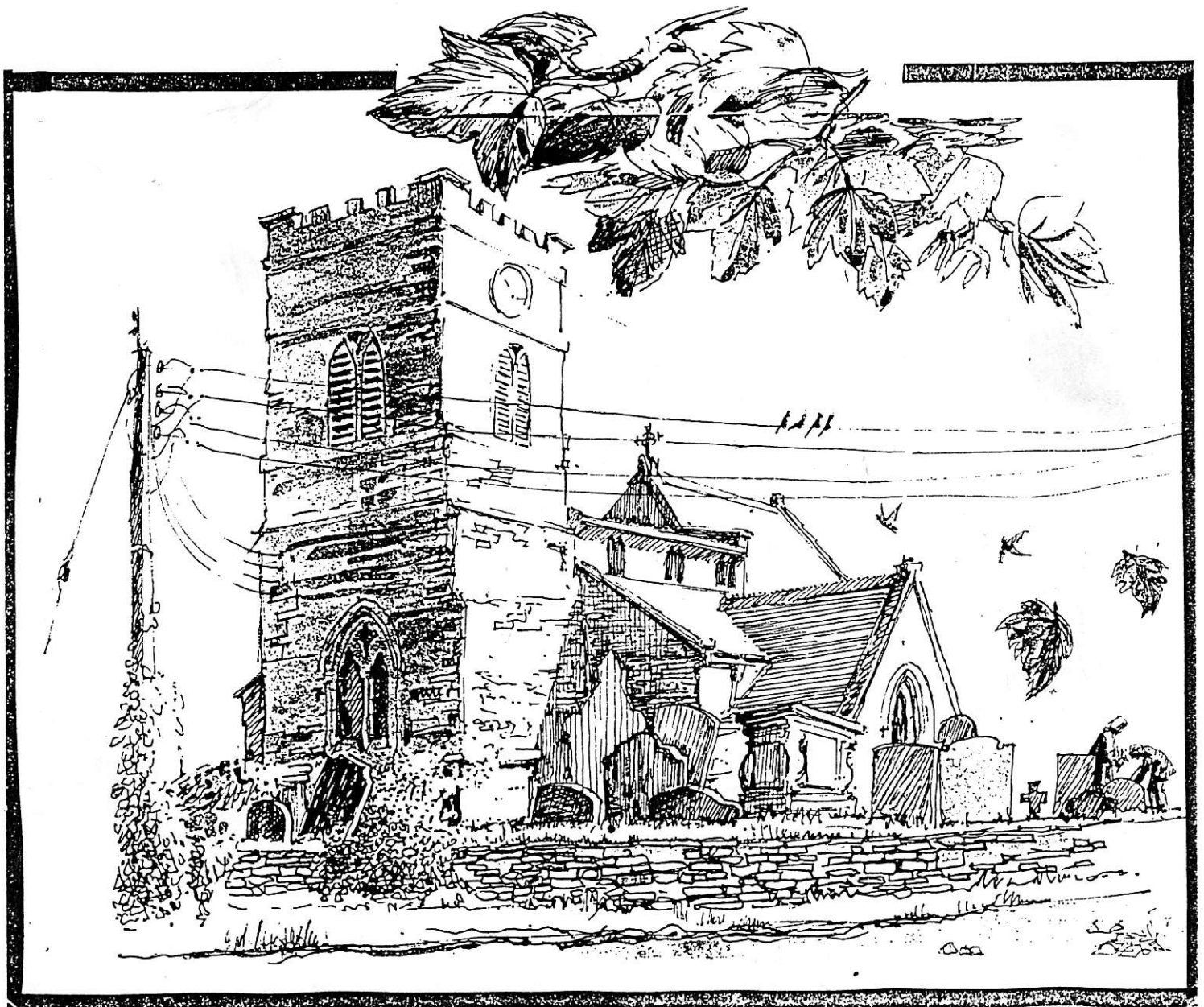


WHILTON NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1995



Whilton Parish Council Report

A Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 26th June in the Village Hall, amongst the discussion which took place were the following items:

Parish contingency budget - it was agreed to ask the County Council to go ahead and part kerb the grass triangle at the lower end of the village. Unfortunately there were not enough funds to completely kerb the triangle, but it was felt that at least the vulnerable edges could be protected.

Planning - DA/95/0117, Change of use of Agricultural land to storage of up to 300 caravans, land adjacent to Whilton Marina, Whilton Locks. The application has been permitted.

DA/95/0357 and DA/95/0358/LB removal of existing roof structure and new slated roof built, new pitched roof over existing flat roof extension at Fieldview Cottage. The application had been permitted.

DA/95/0339, Outline application for one bungalow, plot adjacent to The Old Cottage, Whilton. The application had been refused.

Lease for the Allotment land - negotiations are presently taking place to secure the allotment land on lease from the District Council for a further period after the present lease expires early in 1996.

Plaque - The Parish Council were advised that the plaque in church commemorating the work carried out on the clock had been dedicated.

Parish Road Safety Representative - The County Council are looking for a local representative from Whilton, are you interested? Any offers will be welcome - contact the Clerk for details - no obligation!

Recycling with DDC - a new scheme to help residents recycle items is being launched, a newsletter will be delivered to you soon - Whilton scheme will start in February 1996.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday September 4th - 8.00 pm in the village hall** - you are welcome to attend.

Anne Heeley (843270)

6 INTO 1 DOES GO (I THINK)

The united parishes of the Bringtons with Nobottle, Norton, Whilton, East Haddon with Holdenby, Church with Chapel Brampton, and Harlestone have now been in operation for over a year - one full-time parson (me!) covering an area running from Northampton to Daventry. The arrangement, not yet formalised by law, has recently been subject to an interim inspection by the diocese to see how things are working out, and whether I am still alive. A report has been published, and is available free of charge from the church.

The inspectors (who preferred to be called visitors), and included the Archdeacon of Northampton, had not come to criticise but rather to give an objective assessment of the viability of the present scheme. They looked at the workload of myself and the part-time staff (Karen Jongman, the Reverends Norman Knibbs and Max Parker, and Joan Lee, my secretary), the pattern of services in all the churches, parish administration, finance and the pastoral care of parishioners. They were interested, too, in what each church was doing - for its own membership and in the community.

The report has highlighted areas of achievement and good practice, and also some areas of concern. On the positive side, the visitors were impressed by the progress achieved in such a short time, and by the determination of the people they met - the churchwardens (representing each congregation), staff and parish priest - to make the new arrangements succeed. They recognised that all parties were doing what the diocese had asked of them : to combine six parishes into one in order to save the wider Church money at a time of extreme stringency, and because of the growing shortage of priests. They could see that we were all looking positively to the future, and there had been many benefits from the pooling of resources and ideas.

On the other hand, questions had to be asked about the amount of work expected of the parish priest, the reliance on retired clergy who might not be available to us in the long term, and the higher than expected costs of running six parishes, taking into account mileage, administration, and the number of services. Above all, the diocesan visitors challenged the parishes to more actively encourage the laity - the many, not the few - to take on more responsibility for the conduct of worship (is a parson always necessary?), the government of their church, its outreach and general ministry to the parish particularly, not only because this is the right thing to do, but because it will also relieve their priest of work that has so often prevented him from doing what he was ordained for, and will allow him to prioritize and share responsibility. Of course, the laity have always taken the lead in the restoring of the fabric of St. Andrew's, and not least in the last twelve months in the refurbishment and improvement of the bells and clock.

Well, the report is in the public domain for discussion. Every member of each congregation has had a copy. The churchwardens are making a joint response to the diocese. There is to be a day conference at police headquarters, Wootton Park, in October for the joint congregations to take the report forward in working groups. Next spring the same visitors return to us to assess what improvements have been made. Only then will a decision be made on the joining of the six into one new benefice, under a Rector and a significant lay leadership team. I think it can be done. 6 into 1 will go!

We in Whilton have already started collecting a bigger lay band to maintain the ministry of St. Andrew's. The Family Service once a month is an example of that, the Parochial Church Council, flower arrangers and grass cutters, the marvellous Open Gardens and Flower Festival we had a few weeks ago (thank you everyone for that, not least Janet Bowers), the bellringers -

in fact the list goes on and on. There is a long way to go of course before we are doing for our church and village all we should be, but I believe our future is a bright and hopeful one because of the goodwill and response of you all.

Might I finish on a note of congratulation to Sue Thorne (Tudor House) on her engagement to Malcolm Brenton, a farmer at Shalford, Guildford, and to Graeme and Anne Kilgour on the recent baptism of Georgina.

Jim

Brington Rectory - 01604 770402



VJ DAY - Sunday, August 20th - will be marked by a special service at Whilton at 6.00pm. This will be for all six of our parishes.

Apart from the first Sunday of each month most of the services in our own church at Whilton are at 6.00pm. For times of all the services in our Benefice churches please refer to the service booklet, in which there are details of all the services to the end of October. Weekly notices of service times are also posted in the church porch.

DIOCESAN BELLRINGERS TO VISIT WHILTON

Every year the Peterborough Guild of Bellringers organises a Summer Festival and 8-bell Striking Competition. On September 9th the Daventry Branch will entertain the nine other branches of the Guild and ringing will take place in a number of towers. St. Andrew's Church, Whilton is the tower selected for the Striking Competition and will be available for general ringing between 4.15 and 5.00pm, when a Guild Service will be conducted by Canon Richardson. Starting about 6 o'clock, teams representing the Guild Branches will, in turn, ring a test piece which will be marked by judges listening outside - the aim being to ring evenly and to avoid mistakes of any kind. The standard of ringing is usually high and the village will have the opportunity of hearing these fine bells at their best.

Bryan Williams

WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

At the meeting held on June 4th the speaker was Mr. Ben Smith, a landscape architect from Litchborough, who gave a talk and slide show on GARDEN and LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

Mr. Smith began by giving an insight into the work of a landscape architect, describing the many stages necessary to produce a design, including :-

- consultations with clients to ascertain and clarify the design brief
- survey of the site, including levels, soil analysis, in-situ structures and existing planting, buildings, surroundings
- appraisal of the site, i.e. assessing the potential and identifying the problems
- consideration of the client's budget available for constuction, planting and future maintenance.

Series of slides showed how work progresses from start to finish and gave opportunity for discussion. Several projects were illustrated in this way, including :-

- the conversion of a muddy farmyard pond into an informal water feature to complement a farmhouse and barn conversion
- making an attractive sitting area in a small enclosed yard by building a deep raised pool and covering the walls with climbers
- bringing a side-garden of a grand house into the scale and period of the surrounding buildings, by echoing the herringbone patterned brickwork in rectangular areas of modern matching bricks separated by cobbles and enhanced by just a few specimen trees.

The show ended with the development of his own house and garden in Litchborough, which he bought as a pair of run-down cottages. Interesting features were restored, unsightly features were smothered in plantings and modern features, such as garages and an integral conservatory, were cleverly incorporated, making a superb residence.

It was a fascinating evening by a professional designer who was able to communicate easily and clearly so that we all now know much more about the work of landscape and garden designers.

Beryl Williams

DRYING UP / LACK OF WATER?

Here is the solution. There are a number of approximately 45 gallon containers for sale that are suitable for water butts. made available by Andrew Shackleton.

A sample may be seen at Heritage (Janet Bowers). Profits from the sale will go to the Church Clock Fund.

VILLAGE OUTING

The June village outing took us to two very different and exceptionally interesting places. Our first destination was the National Gardening Centre at Capel Manor, which is in Enfield on the edge of London. This is a permanent demonstration of garden landscaping design and has been set up gradually during the last twenty-five years. It owes much to the efforts of Dr. David Hessayon - a name well-known to gardeners for his very popular series of 'Expert' books.

The large site is divided into gardens of various sizes (about fifty of them altogether), many of them being small enough to resemble ordinary domestic plots, but not ordinary in the wealth of ideas and design possibilities that they illustrated. The types of garden ranged widely : theme gardens (which included a Victorian garden and a pine walk), historic gardens (with an Italian maze), a wilderness and woodland walk, and Gardening Which? demonstration gardens. Visitors will all have their own special favourites - mine was the beautiful small garden for Visually Impaired people with its scented plants, large groupings of trees, shrubs and rocks, and the cheerful sound of water tumbling over the stones and splashing the luxuriant ferns set in the shady hollows and crevices.

All too soon it was time to move to our afternoon destination - but what delights awaited us there! A few miles away - its main gates actually in the town - is Hatfield House, stately home of a branch of the Cecil family. William Cecil rose from humble origins to become Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer and chief Minister, trusted friend and adviser to Queen Elizabeth 1. His son Robert succeeded him in these powerful posts and was made Earl of Salisbury. He built the present magnificent house - a project achieved at amazing speed between 1608 and 1612, and with the utmost lavishness. Marble was brought from Italy, trees and plants were imported from the continent and the house was alive with colour inside and out - the many domes and turrets being finished off with gold leaf so that the house flashed and glittered from a distance.

After this achievement there followed a long period when the fortunes of the family declined, but the 19th Century saw a dramatic change and the Cecils of Hatfield sailed into their Victorian and Edwardian heyday. In the time of George III the title had become Marquess, and the third Marquess was three times Queen Victoria's Prime Minister between 1885 and 1902.

It was around this splendid house, full of history, interesting objects and fine portraits, that our well-briefed and entertaining guide conducted us. Afterwards there was time to roam around the well-kept gardens and to enjoy the view of a modern addition to the treasures - a knot garden based on Elizabethan designs created in 1984 and set in front of the mellow redbrick remains of the 15th Century Old Palace.

The day had been a huge success and yet again thanks to Diana for her enterprise.

Bryan Williams

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Grateful thanks for all the MILK TOPS, FOIL & STAMPS that are still coming in in good quantities. In spite of having a shorter interval in which to collect them, three sacks of foil, etc. have recently been delivered to Lyncrest and already we have another sack almost full. Keep up the good work!

Trudy Haynes

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mr. William Craghill of Michael Jones Jewellers was the speaker at our July Meeting. His subject, "The Story of Diamonds", was fascinating, with explanations of cut, colour, clarity and carat. We were told the history of the diamond from its initial mining, through all the processes and diamond dealers to the finished product. Quite a journey!

By the end of the evening we were able to appreciate the skill of all the craftsmen involved.

Two trays of rings were passed round for us to examine and try on. This selection illustrated the different shapes and cuts and the way these affected the brilliance of the jewel.

During the evening we were delighted to present a card and red rose bush to Shirley Brown to mark the occasion of her and Derek's Ruby Wedding.

An extra meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd August, when a W.I. village walk will be organised. This will be followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. There will be a display of W.I. memorabilia and a W.I. bookstall. Please watch the notice board for details.

Trudy Haynes

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W.I. DINNER

July saw an extra W.I. meeting in the form of a social gathering over dinner. This year we went to the Brampton Halt who offered us a varied and interesting menu. It was a glorious summer evening and sitting outside with a pre-dinner drink in the early evening sun, looking out over the rolling fields, was delightful.

The event afforded the opportunity to talk to fellow members at greater length than is usually available during the regular meetings. Topics ranged widely over my own section of the table and I caught snippets of other conversations equally diverse.

The dinner is an occasion when members' husbands and other friends are welcomed. With the offer of good food and good company, it was a slight shame that only three husbands joined the gathering of ten members this year. Many thanks to Janet Bowers for organizing the event with her usual efficiency.

Susan Thorne

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## ANCESTRAL HISTORY

More and more people these days seem to be tracing their ancestors and making out a family tree. I have had several enquiries recently from folk who have family connections with the village. First there was a visit from a Robert Freeman, of Durham, who turned out to be a descendant of the Freeman family who were prominent in Whilton in the 18th Century. Richard Freeman, who was County Sheriff of Northampton and Lord of the Manor of Whilton, married Elizabeth Langton, in 1709, and their eldest son was Langton Freeman, the well known eccentric who gave instructions in his will regarding his burial in the summer-house in his garden at the Manor House.

Next there was a visit from Mike Fletcher of Nuneaton. He was also looking for details of ancestors and was interested to find the graves of members of the Fletcher family, with memorial stones, alongside the path at the east end of the church. I was also able to show him the memorial plaque to Butlin Tom Fletcher that is on the wall of the north aisle of the church. When we are very familiar with a churchyard it is easy to miss some of the treasures it contains. Although I must have walked past the headstone of the grave of Thomas Fletcher many times I had no idea that inscribed on it was this verse :-

"Mourner go raise thy weeping eyes to Heaven,  
Thankful that earth and hope to thee are given,  
Faith to believe that all God does is right,  
And hope that to thy future gladdened sight.  
Again where perfect goodness is adored,  
The blessing thou has lost shall be restored.  
Restored with purer love, with fairer charms,  
To thy delighted eye and faithful arms."

I have no idea where this is taken from or who wrote it. If anyone can enlighten me I would be grateful.

It is strange that there was a Butlin Fletcher, a Langton Fletcher and a Langton Butlin, as well as a Langton Freeman, so it looks as though the Freeman, Langton, Butlin and Fletcher families were probably all related by marriage.

The next enquiry came in a letter from New Zealand addressed to The Rector, Whilton Church. The writer, Dorothy McKay, said that her mother-in-law, whose maiden name was Louise Butcher, had very happy memories of holidays spent at the Rectory at Whilton when her grandfather, the Revd. W. H. Logan, was rector here. She was seeking information about the Logan and Loam families and wondered if there were any records, photographs, books, etc. that might help.

As the Revd. W. H. Logan baptised me, and I well remember the three Butcher sisters coming to stay at the Rectory, I was happy to write back with my memories of the Logan and Loam families. Apparently my letter was received with great delight and I have since sent off some photographs, one of which, a May Day photograph circa 1930, has the Butcher sisters on it, together with several members of the Logan and Loam families. I was also pleased to send a copies of the appraisal book, "The Story of Whilton" and also "The History of Whilton".

Robert Freeman and Mike Fletcher were also delighted to be able to purchase copies of the two publications so Whilton's "Story" is circulating far and wide!

Harold Haynes



## WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council took place on 31st May 1995 and amongst items discussed were the following which we hope will be of interest to our Parishioners:-

- CHURCH BELLS      The Bell Fund reached o/s target and is now closed.
- FLOODLIGHTING    A Faculty is expected shortly and the whole of the installation should be completed within a short time.
- CHURCH CLOCK      The clock has been re-installed and there is still about £3000.00 to raise. The Parish Council will be invited to the Songs of Praise (following the Flower Festival) on 25th June which will incorporate the re-dedication of the clock. The Parish Council met the cost of the electrical winding mechanism.
- UNBLINC            Tea towels will be on sale at £2.50 each and the Village Walks Programme is now available.
- HEATING PIPES     The pipes in the nave have been relocated and the rest will be moved during the summer months. Original location was not safe as far as children were concerned.

Canon Richardson reported that (i) Sheila Addison will have a workshop at Church Brampton on 3rd July on laity involvement in services.

(ii) The service booklet for the next 5 months was ready and would be available in all the churches.

(iii) The Revd. Max Parker is to retire to Sussex in August and this is another loss to the Team.

Pastoral Committee Report    In a Benefice where there is one incumbent for SIX Parishes the main problem was identified as the excessive work load of that incumbent. This is a problem that needs to be addressed urgently to establish means of reducing that work load. Suggestions made - changes to the number and times of services and increased lay participation etc. There is to be a Conference on 28th October 1995 for P.C.C. members and interested members of congregations.

The appointment of Mr. J. Brierley of Langton Rise as Auditor was confirmed.

Churchyard Maintenance    Mr. Don Welch had decided he could no longer help in the grass mowing. Also the mower belonging to the church was quite old and volunteers were using their own mowers. It was agreed that consideration would be given to the possibility of the church buying a modern machine.

D.F.B.

## WHILTON FLOWER FESTIVAL 1995

How time passes! It does not seem 12 months since our first Flower Festival and now the second has come round and finished.

The period leading up to the 24th June was very busy for all those involved in providing and helping but this year we were not so fortunate on the first day with the weather. The main concern was the refreshments which last year were served on the terrace of the Little Rectory with magnificent views (kind permission of Jane and Paddy O'Riordan). A final decision was taken at 12 noon, the weather had not improved and therefore the village hall was used. Also one of the craft stallholders decided to take refuge from the weather in the village hall but others braved the elements and set up their stalls in the front garden of the Old Rectory made available by Sarah and Peter Bennett.

The end result of the day was disappointing and even the optimists amongst us were predicting an overall drop on the 1994 success.

However Sunday came and with the weather still very dull and unsettled it was decided to serve refreshments from the village hall again. As day two got underway the sun appeared just after 2-00 pm (too late to move the refreshments to the Little Rectory) and the afternoon was a huge success. Canon Jim claimed the good weather resulted from his presence on the Sunday. Perhaps if we have a festival next year he should attend on both days.

Cars and people arrived in the village in great numbers and visited the Church and were very impressed by the display - the theme being "Time and Seasons".

A number of gardens were opened in the village and these are always a great attraction; reports were received of visitors still going into gardens well after closing time.

The stalls for Sunday were grouped around the village green in an attempt to keep the event together as refreshments were being served in the village hall.

A Songs of Praise Service and Re-Dedication of the Clock was held in St Andrews Church - this being the climax to the two day Village Festival.

Our earlier fears were unfounded for the Sunday proved a huge success with the overall amount taken far exceeding our expectations.

WELL DONE WHILTON.

Derek Brown.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL 1995

PRIZE DRAW RESULTS

| <u>PRIZE</u>     | <u>TICKET</u> | <u>WINNERS</u>               |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| £100.00 Cash     | 2570          | Carol Henderson. Whilton     |
| Crystalline Pot  | 4358          | Sold on day. Phone No. only  |
| £50 Food Voucher | 4241          | Mrs Dale. Northampton        |
| Leg of Lamb      | 3339          | Geoff Wright c/o Whilton     |
| Wine             | 2178          | Bate. Whilton                |
| Wine             | 3361          | D. Finnemore. Whilton Locks  |
| Theatre Tickets  | 0742          | Clive Haynes c/o Whilton     |
| Wine             | 3471          | S. Hiron. Roughmoor          |
| Earrings         | 3464          | Freeman c/o Hiron. Roughmoor |
| Holdall          | 3525          | Ellison. L Buckby Wharf      |
| Biscuits         | 1112          | Martin. Whilton              |
| Plants           | 4333          | Cornelius. Northampton       |
| Cake             | 2691          | Bunce. Whilton               |
| Cake             | 0948          | Williams. Whilton            |

Very many thanks to everyone who kindly donated prizes. After deducting the expense of the tickets and licence renewal the prize draw raised a total of £791.20 for the Clock Fund. Well done everyone for selling so many tickets.

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On behalf of myself and the members of the P.C.C. we would like to give our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make this an enjoyable and profitable weekend, the final total being £2166.16

Janet Bowers

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WHILTON PARISH APPRAISAL

Four members of the Parish Appraisal team attended the evening meeting at Hunsbury Hill Rural Community Centre to see the award-giving ceremony and the displays of those who had entered the "ventures" competition. Unfortunately neither the Whilton Appraisal nor the "Bells" received a monetary award but were given Certificates of Commendation.

The main prize was given to Watford who are trying to build a village hall from scratch using local volunteer labour.

The prize for their Appraisal went to Kings Sutton. We did not consider their book was better than ours but they had produced a further programme based on the recommendations in their report which would continue their progress up to the year 2000.

Interesting talks were given on the monetary and social value of voluntary work to the community and some very good refreshments were enjoyed to complete the evening.

F. DRAKE

WHILTON W.I.

The June meeting was not well attended but provided an unusual experience for those who went.

First, the business efficiently conducted by the President; members heard about the Birmingham meeting attended by Susan Thorne, and about the splendid coffee morning at Jane O'Riordan's when over £100.00 was raised for the A.C.W.W. There was a discussion about a parish walk returning to refreshments in the Village hall during the early evening on 23rd August. This was to introduce possible new members to the W.I. Copies of the menu for the annual dinner on 5th July were circulated and we were reminded of the requirements of stall-holders at the Flower Festival on 24th and 25th June.

Kay Davis (a young woman who used to help in the Post Office at Great Brington) was informally introduced to tell us about her experiences while working in Brazil. She went out last September having felt, as a result of hearing somebody speak about what was being done out there by the Baptist Church, that this was something she really had been wanting to do all her working life. She went not knowing anything about the country and its customs. the climate, the food or the language!

Brazil is a country of very rich people and very poor people and they are like two different nations. In the cities unemployment is high and there is no government help or support. Living conditions are appalling and drugs and prostitution are rife. The drug traffic is organised by the bandits and the prostitution by the police who are only interested in arresting and shooting bandits. The bandits use the children as drug runners and the police use them for prostitution. Kay and her fellow church workers try to rescue some of these children who live in the streets, disowned by their families because they did not manage to steal and bring home whatever the family needed. Failure means being beaten up. They are fed and given some instruction in the 3 Rs. Their ages range from about five to thirteen.

Kay has a good singing voice and has already made some tapes which have sold well and she has also appeared at live concerts all over Brazil as well as singing on radio. She says she is becoming very well known as a result of this and has already raised quite a lot of money to further the work the church is doing. She hopes to make a video to raise much more and will return to Brazil in the autumn to try to do this.

What Kay had to tell us was terrible to hear, the photographs fascinating to see and her commitment to the work to which she had devoted herself, humbling.

A vote of thanks was given on behalf of the WI and we then gave her our personal thanks. Shirley Brown and Janet Spokes provided the refreshments.

If you would like to be associated with Kay's work with the children in Brazil. you can leave your contribution at the Post Office in Great Brington.

Diana Scott

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Barn Dance 1995

120 Villagers and their friends came to the Barn Dance this year on Saturday, 8th July. The weather held fine, albeit rather breezy, and the band "Thirsty Work" and their caller were in good form.

It was a fun evening and there are lots of people whose work and generosity helped to make it so successful.

Firstly the "do" is only possible at all because Mr & Mrs Davies allow us to use their barn and land for the evening and we are very grateful for this. Secondly Tom Treacey again donated a barrel of beer which helped us to make a good profit, whilst at the same time, keeping the price of a pint to a very reasonable level.

All the village hall committee members put in a lot of time and effort all weekend to ensure that everything was organised and would run smoothly on the night and was cleared up afterwards. The resident chap prepared 120 sausages and burgers to perfection (or thereabouts).

So a big thank you to all these people and to everybody who came and made it such a good night.

Total profit made was £363.26 which will go towards the Village Hall Maintenance Fund.

Mary Kane - Secretary  
Village Hall Committee

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200 CLUB 1995

Congratulations to the prizewinners of the May draw which took place on 26th May 1995 at the Village Hall.

|     |           |   |        |             |          |
|-----|-----------|---|--------|-------------|----------|
| May | 1st Prize | - | No.058 | J.Messinger | 26/05/95 |
|     | 2nd Prize | - | No.067 | R.Hawkins   |          |
|     | 3rd Prize | - | No.083 | D.Henderson |          |

We also give our congratulations to the June and July winners. The draw for those months took place at our annual Barn Dance at Roughmoor on 8th July.

|      |           |   |        |              |
|------|-----------|---|--------|--------------|
| June | 1st Prize | - | No.016 | M.Swinford   |
|      | 2nd Prize | - | No.012 | R & S Green  |
|      | 3rd Prize | - | No.083 | D.Henderson  |
| July | 1st Prize | - | No.099 | L.Shackleton |
|      | 2nd Prize | - | No.051 | M.Emery      |
|      | 3rd Prize | - | No.137 | R.Newborough |



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There has been no reported crime in Whilton so far this summer which is good news. In fact, it has been a very quiet period throughout our local area, but we are asked to remain vigilant especially over the holiday season.

Always report anything or anybody that appears to be suspicious immediately to Daventry Police.

### HOLIDAY CHECK LIST

- 1) Make sure that all doors and windows are securely locked before leaving your house.
- 2) Put all tools, ladders and garden equipment away. Check that garage and shed doors are locked.
- 3) Cancel all deliveries of milk, newspapers etc. Ask a kind neighbour to put out your dustbin. Cut the lawn.
- 4) Deposit small valuable items like jewellery at the bank. It is a good idea to mark remaining items of value with a security pen. Write your postcode and house number or the first two letters of the house name to aid identification.
- 5) Do not draw all the blinds and curtains. If possible leave an automatic time-switch to switch a light on and off during the evening in a downstairs room.
- 6) A burglar alarm is a good investment and should be switched on before leaving.
- 7) Tell a neighbour that you are away and leave a contact address if possible.
- 8) Check that your house and its contents are adequately insured.

FINALLY - enjoy your holiday!  
Hopefully with peace of mind and a safe return.

BE VIGILANT AND HELP PREVENT CRIME

DAVENTRY POLICE - 01327 300300

C.M.Bilsborough.

W.G.A. GARDEN VISITS

EAST HADDON GRANGE

On Tuesday, 6th June about a dozen members of Whilton Gardeners Association set off at 7-30 pm to visit the gardens at East Haddon Grange by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Pike. The weather was dry but dull and not too cold. The farmhouse is set well off the main road along a track and as we approached we appreciated the attractive flowers and shrubs at the front of the house.

The main garden was at the back of the house and the views from all points were stunning. There were different levels and curves - each few yards taking us to another attractive aspect. Many varieties of favourite perennials were grown the exact names beating some of our own experts. The plants too seemed quite advanced considering the weather. There were several areas of water interest which gave a lovely balance to the rest of the garden. The vegetable garden looked very healthy and there we met an old friend of the W.G.A - Mr Patrick from Ravensthorpe. He was also in charge of a plant stall where several of us bought some cuttings and hoped they would do as well in our own gardens.

It was mentioned that our host's other hobby was his Devon Red cattle and the three of us who showed interest were invited to go and meet them armed with cattle cake to draw their attention. After tramping over quite a large field we were greeted by Daisy, Buttercup and Natalie all very friendly and incredibly beautiful. The tit bit was much appreciated and other cows came over to us to partake. We were then invited to see his bull - we thought it would be tethered but no it was grazing freely - it made us a bit wary but he was reasonably calm!

Delightful refreshments were kindly provided for us and also for a local Yoga club many of whom we knew.

A very interesting and enjoyable evening .

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WEST HADDON - THE MEWS

This time it was a beautiful summer's evening for our garden visit and there were about 20 members of the W.G.A looking forward to the trip.

- continued -

The house is next to the church and immediately we were stunned by many lovely baskets and containers of all descriptions full of bedding plants. We were greeted by our hosts, Mr & Mrs Dadley, and then went into the main part of the garden. It was so green, cool and restful; each part of the garden different, like rooms in a house. There were several varieties of tall shady established trees on the lawn and the borders had shrubs of all blending colours (an all-the-year-round garden), intermingled with colourful perennials. All over the garden were seats and there was a beautiful summer house. There were pergolas, rockeries and Clematis grew everywhere - really enchanting and our host explained it was a low maintenance garden as they only had to weed once a year due to strategic use of bark.

They had started the garden from scratch 17 years ago and had worked to a plan. It really was a credit to their forethought and imagination.

We were then served delicious fruit drinks in that lovely summer house.

After thanking our hosts we next crossed the busy main road to another delightful house. This too had so many lovely hanging baskets and containers (including an adapted pig feeder) that it was impossible to count them. Here there were more colourful flowers both annuals and perennials. Another beautiful garden. Amusingly the vegetable garden was clearly labelled "set aside".

We bade our second host (and his large dog) farewell and congratulated him on his lovely garden and then set off home with our minds full of the colour and beauty we had seen that evening.

S. BROWN

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#### VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 1995

The original article appeared in the March 1995 issue of the Whilton Newsletter and the majority of residents in the village ensured their fronts/verges were up to standard by the 1st June. However we know on good authority that the judges were seen in the village during the first and second weeks of June and alas caught one or two people yet to carry out the work.

As previously stated, we are judged over the period June to September, so keep at it and see whether we can make up the ground which we undoubtedly would have lost in the early stages.

We received two posters from children in the village for which we are grateful.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND THANK YOU ALL.

D.F. BROWN

**U.N.B.L.I.N.C.**  
**United Benefice Liaison Committee**  
*present*

**A SUMMER SERIES OF  
SUNDAY  
GUIDED VILLAGE WALKS,  
CHURCH TOURS  
& TEA**

**From 2.30pm until 4.00/4.30pm**

**Starting and ending at each Parish Church**

**Sunday, 4 JUNE -- CHURCH BRAMPTON**

**Sunday, 2 JULY -- GREAT BRINGTON**

**Sunday, 30 JULY -- HARLESTONE**

**Sunday, 13 AUGUST -- NORTON**

**Sunday, 3 SEPTEMBER -- WHILTON**

**Sunday, 1 OCTOBER -- EAST HADDON**

**Fun...inFormative...bring the Family...Free**

For further information, contact: Dorothy Cumbleton, Brampton (01604 843652); Gary Shaeffer, Brington (01604 770939); Alan Forrest, Harlestone (01604 587985); Jean Thompson, Norton (01327 702877); Janet Bowers, Whilton (01327 842851); Caroline Lewis, East Haddon (01604 770733).

## Summary of Events

|      |      |        |         |                                                          |
|------|------|--------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun. | 6th  | August | 10.00am | United Benefice Service - Brington                       |
| Mon. | 7th  | August | 7.30pm  | Whilton Gardeners' Association meeting                   |
| Sun. | 20th | August | 6.00pm  | Special Service for V.J. Day - Whilton Church            |
| Wed. | 23rd | August |         | Whilton W.I. Village Walk (see notice board for details) |
| Sun. | 3rd  | Sept.  | 10.00am | United Benefice "Songs of Praise" Service - Norton       |
|      |      |        | 2.30pm  | UNBLINC Village Walk - starting at Whilton Church        |
| Mon. | 4th  | Sept.  | 8.00pm  | Parish Council Meeting                                   |
| Wed. | 6th  | Sept.  |         | Village Outing to Brook Cottage Garden & Upton House     |
| Sat. | 9th  | Sept.  | 5.00pm  | Bellringers' Service followed by Striking Competition    |
| Wed. | 13th | Sept.  | 7.30pm  | W.I. Meeting                                             |
| Fri. | 15th | Sept.  |         | Newsletter Deadline                                      |
| Sun. | 24th | Sept.  | 10.00am | Harvest Thanksgiving - Family Service                    |
|      |      |        | 6.00pm  | " " Sung Evensong                                        |
| Mon. | 25th | Sept.  | 7.30pm  | Harvest Supper                                           |

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:

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