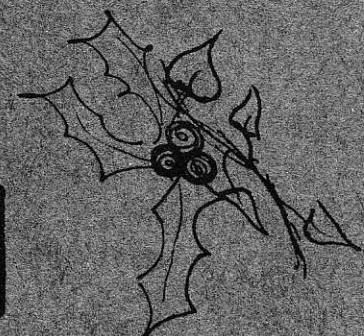




STONE HOUSE WHILTON  
about 1900

*English drawing*



# WHILTON NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1991

Ed's Notes

At the time of going to print it is only five weeks to go to Christmas! Hardly believable is it? It is great to see the leaves still on the trees, but does this mean a hard winter ahead? Our village 'weathermen' should know.

The mushrooms have been in good supply these past few weeks, but its good to see the back of all those flies and wasps, and with a few frosty nights those giant size spiders seem to have vanished - they have been enormous this year!

A happy and busy time ahead for most of us, but do make time to enjoy a truly peaceful Christmas with family and friends.

The Ed's wish all readers a Very Happy Christmastide.

E'ds

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Brington School Report

On the 17th October the school held their Harvest Festival Service. During the service Mrs. Marriott was presented with a basket of flowers to mark her 25 years as school secretary. The children took gifts which the following day were taken by the older children to Wardington Court Day Centre for the Blind. Whilst we were there we met some of the blind people and were shown around. Hopefully we will be going back at Christmas to sing to them.

Due to our visit we are now collecting tin foil and milk bottle tops for the Guide Dogs for the blind.

We will also be adopting two elephants. The money for this was raised by various fund raising events organised by the children themselves. The names of the "orphans" are Chuma and Edo.

At the beginning of this term, two American children joined us. Their names are Hayley and David Franklin, whose family are on a one year exchange visit.

Kate Gardner

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FOR SALE

Zebra Finches for sale - £1 each

Contact Gordon Manning, The Laurels, Langton Rise.  
Tel. 843312

\* \* \* \* \*



Parish Church

Sundays 1st Sunday of month: BENEFICE EUCHARIST 10.00am  
(at each church in turn) December - Whilton  
January - Norton February - Brington

Mothers and Toddlers at Brington church on Wednesdays at 2.00pm (afterwards at the Rectory).

A discussion group meets from time to time. Anyone interested please contact the Rector.

Autumn Concert We are most grateful to all who supported this concert given by Mr. John Gale and members of the Midland Philharmonic Orchestra. Also, thanks to Clifford Ellison and the team of organisers and to Mr. & Mrs. P. Bennett for the use of their house. The viability of the function was cemented by kind sponsorship from Mr. & Mrs. I. Church. As a result of all this co-operation we received £256.50 into church funds.

Harvest Supper This event was generously supported and thanks to the gifts of food and the duly auctioned harvest gifts, the sum of £138.00 was credited to church funds. (Most of this will go towards the charitable allocations which the Church Council makes at the end of the year.)

Whilton Carol Singers (per Sue Townley) will be about in the village on Friday 20th December - in aid of Church funds.

Carol Service Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm. (Gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs will be welcomed at this service for distribution to the hostels and single parent families under the care of the Diocesan "Family Care" Council.)

Christmas Day Service 9.30am - Whilton, 11.30pm (24th) Brington, 11.00am Norton. The collection today is given to the Children's Society. If anyone would care to add their gift to children in need but cannot be present at the service please pop it through Mr. Haynes' door at The Old Plough.

Next P.C.C. - Thursday 20th February 1992.

\* \* \* \* \*

Milk tops, foil etc. and stamps

Only one sack has been delivered since the last count but we are well on the way to filling another. There have been lots of stamps.

I am amazed at the response from people in other villages as well as our own. We have collectors in Norton, Brington, Weedon and Farthingstone and we even have contributions from as far north as Lancashire and far south as London!

Many thanks for all this co-operation.

### W.I. Report

On Wednesday, 13th October the W.I. held their A.G.M. which was very well supported. There being much to discuss a Speaker had not been engaged. Mrs. Gardner was unanimously re-elected President along with Miss Scott Secretary and Mrs. Haynes Treasurer. Two changes were made on the committee. The Secretary reported a successful year. The Treasurer reported a reasonable balance but expressed concern for future expenditure. Amongst other items it was agreed to continue with the usual Christmas gift to the Senior Members of the community.

By far the most important discussion of the evening was the future of Whilton W.I. The numbers of members being only just enough to keep going and does mean a lot of work for each individual and insufficient income. A monthly evening meeting can be very interesting, worthwhile and enjoyable. There are open meetings when friends and children are welcome. Throughout the County there are many and varied activities offered during the year, these include:-

Coffee mornings.	A Michaelmas Craft Fair
Debating Competition	Trivia Quiz
Scrabble, Archery, Skittles Tournaments.	
Dance and fitness day	November outing to London
Crotchet class	Hairstyle and make-up
Badminton, Golf, Tennis, Rounders, Croquet, Bowls.	
Christmas Pantomime, written produced and acted by W.I. members.	

And many, many more items, the list is endless and the cost reasonable. All activities are open to members and the W.I. subscription is £9.00 yearly. Why not join? It is a lot of fun - but also the W.I. is very influential in the Country, particularly on matters concerning women.

Kay Roberts

Our November W.I. meeting was well attended and reports were given on the Autumn Council meeting and the Group meeting at which members from Whilton were represented.

A draft copy of a letter was read and agreed to be sent to our local M.P. on the dangers of paracetamol if taken to excess and also the proposed cuts in government financing for adult education, both of these issues being currently pursued by the W.I. at National level.

Some non-members joined us for the main part of the evening when Mrs. Fennyhough brought along a wonderful array of Christmas ideas and gifts to make. These ranged from simple decorations using nuts, fir cones and dried flowers, to elaborate Christmas wreaths made from various fabrics and ribbons. Ideas which many of us will be trying out in the next few weeks no doubt.

Subscriptions are due in January and new members are always welcome. Our 1992 programme includes speakers on:-

The Art of Watercolour with demonstration  
Reflexology  
A new life after 50  
Cookery - fish dishes  
Travel, New Zealand and Malaysia

And much, much more

Ros Gardner

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#### Mobile Library Alert

Changes to the rural mobile library service came into effect from 7th October 1991. These will be apparent in the following ways:-

- i. Schedules will be different.
- ii. Vans may stop for a shorter period of time.
- iii. Some stops will have to be removed.
- iv. Only one person from the library service will be manning the van i.e. the driver will be responsible for issuing books and dealing with queries.
- v. Two new, adapted mobile vans will be meeting the needs of the housebound, elderly and handicapped.

The aim of the changes is to improve the quality of the library service throughout the county. The Rural Community Council is very concerned to monitor the situation to see if this expectation is met. Readers are invited to let the RCC know how they feel about what has happened - whether good or bad with details of the specific instances that are to be noted.

Rural Community Council, Hunsbury Hill Centre,  
Harksome Hill, Northampton NN4 9QX

NOTE The mobile library calls in Whilton on alternate Tuesdays and stays between 9.30 and 9.50 am.

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Well Done Whilton

I suppose everyone in the village knows by now that, in the Best Kept Village Competition, Whilton was not only adjudged the winner of Class 1, which is for villages with a population of between 50 and 400, but was also felt to be the best kept village overall, so has achieved the title of "Best Kept Village in Northamptonshire".

When the parish council was informed that Whilton had reached the final stages of the competition, and asked to send two representatives to the ceremony for the presentation of awards, there was much speculation as to what section of the competition we might have won. Was it for the best kept churchyard, or was it one of the minor awards such as "the most improved village in the Daventry district"? I am sure that no-one dreamt of us getting a major award. When, a day or two before the presentation, however, I started getting phone calls from the local newspapers, asking my opinion as to the reasons for Whilton doing so well in the competition and wanting to send a photographer to the village, I began to think we must have achieved greatness! (There is a press release a few days before the presentation of awards, on the understanding that nothing is divulged before the ceremony).

So there it is. We have won the top award and, on behalf of the members of the parish council, I would like to thank everyone in the village for the hard work and co-operation that has achieved this success, for there is no doubt that it is the result of a community effort. I know there are several people who take on extra work beyond their immediate surroundings and to these folk we are extremely grateful, for without them there are areas of the village that would be very unkempt. This in itself would not bring success, however. The judges said that, not only do they look at public features, they also peep over walls and hedges to see if gardens and other private areas are well kept!

As winners of Class 1 we have been awarded the Colonel Reid Cup, which we hold for one year. In addition we have two framed certificates, one for our Class 1 win and one for our overall success. It is hoped the certificates will be displayed in the village hall alongside those we gained in 1984 and 1985. We also have a rather handsome sign-board carrying the message "Tidiest Village of the Year in Northamptonshire". This is in a wrought iron frame which is mounted on an oak post. It is hoped to erect this on the village green.

We shall certainly have something to live up to for the next twelve months!

Harold Haynes

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**Parish Council Notes.**  
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Meetings of the Parish Council have been held on 11th October, 4th and 15th November. Among items discussed were the following.

**Whilton/Brington Road** - The Parish Council had written to the Area Surveyor stating their concern regarding the lack of visibility due to the new hedge planted along this road. A reply had been received stating that the owner of the hedge had given an undertaking prior to planting that it would not be allowed to encroach onto the highway, and be cut at least once a year.

**Telephone Kiosk** - British Telecom have got the repainting of the kiosk on their "current" list of work to be done and it would be dealt with before the spring. (of 1992 ?)

**Village Nameplates** - The Parish Council agreed to write and thank Mark Riddle for repainting the village nameplates and would remind the Area Surveyor that he had promised new post for the nameplates when the painting had been carried out.

**Mobile Library** - Recent changes made by the County Council had resulted in the mobile library no longer stopping at Whilton Locks. The reason for this, according to the County Council, was lack of use.

**Road, Path and Sign repairs** - A letter was to be sent to the Area Surveyor requesting repairs at various locations in the village.

**Signpost - opposite Holly House** - The County Council now regarded this as "redundant" and would no longer maintain it. The parish council feel that this signpost is a part of the village and do not want to lose it. Mr Bowers volunteered therefore to "smarten it up" with a coat of suitable coloured paint.

**Best Kept Village Competition** - The Parish Council had been notified that we had won our section of this competition and were also the overall county winners of the Best Kept Village title. ( See separate article )

**Audit** - The clerk reported that the Parish Council "books" were to be audited on the 18th November at Daventry.

**Clerks Course** - The clerk reported that she had enrolled on a 2 year council clerks course. The Parish Council agreed to contribute towards costs as it was felt that the Council would benefit by having the services of a qualified clerk.

**Parish Appraisal** - The parish appraisal committee had requested financial assistance from the Parish Council. The Council were in favour of supporting this project but needed a proposed budget before committing funds.

**Parish Precept** - It was decided to request the sum of £2,071 as the 1992/93 parish precept. This represented an increase of approx. £400 over this current year but included an amount of £700 needed to pay for a possible Parish Council election in May of next year.



**Salt Bins** - The County Council has stated that the provision of salt bins and salt within the parish are only for highway and footpath use and not for private drives.

**Planning matters -**

**a. Proposed new Public House to replace existing and use of land adjacent for Caravan sales to replace existing on Whilton Marina site.**  
- The Parish Council have no objections to these proposals other than to voice concern regarding any increase in traffic in this particularly dangerous area. The Council also felt that as in the past developments in this area have not been completed satisfactorily to the original consents that it would like to see these two applications taken in conjunction with one another. Both developments should therefore be completed, together with agreed landscaping, before either is allowed to trade.

**Canal Cottage, Whilton Locks** - Planning permission has been refused by the District Council because of difficulties with vehicular access.

**Canal Cottage, Whilton Locks** - As a result of the above refusal the applicant has since asked the District Council to decide whether the cottage has been abandoned or just left as an empty residential dwelling, in which case planning permission would not be required to renovate it. The Parish Council has supplied the District Council with as many details as it could regarding past occupation and also stated that it would rather see the cottage renovated than fall further into disrepair.

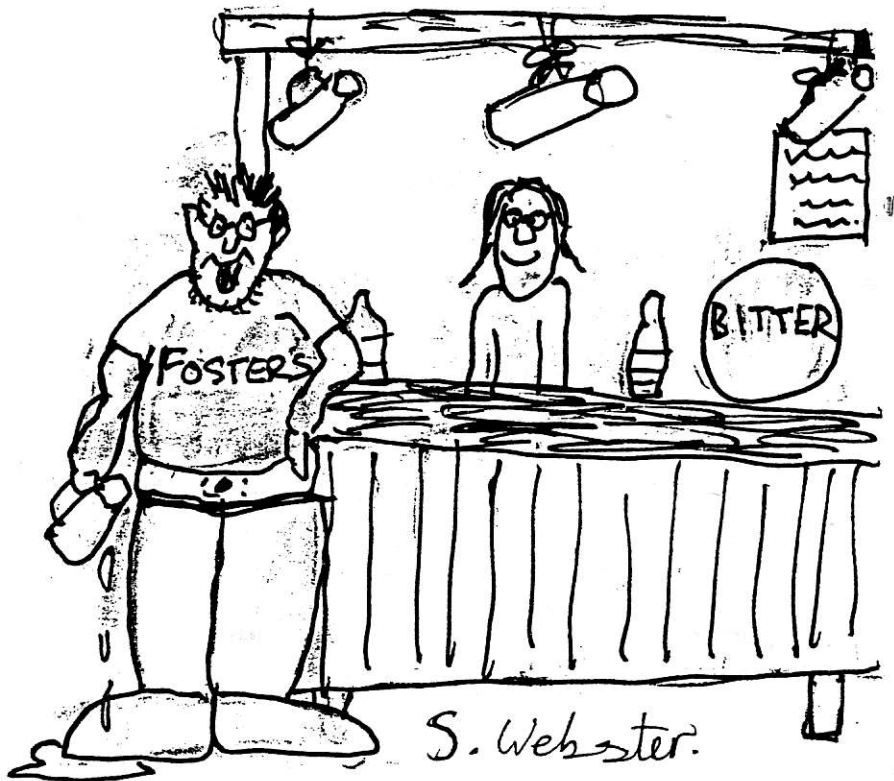
**Roof Lights at Churchgate, Whilton** - Planning permission had been refused as it was felt that the roof lights would have a detrimental effect on the character and appearance of the dwelling.

**Appeal regarding the above** - The applicant has since taken the District Council decision to appeal and the Parish Council has sent a letter stating that they do not consider the grounds for refusal to be valid since the lights would not be visible from the village street, do not overlook any other dwellings, and are not felt to have a detrimental effect on the dwelling.

**Renewal of outline planning permission for detached bungalow and garage on land at Stone House** - The Parish Council had no comments to make regarding this renewal and has since heard that it has been allowed by the District Council.

**Whilton Mill - Four Wheel Drive - variation to condition 04DA/90/1306**  
- The application is for revised hours of operation namely between 10-00a.m. and 8-00p.m. or dusk whichever is the earlier. The Parish Council were concerned regarding any increase in noise at the site but were most concerned that the original conditions of operation were not being observed. A subtle change from organised corporate hospitality days to being open to the general public had apparently taken place. These concerns were to be pointed out to the District Council.



The Old English Pub Night

We kicked off at half past seven with a well stocked bar. Delicious food appeared as if by magic in the hands of devoted kitchen staff. The bar itself, excellently constructed by the village carpenter, was decorated in true traditional Inn style with the villagers' personal pewter tankards and manned by the stalwart publican and his buxom serving wench. As the ale and wine began to flow, the many traditional pub games got underway. Dominoes, skittles, shuv-a'penny, cards and other games became more animated as more ale flowed. But a good spirit was maintained and no disputes had to be resolved by fisticuffs. The pub musician plugged in his joanna and a good sing-song developed at one end of the parlour. The wonderful country fayer was handed round, and for a while the predominant sound was of munching. A little later the traditional local lottery was staged, again in good spirit, and there was no fighting over the prizes. More ale and wine flowed and soon the tired and tipsy villagers began to wend their way homeward. The once noisy, lively bar parlour gradually became empty and silent. The exhausted servants cleared the debris of the evening's jollifications, dowsed the lights and retired for their well-earned rest.

Sam and Dorothy Webster

Whilton Gardeners' Association

The Annual General Meeting was held in the village hall on October 7th. The Chairman and Secretary gave their reports and reminded us of all that had happened during the past year. The Treasurer spoke of our healthy bank balance, and Mrs. Haynes, for the Purchasing Officer, urged us to be as quick and competent with our seed order forms as we had been in 1990 to ensure that we once again had all we had asked for sent back speedily. It was hoped that we might get our usual 50% discount on seeds and 10% on all other items.

Mrs. Lefley then proposed and Mrs. Thomas seconded that Mrs. Bowers continue as Chairman. This motion was passed without objection as were the propositions that Mrs. Burwell and Mr. Barnes be the new committee members. Mr. Jim Gardner was to be asked to be auditor and Mrs. Lefley, Mrs. Bowers and Mrs. Burwell agreed to do the 1993 programme. A decision as to who might serve on the Show Committee was deferred.

Mrs. Thomas asked if the library books could be kept in the hall and it was agreed that the W.I. should be asked to store them in their cupboard. Mr. Michael Merriman was willing to take on the job of reporting on the association's meeting for the Village Newsletter.

It was unanimously decided that the subscription should remain at £2.00 for the first person and £1.50 for subsequent members living at the same address. The committee suggested that the A.G.M. should be held in December instead of in October, that the subscription should be fixed in October and that membership should run from January 1st to December 31st. All these alterations to the constitution were agreed. In addition it was agreed that the financial year should run from November 1st to October 31st so that the books could be audited for the A.G.M., and that cheques should be signed by any two of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The question was raised of where the Association's money should go should the society ever fold up. There was some thought that it should go to a charity, but to which, after what length of time and by whose decision were matters for us to brood on so that a conclusion could be reached after further discussion.

The attendance at this meeting was the largest for some time. Those who had listened diligently to all the business and who had contributed their views in the various matters that had been raised, were rewarded with home-made wines, non-alcoholic drinks for drivers, coffee and delicious and varied delicacies, mainly of a savoury nature. What a pleasant tradition this has become.

Diana Scott

Country Sayings

Those of us who can enjoy an open fire are often glad to burn logs, but BEWARE - "If you burn elder wood on your fire the DIVIL will come down the chimney".

Has anyone tried this?

\* \* \* \* \*

Here is a verse about our wonderful oak trees:-

Three hundred years to come and grow,  
Three hundred years to stand and stay,  
Three hundred years to dwine and go.

\* \* \* \* \*

The stone-masons of long ago were fond of trees, too.  
The fan-vaulting in Exeter Cathedral is like some eternal tree climbing skyward.

The massive columns of Durham Cathedral are like the sturdy boles of the oak or beech.

\* \* \* \* \*

As this issue covers the Christmas season, here are the words of the "Withy Carol", reputed to have been sung in 1600:-

All hail and praise the sacred morn,  
Behold, the Son of God is born.  
Sweet Alleluya let us sing  
To Jesus Christ our Heavenly King.

Behold the bounteous gift of Heaven,  
This day to all mankind is given.  
Oh, happy day, mankind rejoice,  
And praise him with a cheerful voice.

See, our Blessed Saviour lay  
Within a manger filled with hay.  
Whilst spotless innocence divine  
Did on his sacred temple shine.

But now the Great Messiah reigns  
Where angels sing in heavenly strains,  
Where great Jehovah dwells on high,  
Above the regions of the sky.

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Furniture Turnaround and Baby Gear

Furniture Turnaround is a scheme being run from Kettering which serves the whole of the county. The volunteers responsible are given house furniture of all descriptions that is in good condition but no longer required. This furniture is then given to people who are in genuine need, wherever they live in Northamptonshire.

Baby Gear is run by the same volunteers from the same base and is concerned with the collection and redistribution of equipment and furniture specifically for babies. For further information, offers of help or requests for help, please contact Mrs. Mary Kerti, Tel (Kettering) 0536 524204.

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Whilton Village Hall

Halloween Party The Halloween party held on 26th October was a tremendous success, enjoyed by all and raising £123.77. Thank you everybody who helped in preparing the food and drink and those who spent so much time organising and preparing games (I'll bet the children slept well that night). Special thanks to Barbara Lewis who provided the wonderful decorations for the hall and to Caroline Fisher who designed the notice board poster for this and previous village hall events.

English Pub Night This event, held on 16th November was a successful family event with pub games, live music by Tom Price and a ploughmans supper. Thanks again to everyone who helped to make the evening a success. Special thanks to Tom Treacy who kindly donated the beer. The evening raised £172.08.

200 Club Draw

OCTOBER DRAW	1st prize	Mr. E. Martin	£30
	2nd prize	Mr. & Mrs. Newborough	£20
NOVEMBER DRAW	1st prize	Mr. T. Price	£30
	2nd prize	N. Baker	£20

Our next event is scheduled for 13th December. A Christmas Supper is proposed but details will be posted later. Make a note of the date though - this is the big Christmas draw for the 200 club.

The Village Hall Committee has received a generous donation towards the renovation funds from Mrs. Joan Davies. We are grateful for all the support the village has offered and help like Mrs. Davies' brings us nearer to being able to pay off the debt for the work done on the hall.

Mary Kane

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Christmas Gifts

There are still some of the following items for sale, which would make useful Christmas gifts:-

The Whilton W.I. Cookery Book, £2, sold for W.I. funds - from Mrs. R. Gardner, The Dove Close.

The History of Whilton, by Clive Haynes, £2, sold for the church funds - from Mr. & Mrs. Haynes, The Old Plough.

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National Foundation for Sport and the Arts

The Parish Council has recently received information relating to the establishment of the above Foundation and which may be of interest to a variety of groups and organisations.

The council would encourage all those who are seeking financial assistance for a sports or arts related project to apply to the Foundation for a grant providing it satisfies their initial criteria. A copy of this criteria is held by the parish council clerk and the address of the Foundation is:

The Foundation for Sports and the Arts,  
P.O. Box 666,  
LIVERPOOL L69 7JN

\* \* \* \* \*

Summary of Events

Mon.	2nd	Dec.	7.30pm	Gardeners (Growing good Veg)
Wed.	11th	Dec.	7.30pm	W.I. Members Night
Fri.	13th	Dec.		Proposed Christmas Supper
Fri.	20th	Dec.		Whilton Carol Singers
Sun.	22nd	Dec.	6.00pm	Carol Service - Whilton
Wed.	25th	Dec.	9.30am	Christmas day service - Whilton

1992

Mon.	5th	Jan.	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Wed.	8th	Jan.	7.30pm	W.I. meeting (subs due) Reflexology
Fri.	16th	Jan.		Last date for items for FEBRUARY newsletter

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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 and the Editors are

Mr. Harold Haynes  
Mrs. Trudy Haynes  
Mr. Jim Gardner  
Mrs. Joyce Coles  
Mrs. Anne Heeley