunce	£40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	207	J Clements	£20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	166	H Wilkinson	£10

#### FEBRUARY 2006

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	049	A Tilston	£40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	092	R Bunce	£20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	009	G Denbigh	£10

Congratulations to all the winners

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the 200 Club or taking further tickets is still welcome to join up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and will be charged pro-rata.

Please contact Shirley & Derek Brown on 842968 or see Email at end of Newsletter



# WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## Review:

### What's that bird? – 6<sup>th</sup> February

To the sound of calling House Sparrows and Singing Robins, yours truly introduced the WGA members to the delights of garden birds in winter. We looked at images of most of the common birds and some of the more unusual birds that can be seen in Whilton. To add to the experience there was a chance to learn the various calls and songs that enable birds to be located, even when they are hiding in the thickest shrubbery.

Hopefully everyone learned something about the birds that share their gardens and brighten up the cold, grey winter days.

## Future Meetings:

### April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Garden Design & Creative Planting

Could your garden do with a makeover, but not too sure where to start, then come along and learn from our expert.

### June 5<sup>th</sup> – Doing Time

We said this year's programme was different, so how about prison gardening. Yes you read that correctly! We will learn about the joys of gardening on the inside.

### August 7<sup>th</sup> – Pick of the Best

Yet again, we will be taking a stroll around three of the best gardens in Whilton to see how our very own gardening experts have made a garden to be proud of.

### October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grow your Own

If you are fed up with paying a fortune for plants at the local garden centres, this talk will show you how to grow your own plants from seeds or cuttings. What's more, October is a great time for propagation, so come along and learn the tricks of the trade.

## Garden Visit

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Coton Lodge, Guilsborough

We will leave from Whilton Village Green at 1.30pm.

## Social Events

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May – WGA Barbeque

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - WGA Plant Sale

August/September - WGA Village Market

Proceeds from the last two events will go to the church and village hall

Why not come along and see for yourself why the WGA is so well supported by people in Whilton. Even if you don't want to become a full member, you can still come to one of our meetings, join us on a garden visit, or just enjoy on of our social events.

Neil Phillips, Secretary, WGA

For more details contact me on: [neiljphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:neiljphillips@hotmail.com) or 01327 844182

## PARISH MATTERS

### WHILTON ROADS

Since my last article Whilton, along with several other local villages, has at last had new road surfaces, a very welcome event for everyone. However some road problems remain, including the number of accidents on the top road.

### Accident prevention

The last Parish Council meeting was held early in March and began with a presentation by Mr James Butlin of the NCC Casualty Reduction Team. An action plan has now been formed for the Red Route road from Whilton Mill to the Brington/Flore crossroads. Mr Butlin explained that the team has used evidence from accidents to identify treatable issues on this road.

The plan includes the following:

- Speed limits
- Extra marker posts at bend
- Larger bend warning signs
- Improved signage especially at the Brington/Flore turn
- Visits from the speed safety camera
- Increased police presence on this road
- Leaflet delivery to the villages concerned
- Raising awareness of the road dangers in the local press
- Temporary signage, which will come and go, to prevent habituation to signs
- High friction surfacing at the Whilton turn and Gypsy Spinney corner, after skid tests have been carried out there.

Mr Butlin was thanked for his presentation. Some discussion followed and the Parish Council agreed to continue to monitor the progress of the action plan, which will, of course, depend on funds being available.

### The new surfaces

There was general satisfaction with the new village road surfaces, however there are already signs of crumbling at the edges in some places. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman will report and take monitoring photos of this damage.

Because the new road surface is much quieter, all of us, and especially children, need to take more care when crossing the road, as oncoming cars cannot be heard so well. The Clerk was asked to put up posters about this for the pre-school in the Hall and on the village notice boards.

Parishioners are also reminded to be as thoughtful as possible when parking in the narrow village street, being careful not to block others' drives and exits.

### FINANCE

A variety of cheques were approved. These payments were to the solicitors preparing the new allotment lease, to the Clerk for salary and expenses, to Unity College and Orchard Print for the Newsletter, to Roy Haynes for expenses repairing the grass cutter and for petrol, to Richard Bunce as treasurer of the Parish Plan Team, to Powergen for electricity and to NALC for a training course for the Chairman. In all the cheques amounted to £1045.50



## **PLANNING**

There were no new planning applications brought to this meeting, but information has been received that Whilton Mill now has permission for a change of use from redundant agricultural premises to B1 (light industrial) to be used in conjunction with adjacent Karting Circuit.(Application DA/2005/1348).

Permission has also been granted for the extension to Tudor House. (Application DA/2005/1379)

The outline planning application(DA/2006/0034 ) for houses behind Brington Lane has been refused.

### **The Parish Plan.**

The team has begun working on this and it is hoped they will be able to give a progress report at the May meeting. Meanwhile it was agreed they should have a float and were given details of a CPRE roadshow in April, which may help with planning issues. A place has already been booked for one of the team to attend a training event in Daventry, also in April.

### **THE NEW ALLOTMENT LEASE**

Mike Lewis, the Chairman, reported that although the new allotment lease has been negotiated and agreed, the paperwork has not yet been completed, due to mistakes being made in the document. The draft lease has had to be returned for corrections.

### **PARISH TREES AT THE GREEN**

A report on the trees has been received from Cutting Edge Tree Services. There are no problems with the sycamore and sorbus, but the chestnuts are still in decline. It is recommended that they be felled. Next winter these trees could then be replaced by a different species, which is less susceptible to disease.

After discussion it was agreed to accept the report. The Clerk was asked to get quotations for felling and stump and root removal. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman will authorise the work as a matter of urgency.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

Beryl Williams offered to be Whilton's contact for Daventry Area Safety in the Home for older people. It was decided not to enter the Village of the Year competition this year, as its character is perceived to have changed.

### **MAY MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting is the Annual Meeting following the Parish Meeting on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Both are meetings open to the public, but the Parish Meeting is an opportunity for all. Any parishioner may come and join in on any parish matter you wish to raise.

Anthea Hiscock.

Clerk to the Parish Council

**Whilton's new road surface is very quiet.  
It is much harder to hear cars coming.**

**Stop,  
Look,  
Listen,  
Live!**

# Whilton Photographic Club



## Up and Running!

The new Whilton Photographic Club had its first meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March when 19 of its 24 members met for the first time in Whilton Village Hall to decide how the club should be run. This is a great turnout and we look forward to even more of you joining us in the future.

The club will offer a range of activities, including: tuition in photography, outings to practice and improve your photographic skills and competitions. We are starting to put together the first parts of the 2006 Programme and more details will be provided once they are available.

## Meetings (to be held in Whilton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm):

### 11th April 2006

- Photography basics
- Camera basics
- Photographic assignment

### 25th April 2006

- Composition Basics
- Composition Practice – Still Life
- Photographic assignment

### 16th May 2006

- Image Manipulation Basics
- Image Manipulation Practice
- Photographic assignment

Further meetings will be held on: 20<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and 12th December 2006.

## Photographic Outings:

The following outings have been scheduled and further ones will be announced shortly.

**2nd May 2006** – Whilton Village – Photographing our village in spring

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2006** – Whilton Locks – Photographing the canal and marina.

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2006** – Whilton Mill - Karting (9.30am start)

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2006** – To be confirmed

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2006** – To be confirmed

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2006** – To be confirmed

All photographic outings will start from Whilton Village Green at 7.30pm, unless indicated.

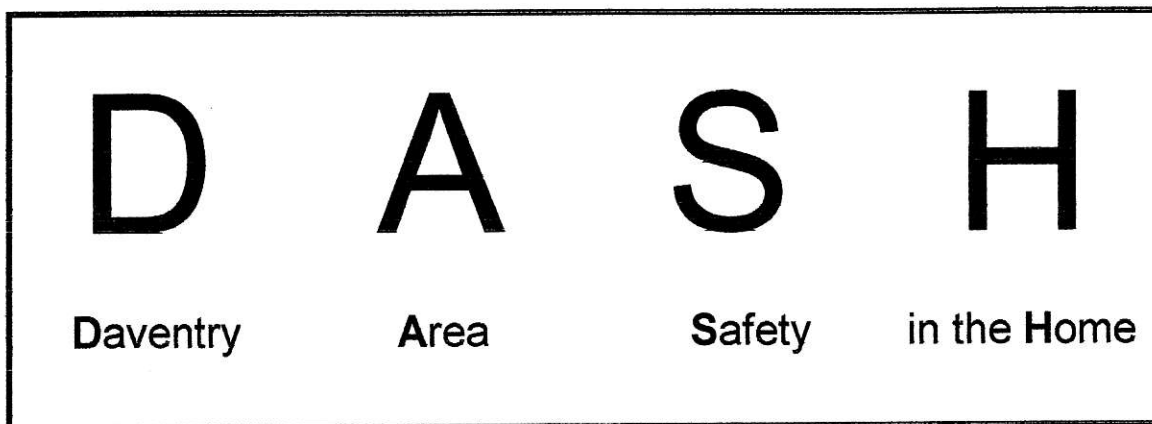
**Neil Phillips**

**Richard Patching**

Tel: 01327 844182,

E-mail: [neiljphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:neiljphillips@hotmail.com)





**Whilton Parish Council is supporting this new initiative by Daventry District Council, which aims to provide the elderly and disabled members of the community with the range of help/advice that they need to keep their homes safe, secure and warm.**

**To this end, Daventry District Council is working in partnership with a variety of organisations, including the Police, Fire Service, National Health Service, Care and Repair Service and Age Concern.**

**At the March meeting of the Parish Council, I volunteered to be the Whilton contact for DASH. During the next few weeks, I will familiarise myself with the various elements of the scheme so that I will be able to discuss the specific help/advice that is available from the participating agencies, with residents of our Parish.**

**Beryl Williams  
Sira  
Main Street  
Whilton**

**01327 842091**

**FREE LOW ENERGY LIGHT BULBS**

**FREE SMOKE ALARMS**

**FREE FIRE SAFETY CHECKS**

**FREE SECURITY CHAINS**

**FREE ADVICE on reducing FUEL BILLS**

**FREE ADVICE on GRANTS**

**and MUCH MORE!**



***Our Rector - Rev Chris Goble works from Brington Rectory and can be contacted on 01604 774042 or E-mail [chris@spencerbenefice.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:chris@spencerbenefice.freeserve.co.uk)***

Earlier this year I bought two books. One was Peter Ackroyd's biography of William Shakespeare, which goes into detail about how the 12 year old Shakespeare left school in Stratford. and yet still became a great, indeed possibly the greatest, writer of English plays. The other was a book which said that there was a man from Stratford who became an actor in London called William Shakespeare, but that he didn't write plays, instead Sir Henry Neville wrote the plays and used William Shakespeare's name. My problem is that both seem reasonable books, and yet both can't be true. I'm sure the debate around 'who wrote Shakespeare?' will rumble on, and whilst is interesting, will not change the enjoyment people have of the sonnets and plays. Another debate that rumbles on is who is Jesus. Dan Brown, and the writers of Holy Blood, Holy Grail, have a particular view, that

what Jesus has to offer is a bloodline, and this has fuelled some debate. Historical research, though, seems

dubious, and whilst they may be good reads - it would be good to see what evidence can be put forward. The 4 Gospels offer other views of Jesus, each with a different slant and take on the story - Matthew is a Gospel with Jewish references, Mark is the shortest with a sense of immediacy, Luke is written as evidence for Gentiles, John is a different reflective book with 'signs' of who Jesus is. It's tempting to see this as another academic debate, but the difference is that

Shakespeare doesn't offer eternal life and forgiveness, and it is how we respond to Jesus that can make a real difference.

***SERVICES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WHILTON  
APRIL 2006***

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Benefice Sung Eucharist at <u>WHILTON</u></b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Family Service</b>
<b>Tues.11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Good Friday-14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Compline</b>
<b>Easter Day -16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at <u>NORTON</u></b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Benefice Sung Eucharist at <u>HARLESTONE</u></b>

**FLOODLIGHTS**



***THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL CELEBRATIONS OR TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE OR IF YOU WOULD JUST LIKE TO SEE THE CHURCH FLOODLIT. AT A SMALL COST THE CHURCH CAN BE FLOODLIT FOR THE EVENING, MAKING ANY OCCASION SPECIAL FOR YOU.***

## MORE CHURCH NEWS



The bells rang out on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2006 for the marriage of Adam Davies and Vicky Hogarth. The bride and her three attendants looked beautiful and the church splendid. This was decorated by Adam's mother Jean (Langton Rise) in the colours burgandy and cream. We wish them a long and happy married life.

**Easter Day** This year the time of the Service is 9.15 am and will be a Family Communion to celebrate this important day in the Christian Calendar.

**The Social and Fund-Raising Committee** was pleased to welcome Jon Brierley and Kerry Davies to its ranks and their contribution greatly helped to the success of the Pub Games Evening which realised a profit of £194.20 for the church funds. Many thanks to Linda Treacy who provided and organised the games and to everyone who contributed in anyway to make an enjoyable social evening.

**Car Boot** Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 in Wadd Close by kind permission of the Emery family  
**Time** - 1.00pm – 4.00 pm. Cars are £6 or £5 if pre-booked and vans £10 or pre-booked £8. There will refreshments available. Details of bookings to Linda (01327 842034) or Janet (01327 852851).

**Village Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006 from 1.00pm – 5.00 pm. The flower arrangement theme is children's books. If you are a flower arranger and would like to be involved, please contact Janet 01327 842851. Other activities planned are stalls, art exhibition and refreshments – homemade cakes and tea in the village hall. If you wish to open your garden or can help on stalls, refreshments etc., then please contact any of the Committee – Mary Emery, Linda Treacy, Teresa Leadbetter, Jon Brierley, Kerry Davies or Janet Bowers.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006** – a date for your diaries. The Cantari Singers (including our own Linda Treacy) will performing a concert "Night of Miracles" (The Christmas Story in music-song) in St Andrew's Church. Further details nearer the date.

Janet Bowers

### AGE CONCERN

The Women's Institute was the village contact for Age Concern and when it suspended I agreed to take over this duty. Consequently, I went to a meeting of village representatives at the Northampton Venton Centre at the back of York Road. This is a completely new complex and contains a meeting hall suitable for parties, dances etc., also lecture rooms and a restaurant. These facilities are available for anyone wishing to come any function or to cook a meal. There are a number of classes and workshops running there.

The purpose of the meeting was to try to recruit volunteers for many activities which Age Concern carries out and to make its powers to help more widely known. I have a booklet which details some of the services including grants for a variety of needs (such as heating in addition to the Government Allowances), Hearing Aids, Insurance, Day Care, Special Needs Centres and in the north of the County, Assistance with the completion of Income Tax Returns.

There are anxious to recruit volunteers for many of their ventures: respite visiting to home carers on a regular basis, providing a meal at the weekend for the housebound, hospital aftercare, Special Needs Centres.

**To enquire about these services please ring AGE CONCERN on 01604 611200 and speak to Ann Lloyd or Barbara Irving.**

Frances Drake

## **This is for those born 1920-1979!**

**TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED the 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's !!!** First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitch hiking.

As infants & children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank lemonade made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because.

**WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!**

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no Video movies or DVD's, no surround-

sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or chat rooms **WE HAD FRIENDS** and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them! Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned **HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!** If YOU are one of them

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good.

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave (and lucky) their parents were. Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!

## **WHILTON VILLAGE HALL**

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 and five Committee Members attended. The Chairman, Mike Lewis, Vice-Chairman, Maurice Clements and Treasurer, Derek Brown agreed to stand again for 2006.

**The position of Secretary is still vacant. Are you interested? Please contact Mike Lewis on 842404 for further information.** There were no changes in the rest of the Committee representing various organisations in the village (Janet Bowers, Shirley Brown, Jenny Holman and Phil Waights).

During 2005 the toilet area was completely refurbished and provision made for facilities to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Further work to the access by way of improving the slope and providing a hand rail is in hand. Refurbishment of the kitchen is on the agenda and also redecoration of the main hall and remedial work to the floor surface.

Without the existence and good support for the 200 Club we would not have available the necessary funding for these various projects. Our aim is to provide facilities for the community of an acceptable standard and the greater the number of residents becoming members of the 200 Club, helps us financially to carry out the improvements.

With increased operating costs, it has been necessary to increase the hiring rates which take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

- **Adult Education -** £7
- **Village Residents -** £6
- **Others -** £8
- **Pre-School -** £9 per session
- **Hire of Equipment taken out of hall-** £10
- **Election** £125 per day

**Period of hire rounded up to complete hours.**

**A charge of £3 for preparation / clearing up will be made added to the total.**

The Management Committee is applying for a Premises Licence to conform with the Licensing Act 2003 (excluding sale of alcohol) and in conjunction with this a revised Hiring Agreement will be introduced which must be completed by **all hirers of the Village Hall.**

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### **Brington and Whilton Pre-school**

**EASTER EGG HUNT** - there will be a hunt for eggs starting off at the church at Great Brington on Good Friday 14th April from 10am-11.30am. The cost for each child will be £2 - and no-one will leave empty handed! Refreshments will be available. All profits will be donated to Brington and Whilton Pre-school. **All children of pre-school and primary school age are welcome. No tickets required.** If the weather is bad the search will move indoors.



## Early Memories of Following Hounds.

1928-1936

When in my teens, my father thought it time I was introduced to following hounds on horseback, having followed beagles on foot since childhood rather reluctantly, but; "Exercise, exercise every time you can, Exercise, exercise that's what makes you a man ."

Unfortunately I was incapable of hitting a golf ball in spite of professional coaching, and the same with tennis. Shooting was as disastrous, but at least I could ride, or thought I could. I could ride my pony sitting backward, and bareback, no problem.

My father kept a horse at livery in a small yard in Nantwich, hunting with The Cheshire. Mr Brown had about half a dozen horses, and mounted me on a hirling, a light weight hunter mare named "Sqwealibags," a most suitable conveyance for a beginner, she always reeked of "Sloans Linament" on hunting days and could be smelt someway of at the Meet, where the horses were taken for us to mount then; the car being taken back to the yard. We hacked back at the end of the day, very often over 12 miles, but as this was in the late 1920, the roads were a pleasure to ride on and the clip clop of a hunting jog as darkness fell, for me, was the best part of the day.



That first season must have been an exceptionally wet winter; many fields held sheets of water and some of the gateways near the farms were literally hock deep in mud where the cattle trod. As they were dairy herds, it was grass with small hedges and ditches, known to neighbouring hunts as "The funk's paradise".

I felt very happy on "Swealibags" following Mr Brown, striding over grass, not having a clue where we were going, until we faced a hedge which had to be jumped, and I fell off! Which was a rude awakening, and very soon I became expert at finding the gaps and gateways and was happy again. Mr Brown soon spotted this and instructed me to follow him. Well I fell off in mud and I landed in flood water and remained soaked for the rest of the day, but never remembered hurting myself, just realising that hunting was nothing but misery. I lay in bed at night praying that it would snow, or freeze so hard hunting would be cancelled. I never told anyone of my fears, or the agony I suffered or to let anyone know I was such a wimp. Even when I was given a horse of my own it had a habit of bucking me off in the first field, winding me rendering me speechless for some time. Mercifully by now I was gaining the art of sticking on my own horse Romeo, who turned out to be a good hunter, and lasted some years, by which time I was toughly enjoying the thrill of the chase.

In 1936, when living in Derbyshire I followed the High Peak Harriers. Romeo took to the walls with enthusiasm, maybe preferring the solid ground to the mud. There was a much friendlier atmosphere, maybe because my father in law had once been a joint master in days gone by, and won the members point to point run over the walls at Flagg. Also the hunt was smaller. The hunting was different, it was easier to watch the hounds working, and the field were always on the move when drawing. Then when pus jumped up and hounds picked up her line, away they went, up the hill and down dale, over the walls, some strong, some a tumbling heap of stones. Even on blank days, we were on the move, when drawing. When the hare ran it was never in a straight line. New to the sport I did my best to keep near hounds, thinking I was galloping for miles, to look up and see a bunch of followers standing about on a hillside munching sandwiches, telling us where the



hare had gone, and I and my horse were in a muck sweat, it did all seem rather futile.

In this country there were biting winds and I suffered agony on long hacks home, with my boots pinching, or a button pressing on a shin bone, but at least I was not plastered with mud! After a year or two Romeo's developed windgalls which looked unsightly, but was never lame. About this time people were going on skiing holidays, and asking me to hunt there horses to keep them fit. This was too good to be true, but altered my method of following hounds. From now on I joined the inner circle brigade, being fearful of damaging my mounts (which I never did). Only once did I have a nerve wracking ride on a horse bought at Leicester Sales. I was incapable of preventing him from galloping full tilt at the walls, instead of collectedly off his hocks. He had improved by the end of the day, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.



My father-in-law gave me some red letter days with the Meynell, especially when he hired a cattle box to transport the horses, and we enjoyed tea by an open fire in the local pub on the way home.

By 1935 all fear had left me and I have enjoyed following hounds ever since, in spite of grave discomfort; such as boots pinching, agonising cold and general stiffness.

Joan Davies.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The good news is that no reports of problems in Whilton have been received since the last Newsletter. The not so good news is that the police force is undergoing a local reorganisation and you will be aware that the government is seeking to rationalise the Police, which can be no help for morale. The even worse news is that the County Council are withdrawing funding for the Police Community Support Officers. These are the group officers established to deal especially anti-social behaviour. Whilst we are very lucky in Whilton Village having well behaved

youngsters and therefore do not need these officers, others are not so lucky, especially in Daventry and Long Buckby.

We have been lucky so far in still having the services of our local Policeman George who is always very helpful, the time he can give to this area is reduced.

There are still reports of conmen in the general area and Satellite Navigation Equipment is a popular target of thieves.

Philip Waights  
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

**BE VIGILANT AND HELP PREVENT CRIME**

## ***FORTY YEARS AGO IN WHILTON - CONTINUED***

During our first weekend in Holly House we had two callers. The first was Miss Freda Pride who was then President of the Whilton WI. She said the next Wednesday would be their December Meeting which always finished with a special meal and would we like to come and judge the competition? We went, we joined and we have been members ever since. The competition was for the best homemade paper hat and was won by Freda Pride.

Our second caller was Mr Will Adams, one of the churchwardens, he had come to apologise for the Bishop for not having visited us yet.

The Bishop! , what had we done to deserve a bishop? It transpired that the then Rector of Whilton and Norton was the retired Bishop of Mauritius – Bishop Otter-Barry. He lived in Norton with his housekeeper and usually walked to Whilton.

The Bishop, we discovered was very keen on visiting his parishioners and would bring Holy Communion to anybody unable, for some reason, to get to the church. He particularly liked visiting at a time when it was appropriate to offer him a glass of sherry. He used to blow his nose loudly on a large red and white spotted handkerchief; people in the road would look round!

On one occasion when we were in church, he was reading the first lesson which was about the crossing of the Red Sea “.. and the Lord said...” and then he seemed to lose his place “ and the Lord said.....”, “ and the Lord said FORWARD”. I whispered to Frances “ I’m sure the Lord didn’t say FORWARD “ and if you check in the Old Testament you’ll find whether He did or didn’t. The Bishop was a splendid person and we all missed him when he was no longer with us.

He had a good and very strong singing voice but unfortunately he sometimes lost his place in the hymns as well. This was very worrying for Miss Betty Pride who played the organ for many years. She didn’t know when the Bishop would go on singing after the congregation had finished the last verse or whether she had to join him in “Amen”, a verse too soon.

When we first came to Holly House nearly all the garden was taken up with very old apple trees, most of which we had removed. However one of them still remains at the top of the garden with mistletoe growing in it. That is why our present home is called Orchard House.

As you can see Whilton continued to be a small, friendly and welcoming village, but now we had cope with the problems of the garden and the orchard, not to mention the cats.

***To be continued***

Diana Scott

## SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Apr	7.30 pm	WGA in village hall "Garden Design & Creative Planning"
Tues	4 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	9.05 am	Library Van in village outside The Old Plough
Tues	11 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	7.30 pm	Whilton Photographic Club, Village Hall
Fri	14 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	10.00 am	Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt , Gt Brington Church
Tues	18 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	9.05 am	Library Van in village outside The Old Plough
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Apr	1.00 pm	St Andrew's Church Car Boot Sale 1.00 -4.00 pm, Wadd Close
Tues	25 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	7.30 pm	Whilton Photographic Club, Village Hall
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	May	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall
Tues	16 <sup>th</sup>	May	7.30 pm	Whilton Photographic Club, Photographing at Locks
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	May		<b><u>Newsletter Deadline for June</u> – Please hand in your contribution well before this date or otherwise we cannot guarantee it will be included in the next edition</b>

The Whilton Newsletter is published bi-monthly and circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council. The Editors are:

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We are always pleased to receive additional contributions from people who do not normally have an input, especially children

Please supply a disk with your contribution if possible so that we can manipulate the text to fit if necessary. If you do not have a PC or typewriter the editors will type the articles as we have always done in the past.

Articles of local interest, poems, recipes, puzzles or drawings will always be considered for inclusion in the Newsletter.