

WHILTON NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2000

Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true
love said to me. "I'm glad we bought a fresh
turkey and a proper Christmas Tree."

On the second day of Christmas, much
laughter could be heard, as we tucked into
our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people
from next door. The turkey tasted just as
good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay; poor
Gran is looking old. We finished up the
Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the
snow flakes flurried. But we were nice and
warm inside, for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit, the
Christmas spirit died. The children fought
and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true
love he did wince, when he sat down at the
table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed,
the dog had run for shelter. I served up
turkey pancakes, with a glass of Alka
Seltzer.

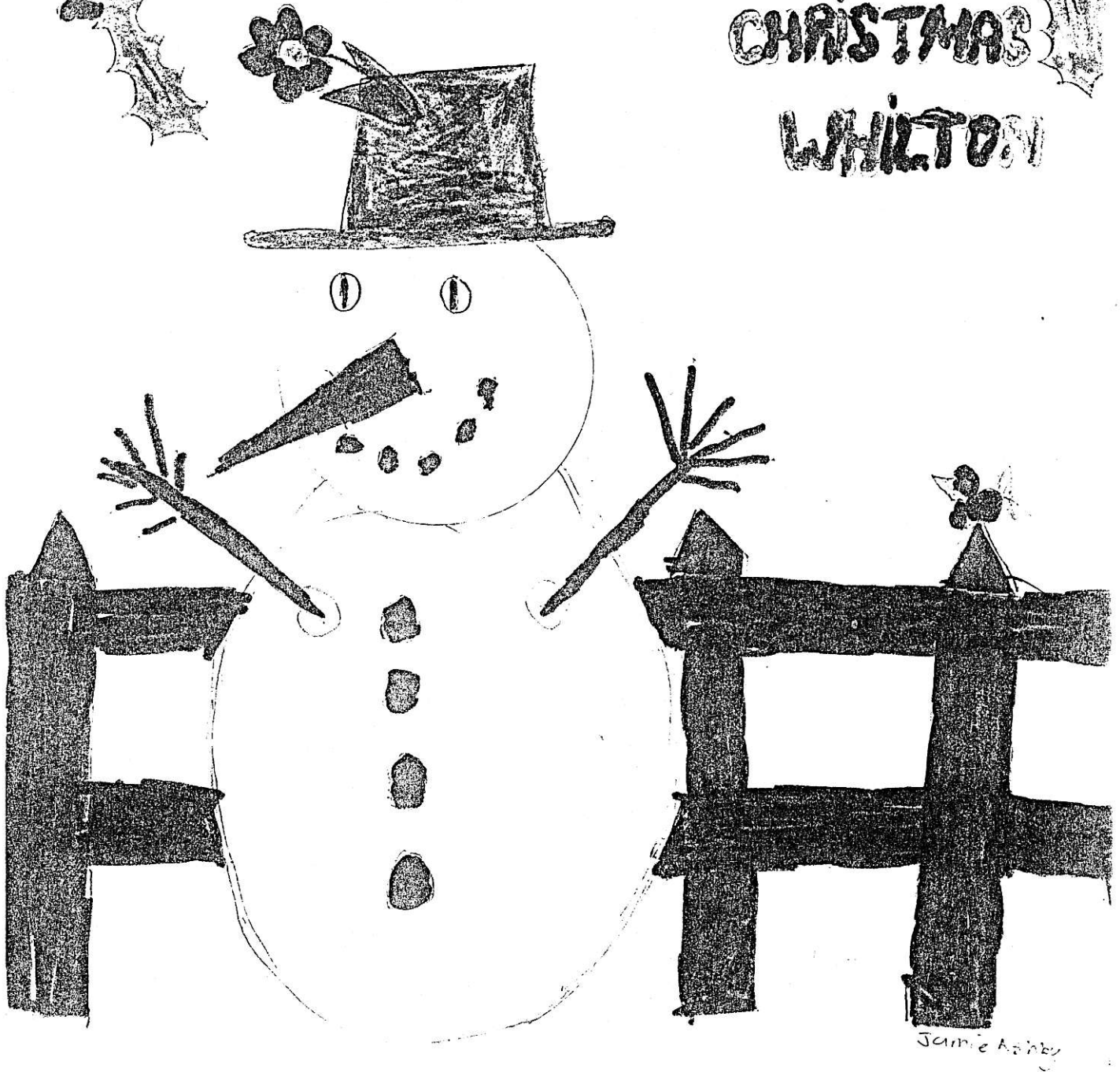
On the ninth day our cat left home, by
lunch Dad was blotto. He said he had to
have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth the booze had gone, except
our home brew. And if that wasn't bad
enough we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the
Christmas Tree was moulting. The mince
pies were hard as rock and the turkey was
revolting.

On the twelfth day, my love had a smile
upon his lips. The guests had gone, the
turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips.

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
WILTON



This picture was produced by one of the young members of the village, Jamie Ashby (Aged 9 years) to the residents. This kind thought maintains our faith in the younger generation.

The Editors are most anxious for an input from the young people with stories, poems and holiday experiences etc.

PARISH MATTERS!

Since I last wrote the new Council has had to meet 3 times. Two special meetings were required to look at planning matters and the regular November meeting had a full agenda.

Positive News

There was a lot of business on a positive note. NCC Highways have indicated they will lower the kerb at Stone House corner and will discuss the repair of the Southview wire provided we can assure them of its future maintenance. They have noted the potholes for repair but no promises were given. We have put this at the top of our list for the NCC Area Committee special grant allocation as well. Whilton Mill have now indicated people from the village will be able to use the Tennis Court in future at £5 per session for 4 players. Perhaps we could manage a village club? Maurice Clements agreed to become the new Footpath Warden to replace our long serving Jim Gardner. The Council recorded its thanks to him. The first free compost had been delivered to the layby at the top of Southview and despite the terrible weather a number of gardeners had helped themselves to it. There is still an amount there and it has been found very acceptable by the experts. If it is all used another lot will be ordered but first of all the Council will see if a load for the Locks can be secured. Finally Rai Barnes' commemoration plaque is ready to go into position for the end of the year.

Planning

The planning concerns requiring the special meetings to comply with planning timescale targets involved redevelopment of Tooley's former farmyard adjoining the Coach House and a 45foot Mast for One to One Telephones at the Motorway Bridge. The former was seen as a positive proposal. It will allow the development of a new entrance, and extension westwards of the Coach House. It is also proposed to have outline planning permission for a new residence beside it fronting onto the road in front of the green. The Council was however opposed the telecommunication mast being sited on the corner of the road down to the Water works. It was in front of the crash barriers for the motorway bridge representing a safety issue. It was not hidden by the trees on that corner and would seem very stark. The safety of such appliances so near housing is also a matter of concern and debate. Members suggested a siting further away from our local road if it had to be there at all.

Cllr Amos indicated to us the changes in the District Plan now out for consultation. These involved the removing of Long Buckby from the Housing quota leaving the expansion of Daventry as the main area for new housing. The long drawn out saga of new car parking at Long Buckby Station it was hoped would be solved by the start of the extension in February.

Parochial Charities and the Parish Precept for 2001-2.

Two further matters of importance had to be decided. The death of Harold Haynes who had been such a loyal supporter of the Parish required a new Trustee of the Parochial Charities to be appointed. The Clerk agreed to act on the Council's behalf with the Rector and Frances Drake. This is also the time of the year when the Precept for Parish Funds for next year has to be set. This income which is the bulk of Parish Funds comes from the Community charge paid to the District Council by householders. After some discussion on the level of reserves required it was agreed to reduce next year's requirement by £500 to £3000. That seems a positive note on which to close this eventful millennium year.

The Parish Council sends its best wishes to everyone in the Parish for Christmas and 2001.

SERVICES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WHILTON

DECEMBER 2000

3RD	10.00 AM	UNITED BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT EAST HADDON
10TH	4.00 PM	CHRISTINGLE
17TH	6.00 PM	CAROL SERVICE
25TH	9.30 AM	FAMILY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
31ST	6.00 PM	SUNG EUCHARIST AT <u>NORTON</u>

JANUARY 2001

7TH	10.00 AM	UNITED BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT <u>WHILTON</u>
14TH	11.00 AM	FAMILY SERVICE
21ST	6.00 PM	COMPLINE
28TH	9.30 AM 11.00 AM	SUNG EUCHARIST FAMILY SERVICE

WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC Meeting was held on Monday 23rd October 2000 and following may be of interest:-

Christmas Decorations - Mr Clifford Ellison is making a new set of angels and a number of people have been recruited to deal with the other aspects of the Christmas decorations in the church..

Memorial for Harold Haynes- Mr Roy Haynes (son) is to make a stand for the Memorial Bookcase. Both he and Mrs Haynes thought this an appropriate memorial..

Rector's Report - The Lay Team consists of 18 members and training is to take place. The next Emmaus Course will also be used for basic training purposes.

The Revd Maurice Walton will not be included in the Service Schedule from October 2001 when he retires to live in Flore. It is hoped to find a suitable replacement.

Service Schedules - These will cover a period of four months and include social and spiritual event details.

Treasurer's Report - The Gift Aid Envelope Scheme has been well supported and tax at the rate of 28 pence in the pound when recovered at the end of the fiscal year, will certainly support our income. From the retiring collection at Mr Hayne's Funeral Service at the request of Mrs Haynes a cheque was sent to the Flore Medical Centre for their Equipment Fund. The annual donations to charities supported last year remains unchanged.

Alternative Service Book (ASB) - at the end of this year the ASB will no longer be in use and this is replaced by the Book of Common Worship.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2000

1st Prize	009	G Denbigh	£40
2nd Prize	201	M Clements	£20
3rd Prize	173	F Drake	£10

OCTOBER 2000

1st Prize	053	R P & D Day	£40
2nd Prize	152	A Print	£20
3rd Prize	048	N Young	£10

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS

IN BRIEF.....

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE *Just a reminder that the library van calls in the village every other Tuesday at approximately 9.10 am to 9.30 am. The van generally parks near The Old Plough. Good use needs to be made of this service if it is to be retained, why not make a visit to the van for your reading material? The DECEMBER dates will be 5TH & 19TH and JANUARY 2001 dates will be 2ND and 16TH & 30TH*

CONGRATULATIONS *on the birth of a daughter Claire Helen to Isobel and John Townley, a sister for Charlotte and granddaughter for Sue And John born, Thursday 23rd November (7lbs 14 ozs).*

CHRISTINGLE *There will be a service on Sunday 10th December in St Andrew's Church at 4.00 pm.*

CAROL SERVICE *The annual Carol Service will be on Sunday 17th December at 6.00 pm in the church.*

CONCERT *Members and Friends of the Bach Choir are giving a Christmas Concert in St Andrew's Church starting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20th December. Tickets £5 from Anna Ellison on 01327 842568'*

WHILTON SPINNEY *Due to many weeks of extremely wet weather, no progress has been possible. However we hope to finalise the pond project in the very near future providing there is a dry period.*

NEWS from WHILTON & BUCKBY LOCKS ASSOCIATION

The Association meets once a month, usually in Long Buckby Wharf Community Hall. Membership of the Association is open to anyone with an interest in canals in general or the Whilton and Buckby Flight of locks in particular, whether that interest is in the boats, canal-side businesses, waterway wild-life or in the industrial history of this important waterway.

The canal was built over 200 years ago by the Grand Junction Canal Company to provide a route from Braunston to the tidal River Thames at Brentford, for industrial traffic plying between the Midlands and London. It is 93 miles long with 100 wide locks and has always been one of the busiest canals in the country. The locks are numbered from Braunston towards London, as are the original bridges.

In the Whilton and Buckby Flight there are seven locks Nos.7 to 13, with a total fall from the summit pound of about 60 feet. The top lock No. 7, very close to the A5, is in the Parish of Norton. The next two, Nos. 8 and 9 are in Long Buckby and the remaining four, Nos. 10 to 13 in our own Parish of Whilton. The distance between the bottom and top locks is not much more than a mile and the towing path, with public access, is wide enough to walk in safety.

Since they were built in the year 1796, the locks and the canal pounds between them have required constant maintenance. Over the years, much of the original lock wall brickwork has had to be rebuilt and the gate-timbers frequently replaced. Some of the ironwork of the paddle mechanism, which controls the flow of water in and out of a lock, has been changed as different systems for efficient working with a minimum waste of water, have been introduced. Repair, maintenance and improvement of these canal structures still continues as one of the many responsibilities of British Waterways.

At the meeting of the W&BLA in October, Mr Michael Judd the British Waterways Engineer for this area, showed slides of work undertaken by his department during the summer months. He reported that there had been plenty of water this year — the automatic back-pumping system had worked well and it had not been necessary to put restrictions on the use of the locks in order to save water. Members were able to discuss with him the further work expected to be started during a stoppage planned from the 6th November to 8th December, when the canal will be closed to boats from Bridge 25 near Weedon to the top of the locks.

Works on the flight during this stoppage to be undertaken partly by contractors, partly by the BW Engineering Department, include:

- Lock No.8 — steps to be rebuilt to allow for the insertion of foundations for a footbridge planned to cross the tail of the lock — bottom gates to be repaired
- tow-path retaining wall between Locks 8 and 9, to be repaired
- Lock No.9 — width of foot-bridge over tail to be increased and an extra rail inserted
- Locks Nos. 8 to 13 — all top-gate paddles (at present out of use) to be fitted with angled metal plates to act as baffles, to reduce turbulence during lock filling

In addition, when funds allow, maintenance of the general canal corridor will continue including the clearing of any vegetation likely to destabilise the banks and the laying of tow-path hedging to encourage re-growth at the base.

Beryl Williams

WHILTON WI
OCTOBER 1999 – OCTOBER 2000

OUR MILLENNIUM REPORT

Twelve months ago at our Annual Meeting we were all recovering from our fiftieth birthday celebrations, so our meeting today proves we have also survived our fifty first year!

Of course as a WI we cannot have such special occasions every year, but we do have some achievements and highlights to celebrate. In the first place, because this is the Millennium year, we were involved in the completion of the Whilton Millennium Map, which was finally unveiled in May. Although this was a whole parish enterprise, WI members did a fair share of this, both in designing, stitching the main map and in producing squares. Because of this the County Federation was represented at the unveiling evening by Mrs Maureen Walton, the County Treasurer.

We are also very proud that Janet and Ken Bowers' photo of Lower Farmhouse has been included in the calendar for 2001, so all over the county people will be looking at a Whilton picture during September 2001. They also have photos in the book published at the end of last year depicting Northamptonshire Villages Past and Present.

We have welcomed one new member this year and have continued with our regular activities and meetings. We have also managed to take part in some county organised events. In November we entered a team in the County Quiz, which was held at Champion School. Our team did not win, but enjoyed their evening. Ros Gardner attended the Presidents' Wine and Cheese Evening in January, the New Speakers Evening in March and an evening on India at Guilsborough School in June, and several members joined Harlestone WI for an Antiques Evening in March. Anthea was present at the famous/infamous National Triennial General Meeting of the WI at Wembley.

We also have continued to work for causes, which concern us as members of the WI. A group of members have sponsored another orphan elephant in Africa, the original one having grown up and been released into the wild. Even before the TGM in June we had written to Tim Boswell about our concern at the closing of rural post offices and changing the way of paying benefits. The other resolutions passed at the Triennial General Meeting concerned improving care for stroke victims and funding for children's hospices. More recently we have written letters supporting the campaign against discrimination against women (CEDAW) and given our opinions in response to Local Agenda 21 issues.

In April we joined the Parish Council in organising the Annual Litter Pick for Operation Spring Clean. Because this was held on a school holiday morning it was much better attended than last year and Shirley Brown's certificates for taking part were so successful she had to produce more. Trudy Haynes, Frances Drake and Diana Scott provided refreshments afterwards in the Hall and all agreed the event had been a great success. Another success was the mystery auction and wine and cheese evening held at Langton House in June. This was well supported by generous people in the village and we raised £257 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Appeal and £120 for our institute.

Most years we try to go out for a meal together. This year we went to Peggoty's at Fosters Booth in March. The meal was enjoyed by all, and some husbands joined us too, but it was tinged with sadness, as it was also a goodbye to Jane O'Riordan, previously our vice president, just before she and Paddy were to retire to Scotland. The other meal we shared was our annual Members' Night in December. We changed the pattern this year, with every member bringing a contribution to a buffet. This proved such an easy and delicious arrangement that we shall probably do the same again.

Besides all these activities, our regular monthly meetings continue on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings have varied between those with a speaker and those where we provide our own activities or discussion, which included a Christmas craft workshop, making tree decorations, cards and sweets. We have enjoyed a variety of talks and demonstrations. These have included a slide show by Ken Bowers, helping us to see local places in a new light. Mrs Gabbitas, of Daventry Museum, shared its history and plans for the future. Mr Larkin talked on British wild flowers with slides and Mrs Philpott talked about ghosts of Northampton, leaving the members discussing the subject long after she had finished! Mr Martin, who has a workshop at East Carlton Country Park, gave us a lively demonstration, making glass models, and Mrs Lucy Pendar's enthusiastic recounting of her life's experiences at Whipsnade with both animals and keepers fascinated us all.

When we consider how much our small institute does, perhaps it should inspire us to invite some of the other women in Whilton, who miss out on these experiences, and who could gain from and contribute to them in the coming year.

Anthea Hiscock
Secretary

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

The Beetle Drive which was held on Friday, 27th October had a great Halloween feel to it and the 16 adults and 16 children attending all had an enjoyable and exciting evening.

The Village Pumpkin Competition was judged by Mrs Gill Denbigh and the winner was Mrs Kathleen Wright with a rather super entry. The prizes for the children's Decorated Pumpkin Competition were won by Jacob Mitchell and Tom Kane.

The number of entries in both sections of the competition was fairly low but perhaps next year if a competition is held there will be a greater interest.

The winner of the Beetle Drive (most number of points) was Mike Wheeler and the prize for the least number was given to Marcus (Monty) Grant. The excitement was so great that just over half way through the evening a break was called for refreshments to enable calm to be restored.

Village Hall Management Committee

WHILTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our meeting on 8th November 2000 there were unfortunately only six members able to attend. We were joined later by one visitor as it was an Open Evening.

Frances Drake gave a report on the AGM at Spinney Hill when Richard Whiteley was the Guest Speaker. Janet Bowers reported on the Speakers proposed for 2001, it seems we are in for a very interesting year (hopefully with a larger audience).

Arrangements were made for Members' Night - our Christmas Social Meeting with food and games etc.

Our speaker was Mr John Beckwith of Duston who talked to us on the "History of Stained Glass".

Glass is one of the oldest man-made materials dating back to 2000 BC in Mesopotamia. The early glass was always coloured, except for red and never clear. This glass was soluble and only suitable for beads. Later limestone or chalk was added and coloured or decorative bottles could be made. The Romans learned to blow glass for bottles to use on site but they were pear-shaped and rather brittle.

It was not until 50 BC that clear glass was made. From then onwards glass making advanced and sheets of glass were made for windows to see through as well as just letting in the light. The use increased and the quality improved over the years.

About 1675 lead crystal was introduced as stronger glass was needed to prevent breakage on stone floors but it was about 55% lead content and caused lead poisoning. Its now a safe 31%.

In the mid-nineteenth century, glass for horticultural use and for conservatories became popular and for display as per the Crystal Palace.

By the 20th century bullet-proof glass was invented and this led on to the strong Pyrex oven to tableware.

Mr Beckwith told us many more interesting facts about glass and demonstrated how he made the beautiful glass objects on display with copper solder and lead.

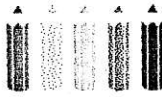
He also gave us some hints about cleaning windows and looking after crystal glass.

Shirley Brown

A Whilton Winner

Congratulations to Abigail Hiscock on winning one of the first prizes in a Millennium Essay competition based on the United States and the United Kingdom in the Second World War. Her essay had included some details provided by Frances Drake and Diana Scott and by Ted Sharpe of the Daventry British Legion. Her entry had been read by a number of distinguished judges, including Tom Hanks, Stephen Spielberg and Ralph Fiennes.

Abigail was entered for the competition by Champion School, and went with her parents and teacher John Perkins to collect her award at the American Ambassador's residence on 22 November. The awards were presented by the Ambassador, Philip Lader, and David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment. She also met David Frost, and the novelist Ken Follett in what was a rather glittering occasion.



Brington & Whilton Pre-school

A Registered Nursery Education Provider and a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance

Please come along and support your Pre-school on Friday 8 December 2000
10.30am - 12 noon at Whilton Village Hall.

This year we shall be holding an Open Morning where all can come along and have a mince pie, coffee and a chat. The children will be showing what kind of activities they enjoy at Pre-school and there will be activities for others to join in.

We will also be having a raffle of a Christmas hamper, there will be a childrens clothes stall, a book stall and a card stall, so come along and get those last minute Christmas presents.

Please come along if you can, or if not support us by buying a raffle ticket which can be obtained from Sara Mitchell.

We look forward to seeing you there and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Jenny Holman and Trudy Bass

COPPER MILE

This is still progressing very well. There will be a more detailed report in the next Newsletter with a map showing progress.

Crime Report

28th October - during the early hours of the morning several residents were disturbed by loud knocking and/or bell ringing on their front doors.

Two youths were seen tampering with a locked car which was parked on a private drive at about the same time. The youths ran away when challenged.

Two other residents reported seeing young lads running through the village between 1.00 and 2.00 am.

Northamptonshire Police were notified and the incidents were later investigated by a police patrol car.

Property Protection

Security in the home

1. Ensure that all locks, bolts and alarms are working and used at night or whenever the house is empty;
2. Arrange for a relative or neighbour to check your property daily if you are away.
3. Store jewellery, valuables and legal documents in a safe.

Security away from home

1. When travelling keep jewellery and watches on your person at all times.
2. Ensure that all luggage is adequately secure and not left unattended.
3. Always use the safe facilities at hotels for money, travellers cheques, valuables and important documents including passports.

Vehicle Security

1. Do not leave possessions where they can be seen in an unattended car.
2. Make use of the boot to store goods. Lock boot and glove compartment.
3. When leaving vehicles anywhere remove keys from ignition, secure doors and windows and activate the alarm.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

Please note that the previous telephone number 01327 300300 is no longer in use.

To contact Northamptonshire Police, dial the Northampton Number

01604 700700

**Christine Bilsborough
Co-ordinator**

Christingle

You are warmly invited to our Christingle celebration

Please come and help us in reaching out to vulnerable children and young people who need our support. Help us to help them reach out for a better, brighter future.

If you believe every child deserves a decent chance in life, you believe in everything we stand for.



**Light up
a child's life**

"The Christingle service has become a popular children's event in hundreds of our parishes."

Dr George Carey
Archbishop of Canterbury

on SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER

at ST ANDREW. WHILTON

time 5.00pm.



**The
Children's
Society**

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales

Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street,
London WC1X 0JL.
Tel: 020 7841 4521/4535 Fax: 020 7841 4404
www.the-childrens-society.org.uk
e-mail: campaigns@the-childrens-society.org.uk
Charity Registration No. 221124

The Editors thank Mr Clifford Ellison for his seasonal cover this month

WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

At the last meeting in October, members were informed of the judge's report on East Midlands in Bloom, the bank balance of £332.93 (the hall rent to be paid from this), the programme for 2001 and the arrangements for the judging of the Pumpkin Competition.

The programme for 2001 includes talks on Pelargoniums. Ornamental Grasses, Clematis, Organic Gardening and Wildflowers.

Two outings are also planned; Barnsdale in Springtime and Ryton Organic Gardens.

It was agreed with the Village Hall Committee to have the judging of the pumpkins at their Beetle Drive at the end of the month.

The Annual General Meeting will take place with the Christmas Social on 4th December.

Following the business meeting, Mr Mike Ranglely gave an enlightening and informative talk on trees for both garden and woodland planting.

Janet Bowers
Secretary



There will be carol singing round the village on Thursday 21st December from 6.45 pm (note earlier time) starting from the triangle green at the end of Manor Lane.

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling has taken place on several occasions recently in the lower part of the village. Due to this, a child on the way to Pre-School, stepped in it and had to return home to be cleaned up.

Responsible owners should carry a small bag and scoop for a cleaning-up process to prevent further incidents as it could be a serious health hazard, especially to young children.

Summary of Events

Mon	4th	Dec	7.30 pm	Whilton Gardeners' Association AGM & Social in Village Hall
Tues	5th	Dec	9.10 am	Library van in village
Fri	8th	Dec	10.30 am	Pre-school open morning
Sun	10th	Dec	4.00 pm	Christingle in St Andrew's Church
Sun	17th	Dec	6.00 pm	Carol Service in St Andrew's Church
Tues	19th	Dec	9.10 am	Library van in village
Weds	20th	Dec	7.30 pm	Members & Friends of the Bach Choir Concert in S Andrew's
Thurs	21st	Dec	6.45 pm	Carol Singing round the village
Mon	25th	Dec	9.30 am	Family Service & Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Tues	2nd	Jan	9.10 am	Library van in the village
Sun	7th	Jan	10.00am	United Benefice Sung Eucharist in St Andrew's Church
Wed	10th	Jan	7.30 pm	Whilton WI in Village Hall
Tues	16th	Jan	9.10 am	Library van in village
Tues	30th	Jan	9.10 am	Library van in village
Weds	31st	Jan		<u>Newsletter Deadline</u> Please hand in your contributions by this date otherwise we cannot guarantee they will be included in the next edition
Mon	5th	Feb	7.30 pm	Whilton Gardeners' Association in Village Hall

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:

Derek & Shirley Brown - Cherry Orton, Main Street
Trudy Haynes - The Old Plough, Main Street.
Sara Meadows - Courtyard Barns, Manor Lane

We are always pleased to receive additional contributions from people who do not normally have an input. Articles of local interest, poems, recipés, puzzles or drawings will always be considered for inclusion in the Newsletter.

The February issue will be later next year and therefore the deadline has been extended to 31st January 2001

Any contributions to the newsletter by the deadline date, please. to any of the above Editors.

**The Editors send you Greetings and Best Wishes for Christmas 2000
and the Year 2001**