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WHILTON NEWSLETTER

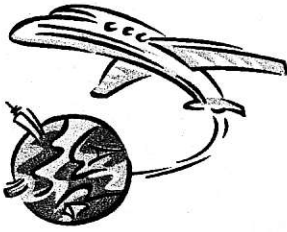
DECEMBER 2003



NEWS FROM ALL AROUND THE PARISH

In this issue:

- Reports from Organisations***
- Details of future events***
- Planning to climb Kilimanjaro***
- A little rhyme that might ring a bell***



World Challenge

By Abby Hawkins

December 2003

Silverstone Bike Ride:

4th April 2003



to everybody that sponsored me to cycle around Silverstone track 17 times!! 17 times around Silverstone track is equal to cycling up Mt.Kilimanjaro on it's pathways.

Beetle Drive



to Linda Treacy who gave me the idea and helped with the organisation.

Scarecrow Trail, Harpole

for supporting me and my friends by visiting our stall in Harpole.



Thank You

to everyone who has kindly given me donations towards my fundraising.

I have now been fundraising for 12 months and thanks to everybody's help and generosity I have managed to raise just over £2000 only £1000 to go.

Sometimes its been a struggle but I know that in July 2004 it will have been all worth while.

I have just had my flight date confirmed and I will be jetting off on Monday 5th July 2004 to Tanzania and an adventure of a lifetime.

I am looking forward to climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and seeing the sun rise over Africa. I am excited about our project where we will be working together with a local community to improve their school. As a team we have raised £1000 to spend on this project. For the last 5 days of my expedition I will be relaxing on the East Coast of Africa, soaking up the sun, taking in the sights and enjoying the experience

Asante sana

If anybody has any of these items I could either borrow or purchase for my expedition please let me know:

- ☺ Thermal inners for gloves.
- ☺ Waterproof overtrousers.
- ☺ Gaiters
- ☺ 30 litre day sack/rucksack



for coming to my summer BBQ.



for buying my Christmas Wreaths 2002

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Registration of Whilton Village Green

Our Parish Council has decided to make an application to register land at the centre of the Whilton as a 'Village Green'. If the application is successful, the area will be protected from encroachment (of all sorts) and will remain available for use by local residents for recreational purposes.

This triangular grassy area outside the Church belongs to Northamptonshire County Council and is designated as 'highway verge'. There is **no immediate threat** but the Parish Council has decided that the best way to ensure that it remains an open grass area — and not become part of the road junction or a designated car-parking area — is to register it legally as a 'Village Green'.

The application for registration will have to be accompanied by detailed evidence — supplied by **individual members of the community** — to show that this land has been regularly used for recreational purposes for at least 20 years. I have agreed to collect this evidence on behalf of the Parish Council.

If the evidence collected does not cover the whole of the period, then **the application is sure to fail**. If the green is not registered, the time may come when the Parish Council of the day will not have the power to prevent this open grassy area at the heart of our village from being covered in tarmac!

Therefore, it is important that everyone who remembers 'The Green' being used for any recreational purpose at any time during the last 20 years, sends me a **list of activities — with dates** (or approximate dates). Please include your name, address, & phone number.

Recreational activities include:

ball games	picnicking
hide-and-peek	partying
catching games eg. tick, tag	sun-bathing etc.
leap frog / tumbling etc.	and other similar activities.
skipping games	
and other children's games.	

but there are probably many other ways in which 'The Green' has been used during the last 20 years!

I will collate the information that I receive from residents, then the Parish Council will decide how best to submit it to the registration authority. You may be asked to present your evidence in a different format but, if this is necessary, advice will be given.

NONE OF THE INFORMATION THAT YOU SUPPLY WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE REGISTRATION AUTHORITY WITHOUT YOUR SIGNED PERMISSION.

Beryl Williams Sira Main Street (opposite the Stone House)
phone: 01327 842091 E-mail: bwilliams@aspects.net

PARISH MATTERS!

The Parish Council met on 3rd November, in the absence of Mrs Price who was unwell and of Cllrs. Mr and Mrs Amos who were away. However the issue of the confines had brought out a record number of the public to participate in the open debate. The meeting was one that considered the future of the village in many ways.

Future Planning Confines;

After a full debate about what suited the future village in terms of applications for housing, the Parish Council Chairman closed the open discussion before the decision was made. The clerk and two members of the Council left the meeting having declared their interests as their gardens were involved in the outcome.

The Council has decided that it would not want there to be no opportunity for the village to grow in the future within specified areas and to a very limited extent. It agreed to support the more limited confines from those submitted by them a year ago now proposed by the District Council planners with the exception of wishing to retain within the proposed confines the garden area behind the existing houses accessed by the field lane opposite Wadd Close. This had ready access and fitted in the present shape and outline of the village.

Individuals are free to write to the District Council to propose additional areas or object to this area. However the District council Planning Guidance has indicated any land outside these very restricted confines eventually approved at the end of this long process will find it virtually impossible to have any planning application agreed. That is not the same as saying that any application for land within the confines will receive either support from the Parish Council or approval from the DDC.

Planning Application Outcome

The meeting heard in this regard that in line with observations made by the Parish Council the planning application for a new house at the Old Cottage had been refused. As we go to press a new application has been received putting a bungalow on the site with improved access. This will involve the calling of a new special meeting to discuss a response as the closing date for response is the 28th November.

South East (Milton Keynes Expansion) Plan and DDC Strategy

The Council heard from the Chairman about the public meeting at Norton organised by Cllr. Mrs Amos addressed by the Leader of DDC and the Head of Community Development attended by him and three other representatives. This was about the response DDC was making to the Government proposals for housing in the South East. Daventry Town they see as potentially benefiting from agreeing to take a share now of the increased housing for the Milton Keynes area to raise the population to 40000. This should mean Government aid to build the necessary infrastructure, which otherwise would not happen as with the current piecemeal expansion taking place there. It was reckoned also to make the town sufficient size to attract some serious larger shops. The Parish Council accepted this gamble for aid but remains concerned that present parking/access problems are met at the same time. The proposals already made for either more houses our side of the reservoir, or in a new Danetree village below Borough Hill and between Norton and the A45 have to be decided in the light of this. The more restricted confines for villages forcing people to live in the town have also to be seen in the light of the SE Strategy. We live in interesting times!

Temporary Speed Restriction Over Motorway Bridge and Tree Liabilities

On a more parochial level but important one we have received a temporary Traffic Order that will operate from January 5th to April 5th of 40mph through Whilton Locks as repairs to the Motorway bridge are done. Also the Parish Council decided to make no observations about the felling of a Sycamore Tree and some urgent tree surgery along the road to the A5 from the Locks. However during the meeting a former Councillor recalled that the trees planted opposite the Green in front of The Stone House and Dove Close were the responsibility of the Council having been planted by Horace Clements on their behalf. It was agreed as part of the liabilities of the Council howbeit unknown to that point should now have expert opinion as to their state and need.

The Green and problems with new Street name plates

This brought us again to the Green and the issues surrounding progress there. Beryl Williams elsewhere in this addition is seeking your help with the evidence. However it was agreed to move the Salt bin to it new position agreed with Mr Eyton-Jones by his wall this coming month. The clerk had also report the apparent vandalism and robbery from the telephone box of all its money box and phone apparatus, which BT were now in the process of replacing and at Nobottle where the same thing had happened.

The naming of the area as The Green and plans to provide Street name plates for Brington Lane, Main Street and Buckby Lane were also discussed in the light of a clarifying letter from Sue Martin at DDC. You will recall that although the Green was a Council idea to give the 7/8 homes around it a geographical location, the other plates were requested by members of the public who have been frequently asked where a named property is or who wish to direct people via street names to their own homes.

Ms Martin told us that if this was done apparently it would involve all but Main Street having a new post code from the present NN11 5NN. This might in turn until this was recognised by systems used by the commercial world lead to unrecognised addresses or even refusal of credit as the address was not on the system

Residents Views Needed. As a result of this advice the Parish Council has decided to ask you who live in the affected areas- Brington Lane, Buckby Lane, and the Green whether you would want the Council to proceed in obtaining the Street nameplates. **A Questionnaire Slip has been provided for this separately to return to me by 31.12.03.**

Preserving the Environment

Preserving our environment was the theme of much of our remaining business. We received the results of the Village of the Year competition produced elsewhere. Congratulations for the Commendation given for the Churchyard must go to Roy Haynes and helpers but otherwise our efforts went unrewarded this year- honours going to Harpole and Bugbrooke. We will try again next year. The notice board at the Locks has been renovated. New Visors have been provided for five of the village lights and it was agreed to renew the lamp at the end of Langton Rise at the entrance to the village. The start of the new bus service on Wednesday and Saturday to Northampton, a direct result of the survey in the village nearly two years ago, was welcomed as was the news it was being used. Hopefully this will increase as Christmas and the Sales beckon and normal parking becomes a nightmare!

Highways Concerns

While Highways have been considering our representations on condition at the Locks, (very constructively it turns out from the reply received after the meeting), they have again asked if we could nominate an interested person who is about during the day to be our **Highways Warden** linking with them on concerns about the roads. This would be a worthwhile job if we have such a volunteer. I would be happy to discuss it further if you contact me (843319). In the same vein the Council is still seeking some volunteers to do a rush hour traffic survey for both the Locks and the village. This would involve a 7.30-9am and a 5-6.30pm session both relatively undemanding if there is a group of us. Please think about it and contact me.

Traffic wise our wish to assist the Whilton Mill get its patrons to it without them reaching a deadend and having to retrace their steps through the village met with an unexpected reversal of roles when the Chief Executive finally replied. He seemed to think it was the responsibility of the village to erect a sign as to its location for those coming along the top road rather than his own. Some of us had not realised business was so bad ! The Parish Council took the view this was not a responsibility they could undertake nor a legitimate expenditure for them though they had been quite willing to support a planning application for the notice etc. So to those frequently asked where it is and those that raised it at the Annual Parish Meeting I have to say sorry, perhaps you will explain the position when next approached.

Ending on a brighter note

We need to end on a brighter note what was a tremendous meeting, so much better for the high attendance. The Parish Council considered the Precept it will ask for from the community charge you pay to the DDC and decided reserves allowed it to request only £2500 this year. This is a reduction of £500 from last year and £1000 from recent years. This was despite a generous annual review of the Clerks Salary and approving other expenditure of £530. The Council will face elections in June, perhaps it will be your opportunity to put your name forward to serve the community in this important and unique way.

Our next regular meeting is at **8pm on 5th January in the Village Hall**. Why not make it a New Year Resolution to be there. If you have persevered to the end then - A Very Happy Christmas to all my readers!

USED STAMPS

Christmas gives us the opportunity to save more stamps than at other times.

Just cut them out with a small surround of envelope.

They will be sent to Danetre Hospital for the "Save the Children Fund" and can be left by the back door of the Old Plough.

My thanks to all who have taken the trouble to save throughout the year.

Trudy Haynes

NAME OF VILLAGE WHILTON

CLASS: I EWC.

NAME OF CHURCHYARD ST. ANDREWS

Date: 17-6-03

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE
BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION**

2003

	Max. Marks	Marks Awarded	Remarks
Absence of litter	20	20	Perfectly clean.
Care of grass	30	28	Very well maintained, conservation area well defined complete with sign and in other areas wild flowers have been left.
Care of paths, verges, walls lych gates	35	32	Everything very tidy.
Overall general impression	15	14	A lovely village church yard. The only criticism we could make was the small heap of grass mowings left against the wall.

TOTAL MARKS AWARDED OUT OF 100 94

A:SCORE_2

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE
BEST KEPT VILLAGE
COMPETITION 2003**

VILLAGE WHILTON
CLASS Cup W. Cup
Date 17 - 6 - 03

Part 1	Maximum Marks	Marks Awarded	Remarks
Overall impression of the village	30	26	Very peaceful tidy village
Absence of litter	25	22	A small amount of litter seen
Tidiness of public features churchyards and chapel yards, cemetery, village greens, roads, village hall and surrounds, bus shelters, telephone kiosks. (Note: - exclude litter marked in above)	20	16	Church Yard - Excellent. V. Hall frontage tidy Kiosk clean. Allotments tidy & well used. V. Green well mown & tidy.
Tidiness of Playing Field and Open Spaces	10	7	Generally tidy - impressed by the obvious efforts to protect areas where wild flowers growing. But a little weedy along side some walls
Visibility of 'Village of the Year' Competition Poster/s and orderliness of advertisements and other notices:			
Village of the Year poster/s	5	5	
Tidiness of Notice Boards	5	5	
Facilities map supplied to judges.	5	4	
TOTAL AWARDED	100	85	

AREA TO BE IMPROVED FOR 2004

Peter Maddison
Chief Constable



Police Headquarters
Wootton Hall
Northampton
NN4 0JQ

Direct Line: (01604) 703005
Switchboard: (01604) 700700
Direct Line Fax: (01604) 708914

PM/bh

04 November 2003

I am writing to ask for your help in tackling a crime that is particularly unpleasant and which, sadly, occurs far too often.

Distraction burglary is a despicable crime, where someone preys on an elderly or vulnerable person by calling at their home with a seemingly good reason to be admitted, but with the real intention of stealing anything they can find.

Quite apart from the material loss, often the most damaging consequence of distraction burglary is the blow to the victim's confidence and their sense of being safe in their own home, which can be truly tragic. Older members of our community can be less likely to turn callers away, and this is where I think the parish council could help.

May I ask you to spread this important crime prevention message around your area in any way you can. This may be through your parish newsletter, through your lay visitor team or even simply by asking your colleagues to pass the information on to as many of their friends and neighbours as they can.

The advice we would give is:

- Fit a door chain if you do not have one
- Check the identity of anyone who calls at your door – do not take on trust that they are who they say they are
- If you are not expecting the caller, do not let them in. If they have a genuine reason for calling, they will understand and will not be concerned

There have been nearly 300 distraction burglaries in Northamptonshire this year. Of course we have to keep things in perspective, but by anyone's standards this number is far too high. Please help us to protect vulnerable residents and pass on immediately any information you may have about suspicious activity in your area.

With thanks for your ongoing contribution towards community safety in our county.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Maddison". The signature is written in a cursive style.



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



At our last meeting, members of the Gardeners' Association were given a talk by Graham Cousins, the owner of Orchards Garden in Walton, Leicestershire. He took on the huge task of designing and constructing a large overgrown plot into a beautiful garden. The garden is about one and a quarter acres in size and overlooks the Leicestershire countryside. Graham spoke about how the design was developed and some of the construction techniques he used to create it. He happily talked about the successes in his design as well as some ideas that did not work so well. Graham had plenty of 'hands-on' experience in creating his garden which showed through in his enthusiastic presentation. This was an excellent talk and will give us plenty of inspiration for next year in our gardens.

Coming Soon... Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Monday 1st December at 7.30pm in Whilton Village Hall. The evening will consist of the association's AGM and Christmas Bash.

Christine Phillips
Secretary

The Gardeners Hymn

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all

But what we never mention, though gardeners know its true
Is, when He made the goodies, He made the baddies too

All things spray and swattable
Disasters great and small
All things paraquatable
The Lord God made them all

The green fly on the roses, the maggots in the peas
Manure that fills our noses – He also gave us these

All things spray and swattable etc

The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines
The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens

All things spray and swattable etc

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds
The rain that drown the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds

All things spray and swattable etc

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds

All things spray and swattable etc

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasps that eat the plums
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs

All things spray and swattable etc

But still we gardeners labour midst vegetables and flowers
And pray what hits our neighbours will somehow bypass ours

All things spray and swattable etc

Brington & Whilton Pre-School

We have settled well into the new term with about ten children attending each session and those that joined us have settled and are well integrated into the group. We have more children joining us after the half term break so numbers are good, although there is still room for more.

During the first part of this term we have been looking at Weather, although the summer has been very sunny, we have also looked at rain, storms, ice and snow, we may see these soon! The children have enjoyed eating Ice Creams, making sunglasses, creating lots of noise for thunder, playing with ice and watching how and why it melts and also making their own snowflakes.

Over the next half term we are looking at our five senses, with lots of different and fun activities planned. Then Christmas will be upon us, which will give us the opportunity to do lots of Christmas activities. We will also be preparing for our usual Christmas play which we invite you all along to, so watch the notice boards, it would be really good to see more than just parents present as the children do put lots of effort into this and are rather cute as they enjoy the experience of showing their play to others.

If there are any Parents out there who have Pre-School age children, 2 years 6 months up to school age who haven't heard about us, we meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at Whilton Village Hall and as the group is relatively small we are able to provide a friendly, caring atmosphere where the children can learn through play, learn to socialise with other children their own age and have fun learning about the world around them.

We have been OFSTED inspected and follow the Foundation stage curriculum that continues into Reception at School. We are able to claim funding for all 3½ and 4 year olds, but we give good value for money at only £5.00 per session for children under the age of 3½.

If you would like more information or would like to visit us please do not hesitate to contact me, **Jenny Holman** on **01604 770083** as we would be happy to show you around.

LIBRARY SERVICE: - THE COUNTY LIBRARY VAN CALLS IN THE VILLAGE EVERY OTHER TUESDAY AT APPROXIMATELY 9.10 AM TO 9.30 AM. THE DECEMBER DATES ARE 2ND , 16TH & 30TH AND THE JANUARY 2004 DATES ARE 13TH & 27TH..

Christmas Market

St Andrew's Church, Whilton,

Saturday 22nd Nov. 2003

On behalf of the PCC of St Andrews a sincere thank you to all who gave their time and talents and to everyone who worked in anyway for the Christmas Market.

Despite it being a very damp and miserable day weather-wise, the mood of the people within the church was great.

*At the time of writing (the next morning) the result has yet to be finalised but again **thank you to everyone.***

This year's Carol Service on Sunday 21st December will hopefully be of a slightly different pattern, finishing with mulled wine and mince pies.

Janet Bowers

Remembrance Day 2003.

A Remembrance Day service was held at St. Andrews at 6pm. on Sunday 9th. November which was well attended. The wreath was laid by Mrs Lucy Gow who served in the Royal Corps of Military Police, in recognition of the loss of life experienced by that regiment whilst serving on peace keeping duties in Iraq. The collection of £80-25 has been sent to the British Legion.

The sale of poppies in a house to house collection raised £187.13. A record. Many thanks to all who contributed and took part in the service.

Philip Waights



FLOODLIGHTS



THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL CELEBRATIONS OR TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE OR IF YOU WOULD JUST LIKE TO SEE THE CHURCH FLOODLIT.

AT A SMALL COST THE CHURCH CAN BE FLOODLIT FOR THE EVENING MAKING ANY OCCASION VERY SPECIAL FOR YOU

Janet Bowers



CHURCH MATTERS



From Revd. Chris Goble

One of the things that I noticed on my way into Northampton recently was a series of posters placed by the Countryside Alliance. They were headed Toff?, then pictured a nurse or plumber who also hunt. Regardless of what you feel about the issue, the point is worth some thought. Rather than have some slogan asking for your support, what they have gone for is to see the human face of the hunt. This is something that is also quite often done by the media, if there is a big issue of the day, say the foot and mouth crisis, they will speak to an individual who has been affected, and thus put a human face on what may be an otherwise seemingly distance story.

The Christmas story does a similar thing. The existence of God is not something that is closely argued by neat philosophical argument, but rather through the Old Testament people encounter God and in the stable of Bethlehem we see the face of God, in the face of Jesus. Talk about making yourself vulnerable! In Jesus we can encounter God, and through the birth of Jesus in Nazareth, and his life, death and resurrection, we can know God. That is a wonderful thing, and we are privileged that we can become children of God, through the birth of the Son of God.

I do hope you'll join with us to celebrate. We have our Christingle service 4.00pm on 14th December, Carol Service 6.00pm on 21st December, followed by refreshments. Midnight Communion is 11.15pm at Brington on Christmas Eve, and our Family Holy Communion 9.15am Christmas Day.

Happy Christmas and wishing you joy in 2004.

Chris

I work from Brington Rectory, 01604 774042 or E-Mail chris@rectory.freeseve.co.uk

SERVICES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WHILTON

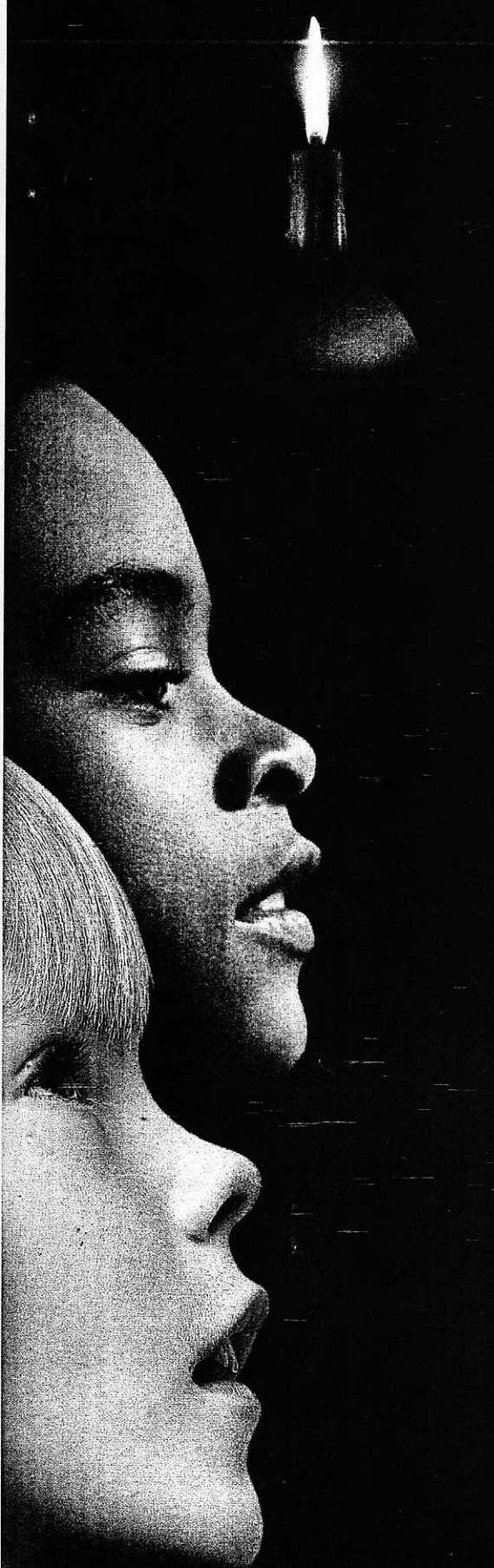
DECEMBER 2003

7TH	10.00 AM	<u>BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT BRINGTON</u>
14TH	4.00 PM	CHRISTINGLE
21ST	6.00 PM	CAROL SERVICE
25TH	9.15 AM	FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION
28TH	9.15 AM	SUNG EUCHARIST



Christingle

Shining light into darkness



Celebrate a special Christingle in aid of The Children's Society

We hope you will join us for this
joyful and moving service

on SUNDAY 14th DEC.

at 4.00 pm.

www.christingle.org

All proceeds go to The Children's Society Charity Registration No 221124 Christingle originated in the Morevian Church in 1747



A Voluntary Society of The Church of England

GRANNY'S APPLE CHUTNEY.

As tasted at Harvest Supper.

Ingredients.

- 3. lbs. Cooking Apples.
- 1. lb. Small Onions
- 1. lb. Raisins.
- 2. lbs. Sugar.
- 2. oz. Salt.
- 2. pints Vinegar.
- 1. lb. Sultanas.
- 2. oz. Mustard Seed.

Spice Tied in Muslin Bag.

- 1. pkt. Pickling Spice.
- 8. Cloves.
- Small piece Root Ginger. (Peeled).

Method.

Mince Apples, Onions and Raisins.
Add Mustard Seed.
Add 1 pint Vinegar.
Add Muslin Bag of Spice to mixture.
Boil until brown pulp.
Add 1. pint Vinegar.
Add 2. lbs. Sugar.
Add 2. oz. Salt.
Add 1. lb. Sultanas.
Cook until dark brown.

When cool tie down in glass jars.

Eileen Finnemore



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.



The police have issued a general warning about a spate of burglaries in this area in particular at Long Buckby, Crick and West Haddon. A wide variety of methods have been used in particular distraction burglary (they have issued special advice re this and a copy of this is published in full in this issue of the newsletter), walk in, forced entry and car break-in. It is believed a gang from Northampton may be partially responsible.

Report suspicious incidents and vehicular activity. If it is actually taking place ring 999 or if not 01327 300300 and ask for western desk or ring me.

A particular target area has been Long Buckby Station car park. On 14th there were two spates of car break-in. One between 1200 and 1700 hrs and the other about 3am.

Do not leave anything of value in view in your vehicle.

It is believed that there has also been a break-in in Brington.

In Whilton the only problem of which I am aware is the vandalising of the public phone box.

P.R.Waights.
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

WHILTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2003

Twelve Months in the Life of Whilton WI – (Extract from the Secretary's Report)

Although small in number our WI continues not only to thrive, but be enjoyable.

During the last year we have travelled to the Dutch canals, Peru and the life of the Incas (both with the aid of colour slides) and to Antarctica with the history of Scott's Expedition in 1910 – 1912 with slides of the original black and white photographic plates by the camera man, Herbert Pontin. A wildlife talk gave us an insight into the life of badgers and our Local Community Police Officer enlightened us in a Neighbourhood Watch talk on the many and ingenious ways of conmen.

On two occasions we have done 'our own thing' for meetings with an evening of winter warmer dishes in January and making chocolate Easter eggs and bunnies and the boxes for them in April.

Non meeting activities have included a Fair Trade Supper for the village which raised £100 for a water project in India and a table top sale of which 50% of the profit was donated to the Marie Curie Foundation together with the proceeds from a Christmas raffle.

In July, husbands joined us for the annual dinner at Peggotty's Restaurant at Fosters Booth and in December 2002 we enjoyed a Christmas buffet with quizzes and festive activities.

Our part in the local community was the litter picks in spring and autumn and the provision of Christmas gifts to the senior citizens in the parish. We are also responsible for the upkeep and planting of the flower bed in front of the church wall created in memory of a past founder member of the Women's Institute in Whilton.

Altogether it has been a busy and lively year for such a small organisation and very enjoyable. Why not come along on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), it may be just as enjoyable for you and we do welcome new members. The new programme looks to be as interesting as previous ones.

At the AGM the new officers for 2003/2004 are: President – Ros Gardner, Treasurer – Judith Fuller and Secretary – Joyce Fallows

NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING

After the business meeting, which dealt with items from the WI Newsletter, arrangements for the Christmas meeting, senior citizens parcels and future meeting, we all gathered round tables to create Christmas cards by parchment making. All was quiet as we beavered away with card, colouring utensils, designs and scissors, it was heads down to create a work of art under the direction of our instructor. And then we proudly displayed our creations and whilst enjoying a cup of tea and biscuits, we viewed what our fellow members had made.

A really absorbing, creative and enjoyable evening for us all.

Janet Bowers

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

OCTOBER 2003

1 st Prize	062	P Waights	£40
2 nd Prize	109	G Martin	£20
3 rd Prize	035	P Waights	£10

NOVEMBER 2003

1 st Prize	051	M Emery	£40
2 nd Prize	107	N Hill	£20
3 rd Prize	095	T Treacy	£10

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS



WORRIED SICK

The salt that's in my cereals
Is deadly so they say,
And eggs and bacon too
Will be the death of me one day
And so with very much regret.
I've given breakfast foods the chop;
I start my day with exercise
And juice from the health food shop.

There's fluoride in the water;
Is it safe? Well I dunno.
It gives you stronger teeth,
But dare I use them? No, no, no.
There might be dodgy pesticides
Lurking in the greens,
Or else some biotech outfit
Has added extra genes.

The processed food's got additives
Too numerous to count,
Plus saturated fats
That cause cholesterol to mount.

And as for meat - don't go there:
It might have growth hormones,
(I'd ring someone and ask
but I'm scared of mobile phones).

I haven't had a decent meal
For several weeks or more,
There's nothing left to eat
That isn't poison to the core.
I think I'm short of vitamins;
I ought to take a pill,
But even these health supplements,
It seems, can make ill.

I scan the papers avidly
In search of new health scares;
I've never known a week
That didn't bring yet more
nightmares.

Hello, what's this - an asteroid
Will hit the Earth next year?
We're doomed.! Thank God!
I'll gorge myself
On bacon, crisps and beer!



ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY



The following history of the development of the spinney is for the benefit of new residents in the village .

This spinney is approximately 2¼ acres. It is mainly wet woodland bordered by a stream on one side and a ditch on the other.

It was a millennium gift to the people of the parish of Whilton from Joan and Griff Davies of Roughmoor Grounds. It was decided that the smaller, drier part of the spinney on the right of the footpath from the village should be a picnic / play area and the other part be for conservation.

It had not been managed for many years and the commercial crop of approximately 170 Italian Black Poplars, planted for matchwood, had overgrown and over-matured to the extent that they were dangerous and needed felling. There were about 100 native trees in the spinney which would obviously grow better when the poplars were felled.

Volunteers from the village cleared and burnt undergrowth and made two paths through the spinney. Even at that stage, flowers and plants, mostly water-loving, were being seen, especially in spring and summer. A monthly plant survey was carried out and eight zones marked off for more detailed observation. A pond was dug out at the far end of the spinney, sponsored by Daventry District Council

Foot and Mouth Disease curtailed efforts for a time but arrangements were made in summer 2001 to have the black poplars felled. This was a major task and made rather a mess of the spinney on top of the neglect due to Foot and Mouth. Volunteers did a great job clearing up in the field where the trees were dragged after felling.

There have been no Working Parties in high summer for obvious reasons but we started again in October when the undergrowth had died down and we plan to have one each month until further notice, see noticeboard. We examined the sponsored trees we had planted to see how they had withstood the drought conditions. Any trees that have not survived will be replaced. although as far as we can establish at the moment, there only appears to be two or three that are suspect.. We also hope to plant more trees, noting which varieties have done well this year.

We were very pleased to receive the Judges Award from East Midlands in Bloom for the spinney project this year and hope, with some extra help, we can improve it further.

More tidying and clearing has taken place and paths are now being re-formed, plant survey areas were reclaimed and new ones positioned where interesting plants grew.

Since the felling of the trees, the native species are growing better and more flowers have appeared due to the extra light. More wet areas had appeared and we had a board walk installed by BTCV during the summer of 2002 over the worst parts.

Clearing the ditch and pond are ongoing tasks.

In the late autumn of 2002 thirty three young trees (Willow, Hazel, Field Maple and Ash) were purchased from BTCV and planted. Fortunately all the trees were sponsored by residents and connections of Whilton which gave us a small profit to purchase more trees in autumn 2003 and to replace any that may have suffered due to the extremely dry summer 2003. Most seem to have thrived against all odds.

We had our Official Opening in April 2003 which we combined with an Easter Egg Hunt followed by Easter type refreshments. 50 adults and children attended and the event was enjoyed by all.

Three benches have been made from wood lying in the spinney and put together without glue, nails or screws and are placed in the Play Area. We hope to make more for other parts of the spinney later this year.

We are now trying to identify some of grasses, bromes, reeds and sedges which are abundant in the spinney.

Management Group

Thoughts from Langton Cottage

Speeding

..... I wonder how many nanoseconds someone can shave off their journey by driving at 50mph rather than 30mph through the village?

Speed and the problems of speeding drivers, has been in the newsletter regularly. Most drivers who live in the village seem aware of the problem, but not all. The position of our drive means that as we set off to walk our dogs or try to inch the car on to the road, we frequently feel the rush of air before we see the vehicle creating it. Could I suggest that actually even 30mph at this point in the village is too fast and that all residents, should be aware of the need to observe a speed limit appropriate for the conditions - even the younger drivers!

As for drivers using Brington Lane as a cut through to/from Daventry, I suppose this traffic will only increase, with all the accompanying negative effects, so yes, lets continue to try and find ways to reduce traffic speed to that which is sensible in what is, for the time being at least, still only a country lane.

...and yes we'll volunteer to take part in a traffic count.

Village News

..... The newsletter is great, but would it be a good idea to use the notice board for news as well as notices? It would mean that we get to know what's happening to our neighbours when it happens, not perhaps 3 months later. I'm thinking of births and deaths in particular and also successes - anything you like in fact, to keep us in touch with each other!

Broadband

Broadband has arrived at Long Buckby exchange but unfortunately, at the moment, there's no chance of Whilton residents being able to benefit, as the line length to the village is over the 'magic' 6 kilometres. It would be interesting to know whether others in the village would like access to Broadband and if so, an economical alternative could perhaps be sought. If you're interested, email Richard Oliver at rolivers@talk21.com.

Ann and Richard

**Thanks to all who contribute to the Newsletter
and the volunteers who handle the distribution**

***The Editors send you Greetings and Best Wishes
for Christmas 2003 and the New Year 2004***

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Mon	1 st	Dec	7.30 pm	Whilton Gardeners' Association .AGM & Christmas Social
Tues	2 nd	Dec	9.10 am	Library Van in village
Sun	7 th	Dec	2.00 pm	Working Party in Spinney
Wed	10 th	Dec	7.30 pm	WI Meeting in village hall - Members night
Sun	14 th	Dec	4.00 pm	Christingle Service in St Andrews Church
Tues	16 th	Dec	9.10 am	Library Van in village
Sun	21 st	Dec	6.00 pm	Carol Service in St Andrew's Church
Thurs	25 th	Dec	9.15 am	Family Holy Communion in St Andrews Church for Christmas Day
Tues	30 th	Dec	9.10 am	Library Van in village
Wed	31 st	Dec		Last date for returning questionnaire slips for residents involved
Mon	5 th	Jan	8.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting in village hall
		2004		
Tues	13 th	Jan	9.10 am	Library Van in village
Wed	14 th	Jan	7.30 pm	WI meeting in village hall - Subject TBN
Tues	27 th	Jan	9.10 am	Library Van in village
Wed	28 th	Jan	7.30 pm	Village Hall Management Committee in village Hall

Fri 23rd Jan 2004 Newsletter Deadline - Please hand in your contributions by this date, at the very latest, preferably well before or otherwise we cannot guarantee they will be included in the next edition.

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:

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We are always pleased to receive additional contributions from people who do not normally have an input, especially children. Please supply a disk with your contribution if possible so that we can manipulate the text to fit if necessary. If you do not have a PC or typewriter the editors will type the articles as we have always done in the past.

Articles of local interest, poems, recipés, puzzles or drawings will always be considered for inclusion in the Newsletter.

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