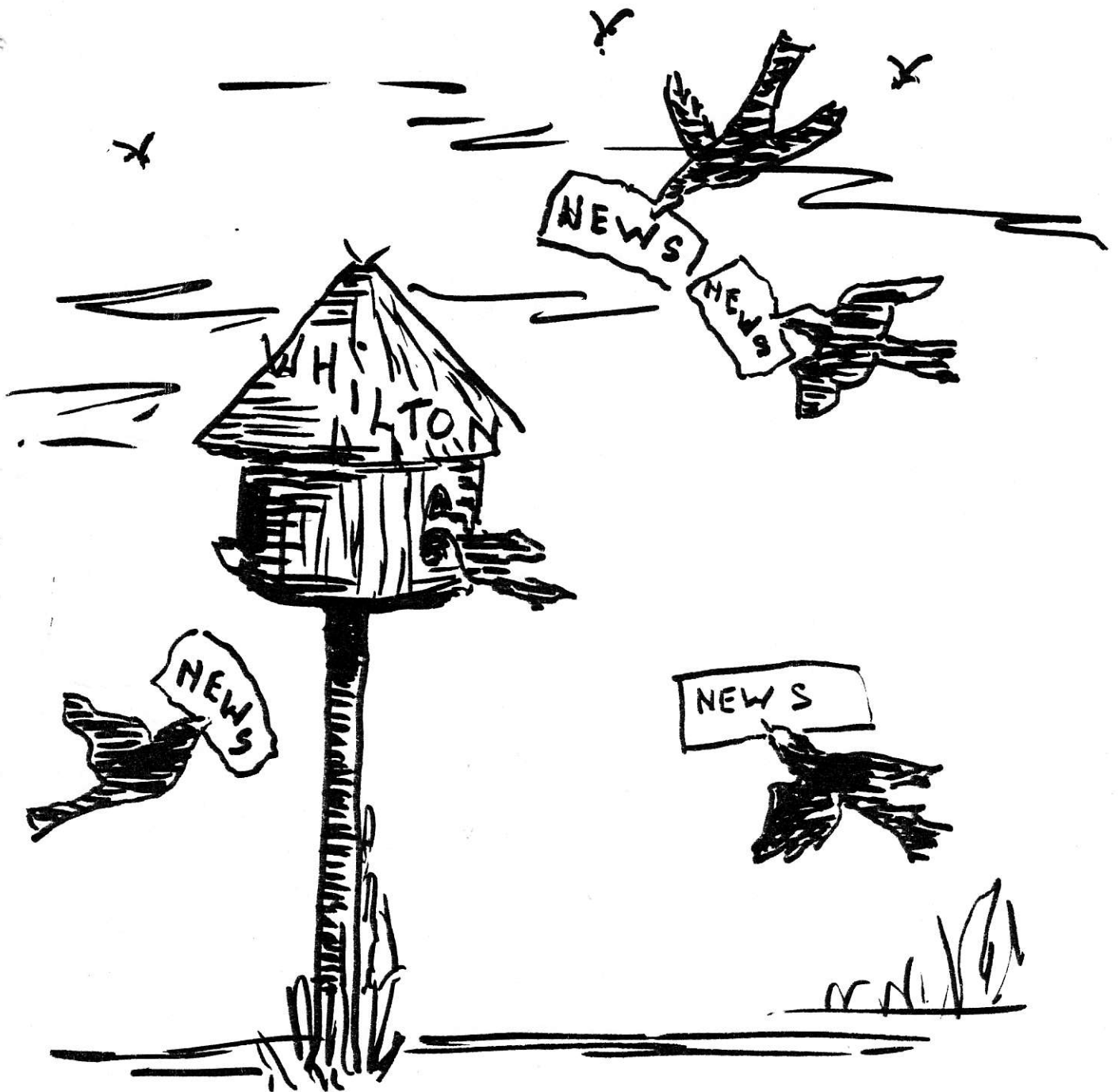


# WHILTON NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1993



## Eds' Notes

As you will have noticed, we do have an illustrated front cover this month! Our blank sheet on the last issue did prompt two people to send in designs for our cover, one of which we have used this time, and we thank the two folk who took the trouble to make the effort. Can we have some more ideas next time, please?

You will see that this issue has been sponsored by the Whilton Locks Carpet Company. This is the first time we have had a sponsor and we express our grateful thanks to Ken & Lucia Wright, the proprietors of the Carpet Company. If anyone else feels they would like to sponsor an edition please get in touch with a member of the editorial team.

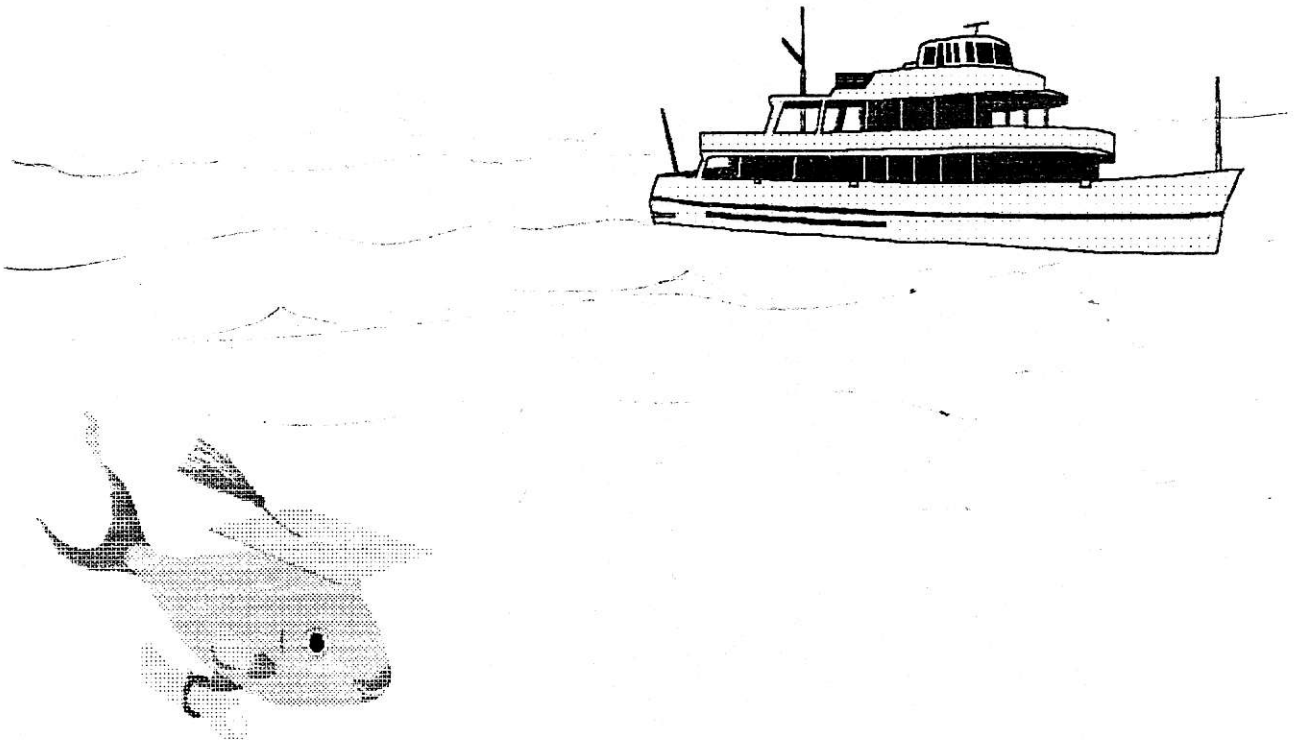
You will also notice that this issue uses different types of print. We would be interested to know if you have a greater preference for one style than another. If so, will you please note the page numbers of the style you prefer and let one of us know your preference.

The judging in the first round of the "Best Kept Village" and "Best Kept Churchyard" competitions has already taken place. If perchance Whilton has advanced to the next round, the semi-final stage, in either competition, the judging for that round takes place during the month of August so we need to be on our toes!

The judging for the "Britain in Bloom" competition will also have taken place by the time you receive this Newsletter. Let's hope Whilton has been successful in at least one of these competitions!

Best wishes to everyone for a lovely summer holiday.

Ed's.



## Church Services

On the first Sunday of each month there is a Benefice Eucharist at 10.00am at each of the three churches in turn. It is Brington's turn on the 1st August and Whilton's on 5th September. The services at Whilton on the other Sundays are normally at 6.00pm, being a Sung Eucharist on the third Sunday of the month and Evensong followed by a shortened form of Communion on the other Sundays.

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CANON JIM WRITES.....

The word 'church' can mean two different things: a building - or people. It is obvious that a village church as beautiful and well-positioned as St. Andrew's contributes enormously as a building to the look and 'feel' of our community. There it stands at the heart of Whilton, its tower visible for miles, and we would all be the poorer without it. It is entirely right that we keep it in good order, and you will have noticed that the building contractors have been working on the church, restoring stonework, painting down-pipes, mending floors and improving the path to the main door. Soon the clock face will be refurbished in memory of Will Adams.

Nevertheless, the building is primarily the place where the 'Church' meets - the people of God coming together in the house of God. That is what St. Andrew's is for. I suppose only about 5% of Whilton uses the church building for that purpose, and if I were an economist or involved in strategy reviews I would have to ask whether the numbers justify the existence of the plant. I can foresee a time when the building will be used for purposes other than worship, as would have happened centuries ago when the nave - without pews then - was a kind of village hall. But all that lies some way ahead.

Actually, I have an invitation. On Sunday, 26th September we are celebrating the Harvest Thanksgiving in Whilton, and at 3.00pm there will be a special Family Service, followed by refreshments. It is open to everyone in the village, not least the children, and I hope you will come if you can. Looking a bit further ahead, will you also put in your diary Sunday, 12th December at 4.00pm when there will be a Christingle Service for families at the church. Christingle? If I say oranges with candles and fruits stuck in does that give a hint? Well, if not then watch this space in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Going to church services can, I know, be nerve-shattering! It is like that with anything unfamiliar. But you will find a warm and friendly welcome at St. Andrew's, not only at the services I've talked about, but on any Sunday. Give it a go.

There is other news too, and this follows my bit.

Every blessing.

Jim Richardson, Parish Priest  
Great Brington Rectory,  
0604-770402

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## Whilton Church Bells

The six bells, which were cast in 1777 by Pack and Chapman at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, were given by William Lucas Rose, who was at that time patron of the living. He also had the upper part of the tower built to house the bells. The 5th and Tenor bells were recast by C. & G. Mears in 1853 and the 4th recast by Mears & Stainbank in 1900. The peal was re-hung at the latter date, on a steel frame, by Messrs. Webb & Bennett, each bell, other than the recast 4th, being quarter turned so that the clapper struck a different point on the bell. The bells range in weight from a Treble of 4cwt. 3qt. 25lb. to a Tenor of 9cwt. 3qt. 1lb. and are in the key of G.

Apart from very minor repairs carried out by the ringers themselves over the years, no work has been done to the bells, frame and fittings since the re-hanging in 1900. Some concern has recently been expressed at the condition of the bells and also the safety aspect. It was decided, therefore, to call in the experts to examine the bells and fittings and to submit a report, together with recommendations as to what should be done to put everything in good order. The report has not yet been received and, when it is, will have to be considered by the Parochial Church Council.

In the meantime some of the bellringers and others have got together to launch a "Bell Restoration Fund" in anticipation that it will be agreed to put some work in hand in the not too distant future. The first fund-raising event will be

## A Vintage & Country Fair

at

Home Farm, Whilton

on

Saturday, 21st August

from 2.30 pm - 5.30pm

There will be lots to see and enjoy. Vintage cars and tractors, threshing machine, old farm implements, fair organs, sheep dog demonstration, bell display, crafts, various stalls, competitions, raffle, etc. Teas will be served during the afternoon.

**Make this a date - further details later.**

Harold Haynes

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## Milk tops and stamps

Two sacks of tops and foil have been delivered since our last issue. The number of stamps has broken all records!

Many thanks to all who take the trouble to co-operate. Keep on saving!

Trudy Haynes

## PARISH APPRAISAL

You may recall, (or I hope you will) that in the latter part of last year the appraisal group mounted an exhibition in the village hall to indicate what was implied by a Parish Appraisal and what they hoped to do.

During this year we have been collecting material which will allow us to give a picture of the village and Locks as they now are together with what residents remember them to have been. In addition some historical background will be included so that we can see in what ways we are better off and in what ways worse. We would hope from this to draw some conclusions about the future of the parish and to make recommendations to retain what we value and to create in the future what we need and wish to have.

We are now in the process of getting in the last of our material, collating it and preparing for editing and publication, which we hope will be in the Autumn.

Although we have received some grants from the County Council via Northamptonshire ACRE and from Daventry District Council, we shall need another £500 at least to print and publish the document. It is hoped to sell sufficient copies to cover our costs and any profits will be used for the benefit of the village. In many villages costs have been helped by local sponsorship and by the early ordering of copies at a slightly reduced price.

The Appraisal is the first to be carried out in the parish and as such is a historic document. We hope that if you have not been able to help us in writing it you will give your support financially.

We shall be writing to residents to explain this in more detail in the near future.

Frances Drake.

PS.

If any business person has access to a colour laser printer and a flat bed scanner then the Appraisal group would love to hear from you. The difference that this type of equipment would make to the finished product would be immeasurable.

Jim Gardner.

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The following was received when a person enquired of a hotel, whether she could take her dog with her on holiday ;

Dear Madam,

By all means bring your dog along - dogs rate high in this hotel.

Never has a dog become drunk and caused damage to furniture.

We have never had a dog go to sleep and set a mattress on fire with a lighted cigarette.

We have never found towels in a dog's suitcase.

So do bring your dog along.

PS. If your dog will vouch for you, you can come too !!

Jean Waights.

## GOING ON HOLIDAY

**But you can look after it while you're away ...**

Everyone needs a holiday sometime. And however much you like your home, there's nothing like a change of surroundings. But you want to come home and find everything as you left it.

The check list below will help you to keep your home secure. Read it now so that you can plan ahead. Then tick off the items just before you go.

It's also a good idea to join the 'Good Neighbour Scheme'. All you have to do is fill in the card which can be obtained from your local police station.

### C H E C K L I S T

Lock all doors and windows  
Lock the garage or shed and put all your tools away. If you have to leave a ladder out, padlock it to a secure fixture.

Don't lock internal doors and desks. This only means more damage is someone breaks in.

Cancel deliveries of milk newspapers etc.

Deposit small valuable items like jewellery, at the bank.

Using an 'invisible' marking pen, mark all remaining items of value with your postcode and house number or the first two letters of the house name. Then if they are stolen and subsequently recovered, the police can identify and return them to you.

Don't draw your blinds and curtains. An automatic time-switch to switch a light on and off in a downstairs room is a good investment.

Arrange for pets to be properly looked after.

Turn off gas and water supplies. Turn off electricity unless you need it for a time-switch or freezer.

Cut lawns before you go.

Arrange for a kind neighbour to put out your dustbin.

And finally, don't forget to make sure your house and its contents are adequately insured.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mrs. Angela Tilston is no longer able to continue as the Watch Co-ordinator for the village, owing to moving plans. We would like to thank her for all the effort and warnings which have greatly helped to keep crime in Whilton to a minimum.

The new Co-ordinator will be Mrs. Christine Bilsborough of Ashridge House, Langton Rise (tel: 842860) who will pass relevant information around the top of the village. Mr. Derek Brown of Cherry Orton (tel: 842968) will be acting as contact for the lower half of the village.

### Advice from Daventry Police

The following points are often forgotten but they are vitally important to remember in the fight against crime:-

- 1) Keep all doors locked.  
Do not open unless you are sure of the caller's identity.
- 2) Always check the identity of strangers. If in doubt do not open the door. Distraction burglaries are increasing.  
**DO NOT LET STRANGERS IN.**
- 3) Close all windows before going out. Summertime is an open invitation to burglars.
- 4) Mark all personal property with a security pen  
e.g. Tvs, videos, microwaves, hi-fi equipment, cameras etc
- 5) Never leave anything in parked cars. Lock all doors and shut all windows. Auto-crime is rising
- 6) If you see anything suspicious contact Daventry Control Room on 300300 immediately. Try to take car numbers and descriptions of people if possible.

### STOP PRESS

At the present time, P.C. Paul Furlong and P.C. Mark Osborne are patrolling the Daventry area in a concerted effort to crack down on auto-crime. They ask that you notify them at Daventry Control Room (tel:300300) if you see anything suspicious - however small in the village, and they will respond to your call as quickly as possible.

C.M.Bilsborough



## REPORT ON COMMUNITY WATCH CO-ORDINATORS MEETING

A meeting of local co-ordinators and members of Daventry Area Police was held on 9th June, 1993 at the Saracens Head, Towcester.

### Introduction by Supt. Phil Vickers

Daventry Area Police cover the Daventry, Towcester and Brackley area of the County.

There has been an increase of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes within this area and the local police are pleased with this support and with the resulting increase of information. The detection of burglary has increased and the rise of domestic violence has been halted. This decrease in reported crime in the Daventry area is an encouraging trend and one which it is hoped will continue.

### Progress Report by P.C. Downing

In December 1981 there were 61 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in operation. By May 1993 this had been increased to 133 schemes with several more in preparation.

There are also 6 Business Watch Schemes with 378 firms involved and 5 Farm Watch Schemes containing 120 farms with 20 more farms on line.

Additionally 2 Horse Watch Schemes are being formed with 150 participants.

All these schemes are regarded as an important way of passing on information which will help to catch criminals in an act of crime.

All information given will be actively pursued by the police.

### Crime Trends by Chief Inspector Alistair Dalton

Up to the end of May 1993 there had been a 4% decrease in reported crime in the area which is encouraging, as the overall trend is up.

30% of all crime is auto-crime, usually committed by gangs moving into the villages from the towns. This is increasing.

Daventry Police require more officers to maintain their 1983 levels of staffing, but this deficiency is to some extent offset by dramatically improved detection methods.

There has also been increased cross-border liason with Thames Valley Police, West Midlands Police and Warwickshire Police.

### Fingerprint Bureau by Mr. David Goodwin

The fingerprint bureau was opened in 1990. No two sets of fingerprints are alike and an average fingerprint has 120 characteristics. 16 characteristics are required to identify an individual without doubt. Elimination fingerprints are vital



to crime detection and it is important that everybody co-operates in supplying these if requested. Such fingerprints are not kept.

At the present time a new computerised system is being introduced known as the Automatic Fingerprint System. This is a most important step forward in the Daventry area as it will immediately link up with other police forces.

#### Communication by Supt. Vickers and P.C. Downing

A full-time co-ordinator is to be requested by Daventry Police to be in touch with local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. There is also a suggestion of a computer linked to co-ordinators being installed which could pass on information very quickly. The combination of people it could contact is endless and it would be a major advance in personal communication.

#### Summary

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are community led and it is up to each individual to get in touch with the local police if they see something suspicious.

Daventry Police wish to work in partnership with village communities and they will always do their best to respond to all calls.

C.M. Bilborough.

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#### Brington and Whilton Playgroup

##### Sponsored Walk

At the beginning of the school year the Playgroup was really struggling for numbers. The situation is much healthier now and it looks as though we shall have a good number of children starting next September. Low numbers has meant that we (the mums) have had to fund raise quite hard this year. Our last effort was a sponsored walk at the beginning of April. The mums walked 8 miles across fields from Brington to Whilton through Brocknall and back to Brington and we raised £200.50. We were delighted with the result and thank all who supported us. I think, for the mums, the best bit was leaving the children at home for the whole morning with the dads!

##### Buffet Lunch/Bouncy Castle Day

On Thursday 19th August we are offering lunches and bounces on a castle at Fallowfield, Whilton (the Kane's home).

Baked potatoes, fillings and salads will be served from 12.00 noon onwards. £2-50 Adults and £1-00 for Children includes the lunch and plenty of bouncing. If you would rather not stop for lunch, refreshments and the castle will be available from 10-30am till 12-00 noon and from 2-30pm till 4-30pm. **Please do come along.** Tickets for lunches available from Mary Kane (Long Buckby 842618) and Alex Ward (Northampton 770879).

## Whilton Gardeners' Association

June's meeting was very well attended when a very comprehensive and interesting talk was given by Mr. Michael Davies, 'Plantsman' of West Haddon Garden Centre, on Trees and Shrubs for the small garden.

Mr. Davies advised that you consider your soil and the type of garden you would like - Spring or Summer - and to grow trees and shrubs that suit your garden and to grow them well - very sound advice for success.

Thanks were expressed to all who have planted beds, borders, hanging baskets, tubs, etc. round the village ready for the "Britain in Bloom" Competition - judging to take place between 10th and 18th July, 1993. Good luck, Whilton!

It was agreed that visits to members' gardens would take place on Saturday, 26th June, at 3.00pm, weather permitting.

At the next meeting, on the 2nd August, the speaker will be Mr. D. Patrick of Ravensthorpe, whose subject will be 'Colour throughout the year in the Herbaceous Border'. Mr Patrick very kindly brings specimens from his own cottage garden.

Eileen Finnemore

W.G.A. members - please note.

The Purchasing Officers would be grateful if members attending the August meeting would let them know whether or not they wish to see a Dobie's catalogue this year, with a view to submitting an order, as it may be necessary to request extra catalogues.

Advice regarding a change in the procedure for the return of catalogues will be sent with meeting reminders.

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## Whilton W.I.

The W.I. members met on Wednesday, 9th June.

Arrangements for the use of the group tickets for the Patchwork Exhibition at Althorp were discussed. Those who since attended this exhibition were amazed at the variety of subjects and the high standard of artistry and needlework shown. It was a wonderful experience.

A letter of appreciation had been received from 'Age Concern' for the £50.50 collected from the village.

Mrs. Lovell gave an account of an amazing, month-long journey across India. The 'Hotel' shared with her fellow travellers consisted of two railway coaches which were transferred from one express train to another.

Her adventures were graphically described and one observation which came across forcibly was that of the great difference between the rich and the many people who lived in great poverty. Everyone appreciated Mrs. Lovell's courage in undertaking such an adventurous journey and enjoyed sharing her experiences.

At the next meeting, on Wednesday, 14th July, Mr. John Kelly will present "More Desert Island Discs".

Trudy Haynes

## AUGUST

The following is an extract from "The Country Year"

by Geoffrey Young

"In this, the traditional month for the harvest, the skies may be rather variable. Indeed, August can be quite a wet month, and is less likely to have spells of sunny holiday weather than July. The moors are now deeply purpled with flowering heather at its peak. However, morning mists across the meadows, ripening hazel nuts in the lanes, and the first ripe blackberries all presage the coming of autumn.

Clues that August is well past the peak of summer are everywhere to be seen - in the ripening berries and seeds, the congregating clans of house martins and swallows, and other pre-migration stirrings of the birds. Interesting sightings are made at reservoirs, estuaries and other ornithological magnets. But even among the blackbirds and other birds which do not migrate, there is a loosening of the territorial ties

Of bird song itself, that of the robin tends to strengthen late in the month, though sounding rather wistful and lacking the boldness of spring. The wren and the dunnock may also be heard again in August.

August is, of course, the traditional harvest month, and it was mainly for this reason, rather than any weather considerations, that it became the main school holiday month also. In the past, the village children were recruited to help with the harvest - even the youngest child could play a useful role in keeping the pigeons and crows away from the gleanings - and the first general Education Acts of Victorian times, providing primary school education for all, took account of this.

For those lucky enough to visit them, the moors are at the peak of their beauty in August, with the purple heather rolling like a sea under clear blue skies. Normally the sky is rather pale with dust at this time, but the frequent rain of the hills can clear the air.

As suits a holiday month, the coast is often sunnier than inland in August, especially in the south. East-coast resorts also live up to their bracing reputation, with a brisk sea breeze common in August. The land heats up faster than the sea; thus, in sunshine, warmed and lighter air rises over the land, drawing air from the sea.

The rising air over the land is also much appreciated by swifts for its reliable lift. The birds travel long distances to take advantage of and feed in such favourable natural weather conditions as this".

### VILLAGE OUTING - MAY 1993

On Tuesday, 18th May at 9.15am, we boarded the coach to Hampton Court. Thirty one villagers and friends soon settled down to an enjoyable ride through the beautiful green May countryside; even the M.40 had its compensations with its views of the Chilterns.

Our coach parked at the local station due to security regulations but the walk to Hampton Court Palace over the Thames river bridge was pleasant in the warm sunshine and just right to walk off the stiffness and acquire an appetite for lunch.

A stroll round the gardens was pleasant after lunch especially through the "Laburnham Walk" which was at its very best. The flowers and shrubs were beautiful and the trees were magnificent.

All the Monarchs who lived at Hampton Court left their individual mark on the Palace Gardens and some of the gardens are best appreciated from within the Palace itself.

All the tours inside the Palace were extremely interesting and the costumed guides stationed everywhere were very helpful. The extra little details they gave us were amusing as well as informative. One lady gave us a demonstration in curtsying explaining that the higher the rank; the deeper the curtsy or bow.

The restoration work that had been carried out after the recent fire had been done very tastefully. In fact, flooring in one area had been replaced by the original type of wood and not the type damaged in the fire. Apparently, most of the problem had been smoke damage; this meant that pictures and tapestries were cleaned and their beauty revealed ahead of schedule.

The Tudor kitchens were also fascinating - hygiene unknown and what huge appetites they must have had!

Quite a few of our party entered the Maze, but although everyone was safely seated on the coach for the return journey, no one seemed to admit solving it without a little outside help.

We had all enjoyed ourselves very much again on a Whilton village outing and thank Diane Scott for another success.

Shirley Brown.

### WHILTON W.I. PARISH WALK

Nine adults, four children and three dogs set out on a pleasant June evening to walk a local footpath. The route taken was to Brockhall which was looking very attractive with roses round the doors of little thatched cottages and panoramic views across the undulating countryside. The by-way was used to take the walkers to a well-defined footpath across two fields to the Nobottle Road. After crossing the road, two more meadows and the stream in the spinney were negotiated. The final stage was the newly diverted footpath across the field to the metalled road and back to the Village Hall where most welcome refreshments were waiting.

Shirley Brown.

## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

### Barn Dance

The morning of the 26th June didn't look too bright, but it stayed dry and warm as the "workers" swept the barn, fetched the bales, hauled tables and chairs, washed the lettuces and hulled the strawberries.

On the evening 119 villagers and friends gathered at Roughmoor Grounds. Barn dance music was supplied by the Gaberlunzies - a wonderful group of people who managed to persuade even the "I don't dance" people on to the floor. The cooks arrived and toiled over hot coals to provide supper, the ladies dished salads and potatoes and the bar was busy all evening!

An enormous thank you goes to Mr. & Mrs. Davies for allowing us the use of their barn and field, to Derek Coates for arranging the music, to Tom Treacey for donating the beer, to Brigid Fisher for donating the strawberries and icecream, to the team who cleaned and prepared the barn and tidied up afterwards, to the team of cooks, the team of salad preparers and servers, to Derek and Shirley Brown who worked so hard all night behind the bar, to Janet Bowers who organised the raffle and finally thanks to all who came and made the whole evening so successful. The proceeds from the evening totalled £368-19 which will be put into Village Hall funds.

### 200 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the May and June Club Draws

On 28th May the winners were:-

1st Prize	-	No. 187	-	V. Maurice-Smith
2nd Prize	-	No. 155	-	D. Scott
3rd Prize	-	No. 109	-	M. Roy

On 26th June the winners were:-

1st Prize	-	No. 078	-	G. Tilston
2nd Prize	-	No. 012	-	R. & S. Green
3rd Prize	-	No. 116	-	C. Higham

The next draw will be held on Friday 23rd July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Mary Kane

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## COOKERY IDEAS

Try this delicious SWEET CRUMBLE to store in the freezer awaiting just the right moment to top a summer pudding.

### INGREDIENTS

8 ozs wholewheat flour.  
4 ozs butter or margarine  
2 - 3ozs chopped walnuts  
3 ozs brown sugar.

Combine in a food processor until it resembles fine bread crumbs. This can be placed in freezer bag until required.

### SUGGESTION - Gooseberry Cheesecake Crumble

Spread 6 ozs of the crumble on to a baking tray and cook until golden brown in a fairly hot oven. Leave to cool. Meanwhile, puree 12 ozs cooked gooseberries - these can be cooked in the microwave in a very little water (but prick the skins first) for 3-4 minutes and then pushed through a fine sieve. Allow to cool. Stir 7 ozs "lite" cream cheese and 4 ozs caster sugar into the puree. Sprinkle some cooked crumble in the bottom of 4 sundae dishes then add some puree and finally cover the tops with the remaining crumble. Cover and refrigerate until required.

### VEGETABLE CRUMBLE TOPPING

#### INGREDIENTS

8 ozs brown bread without crusts  
2 ozs butter  
2 ozs cheddar cheese  
1 clove garlic  
1 teaspoon chopped fresh or dried herbs

Put into food processor and mix until it resembles fine crumbs. They can now be frozen in polythene bags or plastic boxes with lids

### SUGGESTION - Vegetable Crumble

Optional -< Pour half a pint of boiling water over 4 tablespoons of cracked wheat (Bulgar) and allow to soak>.

Fry a medium onion gently in a little olive oil with 3 ozs mushrooms and some chopped peppers. When soft take out of the pan with a slotted spoon. Chop some carrots, celery, broccoli stalks, swede, courgettes or any available vegetable into small chunks. Fry these on both sides in olive oil until browned and slightly soft. Now add back the onions mushrooms and peppers. Make a pint of stock with a vegetable stock cube and bring to the boil and then simmer for ten minutes. If used, the bulgar wheat can be drained and added at this stage. If the stock requires thickening, vegetarian gravy powder by Sainsburys is quite tasty. Now place in a pie or casserole dish and add the crumble topping. Cook at 160 degrees C for about 30 minutes until the topping is golden brown.

For the next newsletter we would like you to submit some of your favourite vegetarian recipes.



## VILLAGE OUTING REPORT

15th June 1993 - Village Outing to Hidcote Manor Garden and Sudeley Castle. This diary entry gave no hint of the pleasure to come.

Rain the day before, rain the day after, how did Diana choose the day in the middle for what was, for me, the best outing to date. Our careful driver, who deserves a word of praise, made the journey through beautiful country lanes a real contribution to the enjoyment.

Memories of Hidcote Manor Gardens were enhanced by the continued high standard of care and maintenance of the extensive topiary and imaginative new planting. After exploring the many garden "rooms", enjoying the beauty of the "stilt garden", the Long Walk and the borders of delphiniums at their best - it was good to be served with an excellent lunch.

Sudeley Castle was less of a ruin than expected and was characterised by many small rooms, faithfully maintaining their connections with the past. There was evidence of many changes of ownership mostly by Loyalist subjects but for a time Parliamentarian troops, and for a short period by the Marquis of Northampton. Queen Katherine Parr's remains were buried under the floor of the church and now lie in a marble tomb in the chancel. The present nobility in residence, Lord and Lady Ashcombe discreetly display their family photographs on the grand piano - a striking contrast !

En route for home - still on the scenic route - an unscheduled stop at a farm shop proved fruitful !!

Unlimited praise and thanks have again been earned by Diana for all the thought and hard work that alone ensure success.

Norma Henson

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### JOIN THE CLUB !!

Just a line to say I'm living,  
That I'm not amongst the dead.  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And mixed up in the head.  
I've got used to my arthritis,  
To my dentures I'm resigned.  
I can cope with my bi-focals,  
But - ye gods - I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember  
When I'm standing by the stairs,  
If I'm going up for something,  
Or have just come down from there.  
And before the fridge so often  
My mind is full of doubt,  
Now did I put some food away,  
Or come to take some out ?

If it's not my turn to write dear  
I hope you won't be sore.  
I may think I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.  
So remember I do love you,  
And wished that you lived near.  
But now it's time to mail this  
And say "Goodbye my dear".

I'm standing beside the mail box,  
And my face - it sure is red.  
Instead of posting this to you  
I've opened it instead.

# Have a nice day at Whilton Locks

A lot of interesting activities will be taking place around Whilton Locks on Sunday, August 22, when local businesses will be staging a Grand Union Walkabout.

The event has been designed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Grand Union Canal with a whole afternoon of family entertainment.

From 2 pm to 7 pm, visitors armed with lucky programmes will be able to roam around the mile-long locks flight and enjoy activities and demonstrations dreamed up by individual businesses.

At the time of writing they include brief cruises along the "cut," buskers and folksingers, a bag and rugmaking demonstration, a disco, miniature golf, pigeon-shooting and go-karting, guessing the weight of a Vietnamese pig, painting and patchwork demonstrations, a car boot sale and pottery-throwing.

## Learn the spoons...

Other goodies are on the cards, such as a workshop in playing the traditional spoons, a bric-a-brac stall and the ancient ceremony of gosling "patting."

It could be an exhausting afternoon for people determined to see everything. But others will be able to take it easy - teas and snacks will be available and one businessman plans to bring in a coachload of elderly people to sit on his lawn and enjoy the sights of the waterside.

The Walkabout is being organised by Whilton and Buckby Locks Tourism and Commerce Association, whose 30 or so members have businesses around the flight and would like to bring in more visitors from the immediate locality because it's good for trade and because the homespun attractions of the historic canal have been sadly neglected; there is a growing realisation that it is one of the key leisure spots of the district.

Within living memory the Locks were the important midway resting-stage for thousands of commercial boats plying between London and the Midlands during the era of "canal mania" which provided the transportation impetus for the Industrial Revolution.

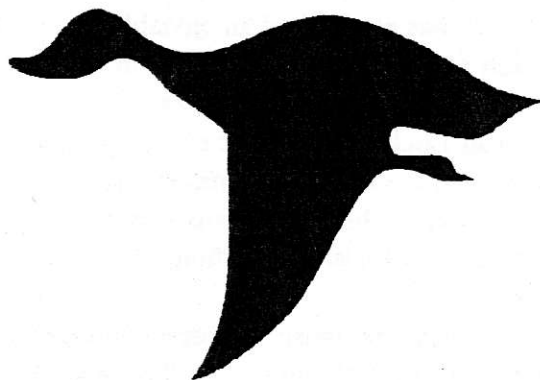
Today the canal scene has completely changed. The waterway is used almost entirely for leisure, with some 8,500 boats passing through the flight each year, thousands of walkers, anglers, and wildlife lovers.

## Heritage walk

To mark the Grand Union anniversary British Waterways has provided many improvements along the flight, including the "People Pipe" which allows visitors to pass safely under the A5 at the top lock. The parish now has a direct link to the national heritage canal walk from Birmingham to London.

As a tribute to his work in tidying-up the flight, cutting the grass verges and painting the locks, local lock-keeper Gerry Burke has been elected as the association's only honorary member.

More improvements are planned, such as a



memorial garden for Whilton's legendary lock-keeper, Henry Grantham. This will be sited at the bottom lock, and at the next lock up, junior members of the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust are now caring for the two side-ponds where he once whistled-up his amazingly tame carp.

The association's first chairperson is Simon Ainley, BW's regional waterway manager, who says: "Canals regenerate and refresh people. We want more to enjoy them and to support the many little businesses which are continuing their commercial tradition. We are intent on strengthening our links with the surrounding communities and conserving and enhancing a major leisure amenity."

The Grand Union Walkabout is being advertised in the three parishes through which the flight passes (the others are Norton and Long Buckby) and also in Daventry.

Programmes (20p), including a map of all the attractions, are on sale in Whilton village through sources listed on the village notice-board, and you are invited to get yours soon before they run out!

## Funtime for businesses

Businesses from Whilton parish taking part in the fun include:

Whilton Marina, a magnet for canal-boaters from many parts of Britain (it also contains the parish's only grocery store).

The Garden Centre, which offers a wide range of gardening supplies, a pet centre, a coldwater fish centre, a coffee-shop and a miniature golf course.

The Carpet Centre (formerly the Locks pub), which has established an enviable reputation for its range and expertise in floor-coverings for homes and businesses.

Whilton Locks Pottery, where Peter Ilsley produces a wide variety of domestic and decorative wares - his crystal pots were recently selected for an international exhibition.

Saxon Lifts, the parish's biggest employer, which has been quietly moving in throughout

the summer from its former factory in Daventry - its products include specialised lifts enabling disabled people to use narrowboats.

Jeff Corbett, boatbuilder at the Marina, who works on his own, fitting out superb traditional boats.

Tony Forward, a talented handyman who works from his boat Mooloolaba, moored in the Marina. He recently completed orders for traditional benches for British Waterways and made the superb decorated bench commemorating Henry Grantham which has been on show at BW's Braunston headquarters.

Dynamor, where civil engineer John Woods has been working on projects for the Channel Tunnel and tunnels in Portugal, Belgium and Sweden.

Whilton Mill, where farmer Roger Ashby has created a unique hospitality suite incorporating the ancient mill machinery for representatives of top firms who come in to enjoy go-karting, clay-pigeon shooting and other activities.

Make sure of your programme now - and, as we tend to say to people who haven't yet toured the Locks, "Do drop in!"

*Tom Price*



## Summary of Events

Sun. 1st August 10.00am Benefice Service, **Brington Church**

Mon. 2nd August 7.30pm Gardeners' Association, Village Hall

Whilton W.I. - There is no meeting in August

Thurs. 19th August Buffet Lunch/Bouncy Castle Day - Fallowfield

Sat. 21st August 2.30pm Vintage & Country Fair, Home Farm

Sun. 22nd August 2.00pm Grand Union Walkabout, Whilton Locks

Sun. 5th Sept. 10.00am Benefice Service, **Whilton Church**

Thurs. 16th Sept. Village Outing - see notice board

Thurs. 16th Sept **Deadline for October Newsletter**  
(Don't forget your vegetarian recipes for this issue)

Advance Notice - Sat. 20th November - Christmas Bazaar - Whilton Church

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The Whilton Newsletter is published bi-monthly and  
circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary

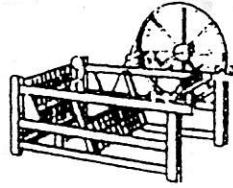
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Mr. Harold Haynes  
Mrs. Trudy Haynes  
Mr. Jim Gardner  
Mrs. Anne Heeley  
Mrs. Shirley Brown

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