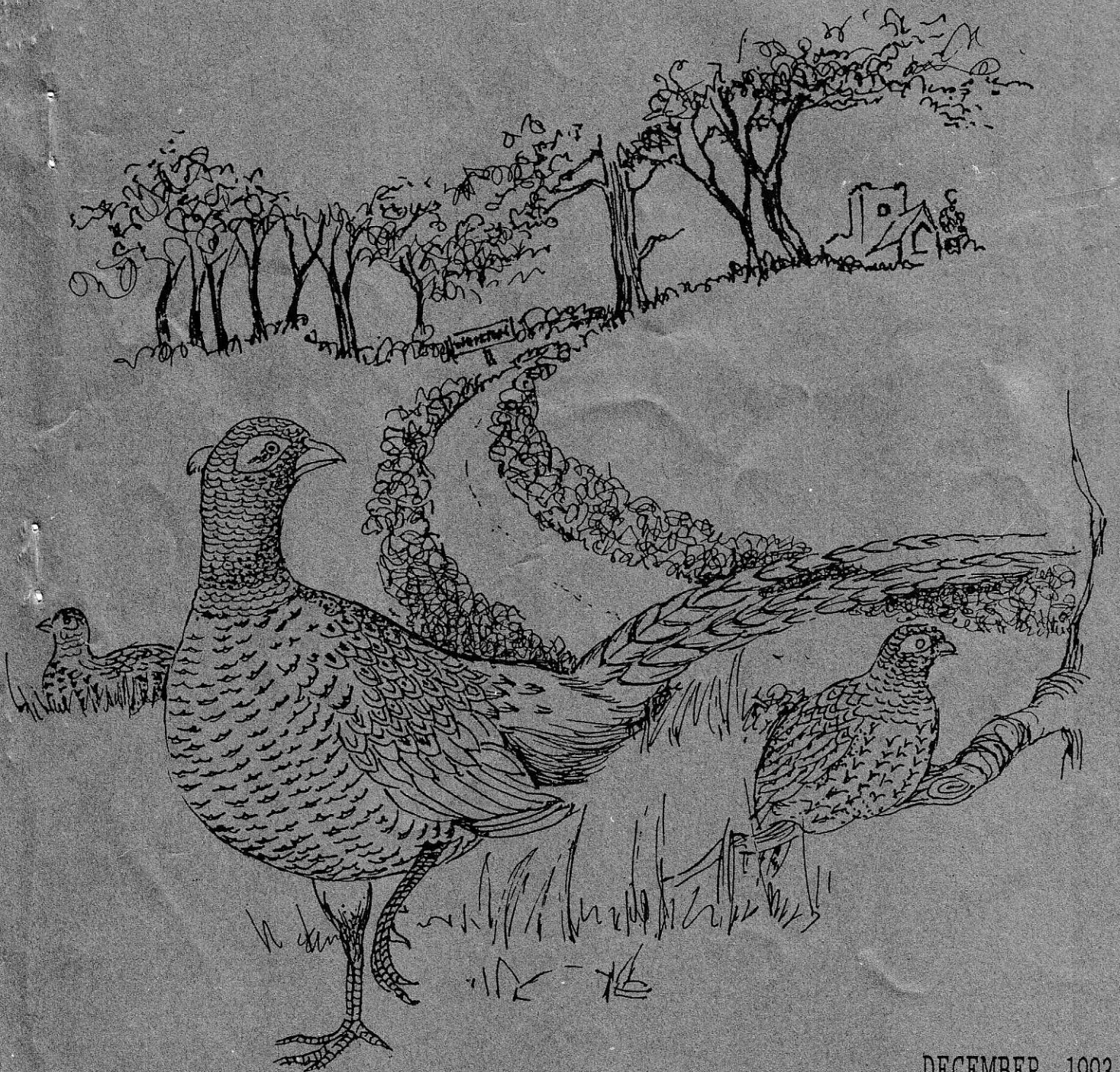


WHILTON NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1993

Eds' Notes

Here we are with winter upon us and Christmas very near. How time flies!

One old country adage is :

'If the oak wears its leaves in October, it heralds a hard winter.'

In that case we had better prepare for the worst. The oaks in this region still had leaves well into November.

It has been a wonderful year for fruit and vegetables, with bumper crops being harvested, so we should be able to put some by for future use.

On a more cheerful note - 'Sun through the apple trees on Christmas Day,
Means a fine spring is on its way.'

This month's cover design is the work of Mrs. Edwards. It was inspired by the pheasants seen on the Brington Road. Many thanks indeed.

Well - we did not quite manage to win the 'Cup-Winners Cup' in the Best Kept Village Competition - But - we were only one mark behind the winners, Middleton Cheney. In fact, had the cup been awarded for the highest aggregate mark over the two rounds we would have won! As it was we had to settle for the runners-up award. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to our success. Details of the marks and judges' comments are given on other pages.

The Ed's send everyone Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.

WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

October's meeting was well attended and after the business was over a most amusing and entertaining talk was given by Major Creese on 'Growing Better Tomatoes.'

His Golden Rules were : Put plants 1ft apart and 1ft. between rows

Plant in April in a cold greenhouse in Levington compost

Feed two or three times a week

Water regularly

Give the plants plenty of sunshine and drain well

Major Creese discussed pests and diseases at great length, white fly being the biggest problem, along with greenback and cladosporium. Irregular watering caused tomatoes to split. Major Creese's favourite varieties were Shirley and Sonata, both prolific producers.

The next meeting will be the A.G.M. on the 6th December, 1993, when the speaker will be Mr. J. Beckwith on Pot/House Plants.

Eileen Finnemore

CANON JIM WRITES.....

WHAT SORT OF CHRISTMAS?

I am very much looking forward to my first Christmas in Whilton. I have heard so much about the fun and warmth of the village, the marvellous decorations in church, and the merry singing of the Watling Singers at the Carol Service. What is it John Betjeman wrote? -

'The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.'

It seems to me though that Betjeman was being slightly cynical about it all. Perhaps he was right to be. All too often Christmas is a bit too much about puddings and cakes being stirred, cards and presents, parties and shops being decorated with snow scenes and cuddly angels. It's all great entertainment of course, at least until we have heard the same carol churned out time after time in the supermarket queue. There is so much going on, that it's sometimes hard to see how the Son of God can squeeze in!

Perhaps this need to focus again on what Christmas is really all about is why Betjeman added three last verses to his poem, the closing one summing everything up :

'No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this simple truth compare-
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.'

What sort of Christmas are **you** planning? I hope amid the festivities there will be room for the Babe of Bethlehem - 'Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us'. It is after all His birthday!

So may I assure you of the best welcomes at St. Andrew's this Christmastime, and indeed during the preparatory month of Advent. Do join us if you can, and make Christmas even more special this year. Children are a tremendously important part of our village, so do bring them with you, and let them discover too the spiritual joy and treasure of the Nativity.

The main services are:-

- Advent Sunday**(28th November) : A Service of Readings and Carols for Advent, **6.00pm**
Advent 2 (5th December) : St Andrew's hosts the **Sung Eucharist** for the villages of Brington, Norton and Whilton, **10.00am**.
Advent 3 (12th December) : **Christingle Celebration for all the family** (the ceremony of the Orange!), **4.00pm**
Advent 4 (19th December) : A Service of Carols and Readings for Christmas, with the **Watling Singers, 6.00pm**. The village begins its Christmas spiritual celebration!
CHRISTMAS DAY : **Festival Sung Eucharist with Carols, 9.30am**

Village Carol Singing : See the separate notice about carol singing round the village.

Please ask to see the special card (also posted in the church porch) for the other Advent and Christmas services at Brington and Norton.

POST SCRIPT

ST. ANDREW'S BAZAAR: I would like to add a personal word of thanks to Janet Bowers and all of you who provided goods for the stalls, or who came to support the Bazaar in any way. It was a great success, and will help your church and its ministry in the village enormously.

3 INTO 6 : As I explained in the last Newsletter, Whilton, Brington and Norton are to join Harlestone, East Haddon and the Bramptons in an informal arrangement as a joint group under my care for a trial period of two years. The date of my Licensing as Priest-in-Charge of our new partners is **FRIDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 7.30pm**, at East Haddon church.

The Churchwardens join me in wishing you every blessing
for Christmas. May the Christ Child fill your hearts and homes!

Jim Richardson


The Rectory,
Great Brington.
0604 - 770402


 **Come to an Old Fashioned Christmas Party** 

 **Coffee, Carols and Home Entertainment for all the Family** 

on

Wednesday, 29th December, at Home Farm

7.30 - 9.30pm 

 **Adults, £1.00, including coffee, mince pies and also prize for lucky ticket .**
Children, 50p, including coke & mince pies.

MYSTERY RAFFLE?

Proceeds for Church Bell Restoration

Tickets from Susan Townley or Mary Emery

Whilton Women's Institute

The Annual General meeting of the Women's Institute was held on October 13th, preceded by the normal monthly meeting. Matters dealt with included a report on the very happy anniversary 'get-together' with former members, which had been greatly enjoyed. Arrangements were made and menus selected for the dinner to be held at the 'Old Coach House' at Ashby St. Ledgers.

The possibility of inviting two Russian visitors to speak to members was discussed.

Some rather unhelpful replies had been received from our M.P. on the subject of the resolutions passed at the National Annual Meeting and relating to violence in the home and the problems facing women who tried to plead provocation, a defence at present only open to men. The subjects of alternative energy sources and national water supplies had also been raised.

A committee to deal with the arrangements for 'members night' was formed and also those who kindly offered to be responsible for Senior Citizens' Christmas gifts. Thanks were given to those members who had tidied up and planted the bed alongside the churchyard wall in memory of Freda Adams.

Voting then took place for the Committee and President for the coming year. The members will be:-

President - Frances Drake
Secretary - Trudy Haynes
Treasurer - Janet Spokes
Assistant Secretary - Diana Scott
Magazine Secretary - Jean Davies
Vice-President & Register - Anthea Hiscock
Welfare - Freda Thomas

The rules and procedures for this Institute were reviewed and confirmed.

The meeting ended with a display of Christmas gifts by Ros Gardner. These could be made by members but most people felt that Ros Gardner's skill far exceeded their own and they were duly impressed.

Frances Drake

Milk tops, foil & stamps.

Two more sacks of tops, foil, etc. have been delivered, together with a good supply of stamps once again. Many thanks and keep on saving!

Trudy Haynes

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 1993

RESULTS - First Round

Area	Max Mark	Our Score	Judges Remarks
Absence of Litter and unofficial refuse dumps	30	28	A little litter was seen
Tidiness of public features	40	38	The verge outside the village hall, and other verges require attention. Churchyard excellent.
Tidiness of gardens	20	19	A very good effort.
Best Kept Village Poster. Children's poster Tidiness of notice board. Map supplied for judges.	10	10	Excellent.
TOTAL MARKS AWARDED OUT OF 100 = 95 DATE 22ND JUNE 1993			

RESULTS - Second Round

Area	Max Mark	Our Score	Judges Remarks
Absence of Litter and unofficial refuse dumps	30	28	Just a little litter was evident on day of visit.
Tidiness of public features	40	37	The churchyard was excellent, but more care should be addressed to verges particularly outside the village hall.
Tidiness of gardens	20	20	A very good effort.
Best Kept Village Poster. Children's poster Tidiness of notice board. Map supplied for judges.	10	10	Very good indeed.
TOTAL MARKS AWARDED OUT OF 100 = 95 DATE 17TH AUGUST 1993			

We all deserve a pat on the back for such excellent results and the Parish Council thank everyone for their efforts.

BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 1993

Area	Max Mark	Our Score	Judges Remarks
Absence of litter	20	20	Excellent
Care of grass around gravestones	35	33	Almost perfect
Care of paths etc.	30	30	Excellent
Overall general impression.	15	15	Well cared for
TOTAL MARKS AWARDED OUT OF 100 = 98 DATED 22ND JUNE 1993			

We have not been sent details of the second round judging but from the summary below it would appear that something went drastically wrong as a mark of only 82 is unbelievable, or they went to the wrong village churchyard !

COMPARISON WITH OTHER VILLAGES IN OUR CLASS

CUP WINNERS CUP SECTION	Village		Churchyard	
	1st Rnd	2nd Rnd	1st Rnd	2nd Rnd
ABTHORPE	89		86	
HULCOTE	88		92	
<u>WHILTON</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>* 82 *</u>
MEARS ASHBY	91	93	93	
NASSINGTON	85		91	
FLORE	78			
HARTWELL	86	87	93	
HELMDON	85			
KINGS SUTTON	77		93	
MOULTON	88		94	
MIDDLETON CHENEY	89	96	86	

If an aggregate of the two rounds points had been used then the village would have been clear winners in this section, as it was we had to settle for 2nd spot.

The churchyard was the only one from the Cup Winners section to go forward to the 2nd round and the Parish Council would like to sincerely thank Mr. Harold Haynes and his very small band of helpers for keeping the churchyard in such an immaculate condition all year round.

Once again many thanks to everybody for helping to make the village one of the consistent "high flyers" in this competition.

Jim Gardner, Chairman, Parish Council.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH
THE ANNUAL VILLAGE PUB NIGHT
IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

8 TILL LATE !!

Final details of entertainment to be notified later BUT the BIG "200" club draw will take place and a licensed bar will be available plus the usual high class refreshments.

TICKETS AVAILABLE SHORTLY from J.Gardner (842324) or M.Kane (842618) and they will be limited to first come first served.

£2 pounds each !!

(if anybody knows where we can get a skittles table for the night then please let me know. Jim Gardner)

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NEED PHOTOCOPIES ?

Did you know that Brington School have a super machine with enlarge and reduce facilities, and it's available for your use at negotiable rates.

Ring Paul Bilsborough or Margaret Marriott on 9 770286 for further details of this LOCAL facility.

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NOVEMBER W.I. REPORT

The November meeting of the W.I. was chaired by Mrs Hiscock in Miss Drakes absence. A report was read out on the Group Meeting recently held which was the last meeting of the present group of Institutes. A new group has been formed and Whilton will be linked with other Institutes to form a group to be known as "The Grand Union Canal Group". Each member of the disbanded group received a commemorative card. Final details were announced for the December Members Night. Several non members joined us when Mrs Ferneyhough showed a collection of handmade greetings cards, and during the evening we all had the opportunity of making our own card with materials provided by her.

We are looking forward now to our annual members night party in December and in the New Year we look forward to welcoming any new members who would care to join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7-30pm in the village hall.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish council meetings have been held on 24th September and 1st November.

Among items discussed were the following ;

Best Kept Village Competition - the council had been notified that the village had won the runner up prize in the Cup Winners section for this year. The council were represented at the prize-giving ceremony by Messrs Gardner, Haynes and Kane.

Traffic Management Scheme at Whilton Locks - an agreed scheme of traffic management had now been given the OK by the County Council. This is promised to be in place by the end of March 94 and will hopefully slow traffic down through Whilton Locks.

Highway Grass Mowing 1994/97 - a letter inviting the parish council to contract to mow the grass between the 30mph signs in the village had been received from the County Council. As they were only prepared to contribute approx. £140 per year for this the parish council did not intend to take on this responsibility.

Clerk's Salary - after discussion it was agreed to raise the present salary level to £400 per annum. This was in line with National agreements and includes an allowance for a qualification recently obtained.

Allotment Rents - it was agreed that the allotment rents should remain at £12 per full plot and £6 per half plot for a further year.

Budget and Precept requirements 1994/5 - after discussion it was agreed that our precept requirement should remain at £2,070 as in the previous two years.

Allotment Vacancy - it was agreed that the recently vacated allotment plot should be re-let to the only person on the waiting list, Mr.J.Wright.

Planning Matters

Storage of 250 caravans at rear of Garden Centre, Whilton Locks - the council decided to object to this application on the grounds of;

Unsuitable site for vehicle movements.

Wrong to mix this type of use with a retail site.

The entrance from the road, if existing permissions are taken into account (i.e.new pub, caravan sales), has reached it's safe limit.

Garden Store, Thatched Cottage, Main Street - change of use of part of ground floor of building into rural shop for sale of clothing/soft furnishings/crafts etc. from Monday to Friday between 9-30am and 3-30pm.

After discussion the parish council decided to inform the

Planning Authority that they had no objections to the application provided the days and times of business were as per the application. However, it was pointed out that any advertising should not cause obstruction nor detract from the visual amenity of the area and that any permission should be for the applicant only and be for a temporary 3 year period. The council has since heard that permission has been granted with the above conditions imposed.

Retention of Mobile Home, Garden Centre, Whilton Locks - this application has been permitted, temporary for 3 years.

Crazy Golf and Sale of Pets, Garden Centre, Whilton Locks - this application has been permitted, temporary for 3 years.

Jim Gardner.

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It's still there but nobody has used it yet !! What you ask.

The

WHILTON PARISH INFORMATION POINT

If you have any queries about County Council services or Parish council matters, please contact :

Anne Heeley - Tel; 843270

Northamptonshire County
Council

Whilton Parish
Council

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"The Robin"

Again the robin waxes tame
And ventures pities crumbs to claim
Picking the trifles off the snow
Which dawns on purpose daily throw
And perching on the window sill
Where memory recollecting still
Knows the last winters broken pane
And there he hops and peeps again

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

Mr. Will Adams requested in his Will that £100 should go to the Village Hall Fund. The committee agreed that this sum should be spent on a specific item which would benefit the community as a whole. We have therefore purchased four dozen knives, forks, spoons and teaspoons at a cost of £105-28.

This cutlery will be available on request to anyone using the hall for any function (just ask Mary Kane when booking the hall).

We hope that you will find this additional facility useful.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the September and October Draws.

On 1st October the winners were :-

1st prize	-	No. 196	F. Allen
2nd prize	-	No. 41	F. Thomas
3rd prize	-	No. 159	Whilton Playgroup

On 22nd October the winners were:-

1st prize	-	No. 193	C. H. Tooley
2nd prize	-	No. 133	D. F. Brown
3rd prize	-	No. 106	J. & M. Bate

Mary Kane

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|               |
|---------------|
| CAROL SINGING |
|---------------|

Whilton Carol Singers will be around the village plus handbells on Wednesday 22nd December. If you feel you would like to join them please contact Sue Townley on 842297

# WHILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## EARLY WARNING / COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

This idea received 100% support and was therefore put into operation 19th October 1993.

The cascade system was put to the test on Tuesday 9th November 1993, the result proving very favourable and that information can be passed round the village more effectively.

However one or two teething troubles were encountered and no doubt these can be overcome. It is appreciated during the daytime a number of residents are away from home at business and with certain groups it may be necessary to proceed down the list missing two or three people to find one at home - this is preferred rather than delaying your call until you believe the next resident is at home.

If you find the next person is not obtainable, please pass a message at the earliest opportunity but still proceed down the list until a contact is made. However, if more than one person cannot be contacted please advise the Co-ordinator for your Group giving names of residents missed.

It is not expected that each time the system is used there will be 100% success for there will be occasions when it is impossible to make contact with all residents for one reason or another.

## WOMEN - TAKE CARE

In the October 1993 Whilton Newsletter there was an article under this heading and the booklet mentioned has now been received from the printers. This has been distributed in Whilton Village and for the residents of Whilton Locks your copy is enclosed with the Newsletter. It is hoped that you will find it instructive.

## PERSONAL ATTACK ALARMS

The enquiries received to date have been disappointing. These can still be obtained at the cost of £8-50 (very good value) from your Co-ordinator Derek Brown - tel. 842968.



## INCIDENTS

Two incidents have recently been recorded in this village by Daventry Police.

### 24th September 1993

Garage broken into during night. Side window of car smashed and property stolen. Later some of the stolen items were found in long grass in a field gateway in the village and two items of clothing were recovered along the Althorp Road in Great Brington.

### 7/8th November 1993

Burglary in Langton Rise. Side gate kicked open and entry to property gained through forcing a rear window. Exit was made through rear patio doors which were then left open.

## Why should you make it easy?

Being the victim of a burglary can be a shattering experience. When a complete stranger breaks in to your home, rummages through your personal belongings and helps himself to your most valued possessions, it is not the expense that hurts. For many, it is the shock and distress which leaves the most lasting impression and no amount of insurance can compensate for the damaged emotions.

Break-ins are more often the work of thieves on the lookout for the easy touch rather than experienced professional criminals - they get away with it because we make it far too easy for them.

Nearly two-thirds of all burglaries take place through windows, especially those at the back on the ground floor. Shutting them helps but it is not enough for often a burglar will simply break a small pane and then reach in to open the catch. So how can you make it more difficult?

First of all fit locks to all windows on the ground floor and those upstairs which can easily be reached from flat roofs or drainpipes. They ARE effective, because even if the glass is broken, the window cannot be easily opened and the burglar will not normally bother to take out all of the glass. It takes too long, makes too much noise and increases his risk of being caught.

Patio doors should be fitted with extra security locks top and bottom, and anti-lift devices which prevent doors from simply being lifted off the rails.

While windows may be the favourite way in for most burglars, good locks on doors are an absolute must. Yet so often locks on doors are simply not up to the job they are supposed to do. For the best protection on the front and back main doors you should fit a security DEADLOCK which preferably conforms to BS 3621 - look for the British Standard kite mark if you are not sure.

KEEP GARAGES AND SHEDS LOCKED a thief would find a ladder and tools very useful to break into your house. If you cannot keep your ladder in a shed or garage padlock it to something secure. NEVER LEAVE A KEY "HIDDEN" OUTSIDE the thief knows where to find it.

A security alarm system statistically proves the main deterrent to burglars and certain security firms will offer a discount to Neighbourhood Watch members.

There are insurance companies currently offering a discount in respect of household contents cover where additional security is installed and also being a member of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It is suggested that you refer to your broker or insurance company for details.

PC. Mick Downing, the Crime Prevention Officer for the Daventry area, will offer advice on the security of domestic and commercial properties if contacted at Daventry police station tel.300300.

#### THE MAGAZINE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The October issue of the Neighbourhood Watch magazine was limited to 34 copies for Whilton. This resulted in a system of sharing in order that every household had the opportunity of reading it. If you have not had the chance to see the magazine there are four spare copies available - please ring 842860.

Finally to strengthen Neighbourhood Watch in Whilton, please place your window sticker where it can be clearly seen and keep an eye on the Village notice board for information which is regularly displayed.

#### AUTO-CRIME AND OPERATION HYENA

Currently auto-crime represents 30% of all reported crime in Northamptonshire. In order to combat this Northamptonshire Police have been running Operation Hyena which started Monday 1st November and is to end on Tuesday 30th November 1993.

The main object of this operation being:-

1. To prevent and detect auto-crime.
2. To arrest offenders.
3. To increase public awareness of crime prevention.
4. To heighten public awareness of police activity in relation to auto-crime.

There has been increased patrols and road checks throughout the county during the course of the operation and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have been specifically asked to help by reporting any suspicious incidents involving cars and vans in their areas.

#### FACTS ON AUTO-CRIME

A large number of stolen vehicles are never recovered. Some of these vehicles are sold on with false number plates and documents.

Cars are rarely stolen from private garages. The higher proportion of cars are stolen from private driveways and public roads than from car parks. Therefore if you have a garage it is in your own interests to USE IT. In the event of a loss your claim may be affected if you do not take all reasonable care to protect your property.

At least 15% of all stolen credit cards are taken from cars. Stolen cheque cards, cheque books and credit cards can be sold on or criminally used immediately.

Never leave handbags, briefcases or any other personal effects whatsoever in your car even in the locked boot. They are an easy target for the opportunist thief.

**ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR**

**DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE IN YOUR CAR**

Christine Bilsborough and Derek Brown  
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators



## Summary of Events

|      |      |      |         |                                  |
|------|------|------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Sun. | 5th  | Dec. | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist, Whilton          |
| Mon. | 6th  | Dec. | 7.30pm  | Whilton Gardeners' Association   |
| Wed. | 8th  | Dec. | 7.30pm  | W.I. Meeting, Members' Night     |
| Sat. | 11th | Dec. | 8.00pm  | Village Pub Night, Village Hall  |
| Sun. | 12th | Dec. | 4.00pm  | Christingle Celebration, Whilton |
| Sun. | 19th | Dec. | 6.00pm  | Carol Service, Whilton           |
| Wed. | 22nd | Dec. |         | Carol Singing around the village |
| Sat. | 25th | Dec. | 9.30am  | Christmas Day service, Whilton   |
| Wed. | 29th | Dec. | 7.30pm  | Christmas Party, Home Farm       |

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Wed. 12th Jan. 7.30pm W.I. Meeting

Thurs. 13th 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; The Editors are:

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

\* \* \* \* \*