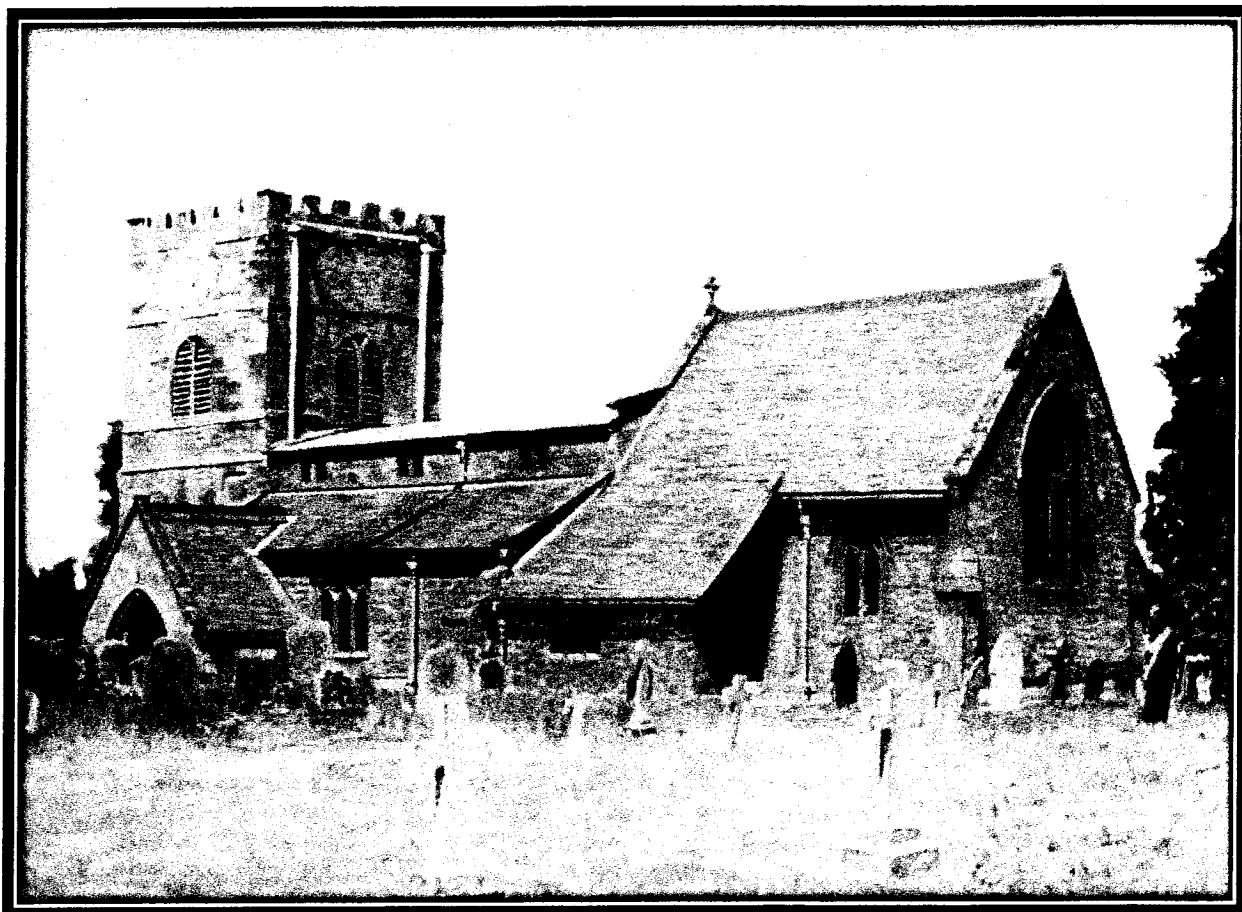
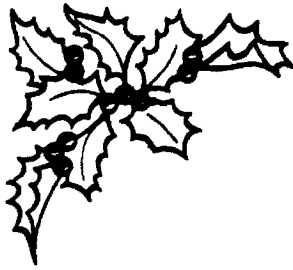


WHILTON NEWSLETTER



**DECEMBER 2015 -
FEBRUARY 2016**



Winter 2015 - 2016

Letter from the Editors

As we read through the contributions for this issue we have noticed that there is an emphasis on the past and then on food, farming and the festival of Christmas. There will be Christmas events centred on the church and our cover features a watercolour of St Andrew's by Alison James of Lower Farm House, Brington Lane.

Articles in this issue remind us of the need to protect our environment and help us to appreciate the skill and knowledge involved in producing food locally.

Some of that food will be eaten by us at Christmas and other festive occasions as the winter progresses, and we hope many parishioners will be able to join in coming community events.

We also have some thank you notes, and perhaps you may like to add to these in coming issues.

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

The Editors



Parish Council News from Sue Porter, the Clerk

Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to the parish of Whilton for the warm welcome I have received as new Clerk to the Parish Council. I was taking over from one of the best and would like to wish Erica all the best for the future and say that the transition was smooth and the handover notes made for very smooth running, of which I am most grateful!

The excitement of Halloween is over, the fireworks have stopped and we have the inevitable countdown to the festive season and the joy that this brings. Advent calendars are flying off the shelves and we have already had our share of mince pies, but please remember this time of year to keep an eye on neighbours and relatives that may be on their own and in need of some company and just knowing there is someone, should they need that pint of milk collecting or the odd chore undertaking. A few minutes from our busy lifestyles is not much to ask for a smile and a thank you.

The Parish Council is busy preparing the budget for next year and planning ahead, and other matters being discussed are the Capt Reynolds stone and footpath, along the highway, issues which we all encounter in our everyday lives, such as speeding in the village, and how this can be stopped! Everyone is always in a rush these days! Community Speedwatch and 20mph zones are all ideas being talked about over the table. The first meeting of 2016 is at 7pm on Wednesday 13th January in the Village Hall. There is a vacancy on the Parish Council and new members are always welcome, if this is of interest please do contact me for an informal discussion.

There are a couple of allotments that have become vacant and are looking to be filled; if you are interested, then please do give me a call.

Finally, I shall sign off and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2016 from all of Whilton Parish Council.

Sue Porter
Clerk to Whilton Parish Council
clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk

Time to say thank you

Our churchyard is always tidy and well mown. Visitors often comment and give praise but villagers may not be aware that we have Roy Haynes to thank for all of this work which he undertakes on a voluntary basis. On behalf of all in the village the editors would like to say thank you to Roy for all the time and effort he puts in on our behalf. Thank you, Roy.

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Christmas is upon us – that time when we remember Jesus' birth. In our nativity plays we roll up the accounts of Jesus' birth into one story, but the accounts in the gospels in the bible are different – radically.

The Christmas story in Luke has lots about women: an Angel appeared to Mary, she went to see her sister Elizabeth and we have the story of the poor shepherds.



In contrast, Matthew has lots about men: an angel appeared to Joseph several times, magi - we don't know quite who they were or how many there was except that they were wealthy, educated men and brought three expensive gifts – came a great distance to see Jesus. They got involved with the evil King Herod, who threatened to kill lots of baby boys to get rid of Jesus, this leading to Joseph taking his little family to Egypt.

So how can we have two such different accounts? The stories are not about facts, although they may be factual. They tell us about who Jesus was here on earth for: the poor and marginalised (that included women) in Luke and the wealthy and powerful in Matthew. The Jesus story is for everyone. John's gospel tells us about who Jesus was and is. "In the beginning was the Word" John's Gospel begins (compare with the beginning of Genesis: "In the beginning God"). God and Jesus is a unity, a unity as a thought, or a concept or an idea, a spiritual existence which has always been around, but Jesus came to show us humans what the Spirit of God is. That is very profound – easier to have a story!



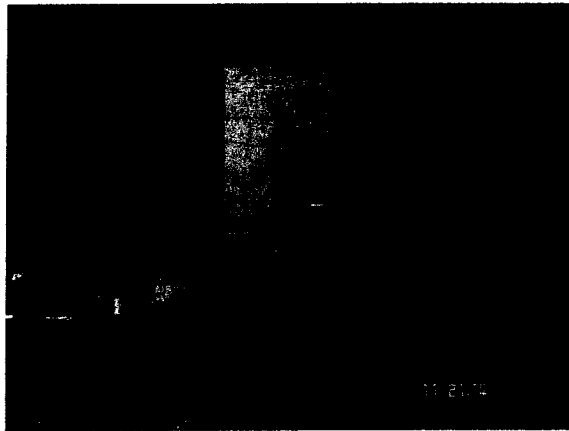
So if we want to find out more about our spiritual being, we are invited to look at the stories of Jesus. There is no coercion, no threats, no blackmail. It is up to us whether we want to find out more! Everyone is welcome!

Do come to church this Christmas and start or continue our personal journeys of finding out more about Jesus!

Happy Christmas!

Sue

ST ANDREWS 2015 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



This year we are once again giving you the opportunity to illuminate the Church and make it a focal point of the village during the Christmas period. Cost is just £10 a night.

To reserve your special day or to select a date, please contact Jon Brierley (843380) or Jbrierley1@aol.com

11 DEC	JON AND HELEN BRIERLEY	20 DEC		30 DEC	
12		21		31	
13		22		1 JAN	
14		23		2	
15		24		3	
16		25		4	
17		26		5	
18		27		6	
19		28			

LEAPING FORWARD 2016



2016 will be a leap year, so there will be a 29th day of February. The reason is that the Earth takes approximately 365.25 days to orbit around the sun every year. It's that extra quarter of a day that creates the need for a leap year every four years.

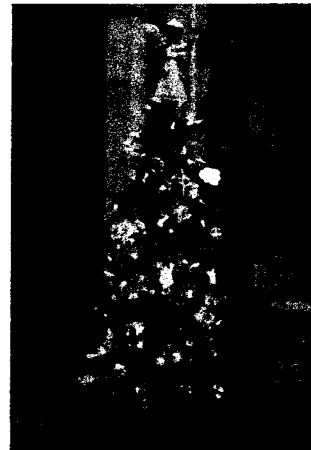
NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

Our recent services have included "In Loving Memory," a quiet service dedicated to remembering loved ones, which was well attended by people from the whole Benefice. We also held our annual Remembrance Service on 8 November.

We are now turning thoughts to Christmas. We have a busy programme which will make full use of the church and we do hope that many residents will take part. Once again we will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of 19 and 20 December. This is becoming something of a village tradition in which organisations decorate a tree as part of our Christmas celebrations. Based on previous years we have seen some very inventive and creative displays. We plan to hold a coffee morning at 11.00 on the Saturday to give villagers a first glimpse of the trees.



The focal point will be our Carol Service on Sunday 20th at 6.00 which we are combining with Christingle for our young people. Everyone is invited to attend. We will be serving festive fizz and mince pies after the service. I do hope that you will be able to join us and get your Christmas week off to a great start.



Photos taken by Richard Oliver at a previous festival

Our Christmas Day service this year will be at 9.15 a.m. I know that Christmas morning can be busy but I hope that you will find time to celebrate with us on Christmas Day.

We are also arranging to light the Church in the run up to the Festive Season. I always think it brightens up the village during these dark nights. If you would like to take part please let me know.

The church is a key part of our village and is available to all for baptism, wedding services and funerals as well as our Sunday worship. Not everyone is aware that our Mission costs £9,000 a year (roughly £100 per Whilton household) all of which has to be raised from voluntary donations i.e from village residents. This is before the cost of any repairs to what is an old building. Regular giving is a tax efficient way of making a contribution and enables us to claim back the tax if you are a UK tax payer. If you would like to contribute in this way, please let me know. I can be contacted on 843380 or by email Jbrierley1@aol.com.

Jon Brierley, Churchwarden, 7 Langton Rise

140 YEARS AGO IN WHILTON

This is a newspaper account of an event which happened at the Stone House in December 1875, where James Adams and his wife lived. The roof was then thatched. William Smith lived at the shop opposite, on the site of "Sira," and James Emery lived in the farmhouse which once stood opposite the Plough.



"A Fire occurred on the morning of the 9th inst., on the premises of Mr James Adams, baker. It appears that Mr and Mrs Adams, the only inmates of the house, retired to rest about 10.30 p.m., leaving a few burning coals in the grate. At 3.30 a.m. Mr Adams, awakened by a cracking noise, went down stairs, and found the sitting room in a blaze of fire. Shouting to his wife, he went for a ladder to save her through the window, but in the meantime Mrs Adams made her escape through the burning room, and was severely burnt.

Mr Smith, grocer, who lived opposite, and Mr Emery, farmer, were called up, and rendered every assistance in their power, as did the whole neighbourhood, who were speedily aroused, and by their exertion the fire was soon got under control.

The sitting room was completely gutted, the furniture destroyed, and £30 in bank notes burnt. The loss will thus fall heavily on Mr Adams, for though the house, which received little damage, was insured, the contents were not. As there was no fire engine in the village, and the water supply is rather scanty, the consequence of a fire must prove extremely serious, unless it can be speedily discovered, as in the present case."

FAMILY NEWS

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of two of Whilton's residents.

We send our condolences to the family of **Eileen Finnemore** of Yew Tree Cottage, Whilton Lodge, who died on 22 October after a long illness.

Villagers will also be sorry to hear of the death of **Olive Bardill-Tillett** of Roughmoor. Olive was well known in Whilton, firstly as carer for Elwyn Thomas at Whilton Lodge and then for Joan Davies at Roughmoor Grounds. Her cheerful presence and interest in people and the environment will be missed by many. Olive was a keen participant in village activities and in particular in Whilton Gardeners Association which reflected her lifelong interest in gardening and farming.

Born on 20 April 1940, Olive died on 10th November 2015 and a well-attended memorial service was held on 23rd November in St Andrew's Church.

We express our sympathy to her sons Wayne and Winston.

SOCIAL EVENTS

SOCIAL LUNCH, 17TH NOVEMBER 2015

This was a very happy occasion and very well attended. The food was delicious as usual with chicken and vegetable pie, peas, broccoli and new potatoes and the usual choice of three desserts. Second helpings are encouraged.

Soft drinks were served before and during the meal and tea, coffee with chocolates and mints were offered afterwards.

TUESDAY CHAT

There were Tuesday Chats in September and October. These were as usual happy, chatty occasions, but were not well attended. It has proved not economically viable to pay the cost of the rent for the village hall with the current attendance, and other activities have arisen which provide meeting places and social events for Whilton's residents. Following the October Tuesday Chat, it was agreed that these meetings will now come to an end. Instead we shall aim to have more Social Lunches during 2016.

**THE FIRST SOCIAL LUNCH IN 2016 WILL BE ON
TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
IN THE VILLAGE HALL.
12.30 FOR 1 P.M.**

DAVENTRY DISTRICT COUNCIL

New enforcement powers will target irresponsible dog owners

Dog owners are being urged to take heed of new enforcement powers introduced across Daventry District to tackle the issue of fouling in our parks and open spaces. The new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) introduced by Daventry District Council is designed to target the small number of irresponsible dog owners who persistently fail to pick up after their pet, creating a mess as well as a health hazard.

The PSPO, which came into force on December 1, means dog walkers risk a £100 fine and potentially prosecution if they fail to:

- **Pick up their dog's poo**
- **Carry the means for picking up their dog's poo while on a walk**
- **Stop their dog from entering a fenced-off playground**
- **Place their dog on a lead when directed by a Council officer**
- **Put their dog on a lead in the area around the visitor centre/café at Daventry Country Park**

The decision to implement the PSPO was made after a public consultation revealed strong support for it. Enforcement will focus on education at first, with people who fall foul of the new rules reminded of their responsibilities as dog owners by Council enforcement officers. However the new powers will be fully exercised from January 1, so dog owners are being urged to make sure they have plenty of poo bags with them.

Cllr Mike Warren, Health and Housing Portfolio Holder on Daventry District Council, said: "Every year our Council receives more than 100 complaints about dog fouling, which poses a real health hazard, especially to young children. "We've introduced a number of innovative ideas and campaigns to tackle the problem, and those have proved effective in the main. But we still have a small minority of persistent offenders that we are keen to stop. "This new order gives us greater powers to take effective action those irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their pets.

"Our initial priorities will focus on raising awareness of the new powers among local communities and to educate dog walkers about the issues. We will be advising them to make sure they have extra poo bags with them at all times to ensure they have the means to pick up, regardless of how long they've been out and about with their pet.

"These new powers are not intended to penalise the many responsible dog owners in our District, who should be assured that our officers will be taking a common-sense approach on their patrols. It's not unreasonable though, for example, to expect someone who has just arrived at a venue to walk their dog to be carrying poop bags."

People can find out more about the PSPO at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/dogfouling

Whilton Local History Society

THE KING IN THE CAR PARK

The Society met on 11th September to hear a talk about Richard III, the King in the Car Park. The speaker was Richard Smith, chairman of Leicester Richard III Society.

There was a good attendance and we were all carried away with Richard's enthusiasm for his subject. His talk was amply illustrated and he opened our eyes to the complexities of the so-called Wars of the Roses and the Hundred Years War with France, which formed the background to the life of Richard III. There was a Northamptonshire link, because Richard was born in Fotheringhay Castle

We heard how Shakespeare's interpretation has vilified Richard's character for centuries, but that there were attractive and beneficial aspects of the man, which are less well known, including his loyalty to his brother, Edward, and his introduction of the bail system.

As chair of the Leicester Society, our speaker had been involved with those who discovered Richard's remains under a private car park, once part of Greyfriars. He traced for us the process of identification and the final re-burial in Leicester Cathedral in the spring of this year.

As his audience we found the talk both enjoyable and stimulating.

THE MYSTERY OF A WHILTON STONE

The Local History Society met again on 13th November to hear about the mystery of a stone discovered by Gordon and Martin Emery in Whilton last year. The carved stone depicts the arms of Sir Fulwar Skipwith of Newbold Hall, Monks Kirby in Warwickshire, a member of an illustrious family, which first came to England with William the Conqueror.

It has been possible to find the original colouring of the carving and to identify most of the sixteen quarterings, each representing a family connected by marriage with the Skipwiths. Their estates were built up by marriages with heiresses, mostly from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, from Norman times, with the last quartering representing the Redding family with three black boars' heads. Alice Redding was the grandmother of Fulwar Skipwith, born in 1628.

We followed the life of young Fulwar from his early education, boarding in the Covent Garden Academy from the age of six, and later moving on to learn with the schoolmaster, Mr Huddleston at Bidford on Avon. He lived with and worked for Sir Simon and Lady Dorothea Clarke of Broome Court at Bidford on Avon.

His father fought for Charles I at the Battle of Edgehill near Banbury, and died in 1643, probably having been part of the Royalist attack on Cranborne House in Dorset. As a teenager Fulwar undertook an amazing voyage, embarking at Fowey in Cornwall in 1645 and sailing via the Canaries and the Cape Verde Islands to Barbados. Having sold plantations in Barbados, he sailed on a Dutch ship up the east coast of America, and from there across to Norway. After a spell in Norway he sailed on to the Low Countries, possibly linking with members of the Royalist cause there, before coming back to Gravesend.

We heard fascinating extracts from the diary he kept. Early on the first voyage they encountered enemy ships, and Fulwar wrote: "Wee mett with two Parliment ships with whome wee had a great fight, but wee beate them into the Canaries, where they laye under the Castell wales for safeguard till wee were gon." He also commented on the strange things he saw, including the onions in the Canaries, "of a large bignesse which they boyle and accompt a rare dish." In the Cape Verde Islands he passed Fogo. "The greatest part of this lland is a mountain which continually smoakes, and flameth out att the tope to ye bottom."

We followed the love story of Fulwar and Dorothea Parker during the interregnum including their three marriages kept secret from her mother, Lady Parker of Anglesey Abbey. Sadly Dorothea died a few months after the birth of their baby, Humberstone.

Eleven years later Fulwar remarried Widow Elizabeth Cony and eventually his son Humberstone married his new wife's daughter! Skipwith was made a baronet in 1670, almost certainly as a reward for his services to the royal family during and after the Civil War. He died in London in 1677 and was buried, as he willed, in Monks Kirby Church in Warwickshire.



It is probable that his second wife erected a memorial to him, and the shield discovered may have been from that monument. Generations later Rev Randolph Skipwith became Rector of Whilton in 1856, and it must be through this member of the family that the stone came to Whilton. It is most likely that it had been thrown into the Rectory pond by later occupants. When the pond was dredged in the late 20th century, the stone may have been scooped up in the mud which was deposited in the field below the Rectory.

This is just a short account of a very long story, and we hope more will be revealed. If you know anything about this stone's recent story in Whilton, do let us know.

Our next meeting will be on 15th January 2016.

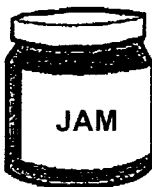
**Whilton Local History Society
Saxon Supper and Annual General Meeting
In the Village Hall
Friday 15th January 2016**



Ladies' Pot Luck Supper

In September around fifteen ladies (plus baby Lily) congregated at Sarah Hardman's home bearing various homemade dishes. Sarah is a relative newcomer to Whilton but she and her husband Mark have been very active in integrating into the various village activities and are often seen being taken for walks by their dogs Abi and Digby. As per the normal format Sarah was able to stand by whilst everyone else took over her kitchen putting the finishing touches to their dishes. We then sampled an array of hot and cold starters, a selection of meat and vegetarian main courses plus accompaniments and then various puddings plus cheese. Delicious!

It has become a tradition now to invite the menfolk to the Christmas Pot Luck supper and we've decided this year to hold it in the village hall to maximise numbers. It will be on Friday 11th December and there are just a few spaces left. We would be especially pleased to welcome more of the village's newcomers to the supper. Contact me on 843988 as soon as possible if you're interested.



**WANTED
BY TERESA**

Having harvested an abundance of fruit this autumn and turned the produce into jams and chutneys I'm running out of jars. If you have any empties please let me know (tel: 843988) and I'll come and collect them or you can drop them off at Woodview on Brington Lane.

By the way, I sell jam, marmalade and chutney in aid of Redgate Farm Animal Sanctuary (<http://www.redgatefarmanimalsanctuary.co.uk/>). Give me a call or email teresa@tlc-uk.co.uk if you would like to buy some.



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



Our October meeting was well attended with some 25 members coming to hear Colin Ward, assisted by his wife Karen, give us a talk on Plants for Shade and Semi-Shade. Colin and Karen, who run Swines Meadow Farm Nursery, near Peterborough brought an impressive collection of unusual plants with them and gave us an informative and entertaining talk, before offering the plants for sale at the end of the evening. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our members' Christmas Social on December 2nd, which promises to be bigger than ever following our increase in membership this year. Looking ahead to next year, we will be holding our AGM on Wednesday, February 3rd at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, by which time we should have finalised our programme for 2016.

For many years the WGA article in this newsletter has been written by Olive Bardill-Tillett, who sadly passed away very recently. Olive was our membership secretary until her failing health meant she was unable to continue in this role. She made a considerable contribution to WGA over the years, thinking up fun quizzes to liven up the AGMs and Christmas Social events, organising trips and cajoling other people into doing things. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

For further information about WGA contact Maurice Archer on 843081 or Roy Haynes on 844673.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2015/16

AUG 2015

1 ST PRIZE	R Houghton	165	£45
2 ND PRIZE	P & S Wingrave	073	£25

SEPTEMBER 2015

1 ST PRIZE	T Price	068	£45
2 ND PRIZE	N & D Jackson	111	£25

OCT 2015

1 ST PRIZE	A Clarke	144	£40
2 ND PRIZE	P & S Wingrave	073	£25

NOV 2015

1 ST PRIZE	T Hebb	142	£40
2 ND PRIZE	M Kane	045	£25

Congratulations to all the prize winners

FESTIVE FOOD

Make your own mincemeat



If you've never made your own mincemeat why not try this month, it's so easy and so much better than the bought variety. Apples are plentiful in Whilton, you literally can't give them away there are so many, and you can add or omit ingredients to tailor it to your own preferences: I love extra nuts and cherries but I'm not so keen on candied peel. Vegetarian suet works just as well as beef suet. Here are two recipes. Pick one that appeals to you and if you need apples just ask.

SPICY MINCEMEAT

3 lb (1.5 kg) cooking apples	½ level tsp ground cinnamon
8 oz (225g) currants	½ level tsp ground cloves
8 oz (225 g) sultanas	½ level tsp ground nutmeg
8 oz (225 g) seedless raisins	½ level tsp ground mace
4 oz (125 g) chopped mixed peel	½ level tsp ground allspice
8 oz (225 g) shredded suet	½ level tsp salt
rind and juice of 1 lemon	Brandy
10 oz (275 g) Demerara sugar	(Yield: about 3lb(1½ kg))

- Peel, core and chop the apples, using a stainless steel knife.
- Mix with all the other ingredients except the brandy.
- Leave to stand in a large mixing bowl, covered with a lid, for three days, stirring frequently.
- Pack into jars, to about 1 inch (25 mm) from the top.
- Place the jars in a shallow pan of water and bake for 1 hour in the oven at 300°F (150°C) (mark 2).
- Remove, add 2 tsps brandy to each jar and seal immediately.

CHERRY MINCEMEAT

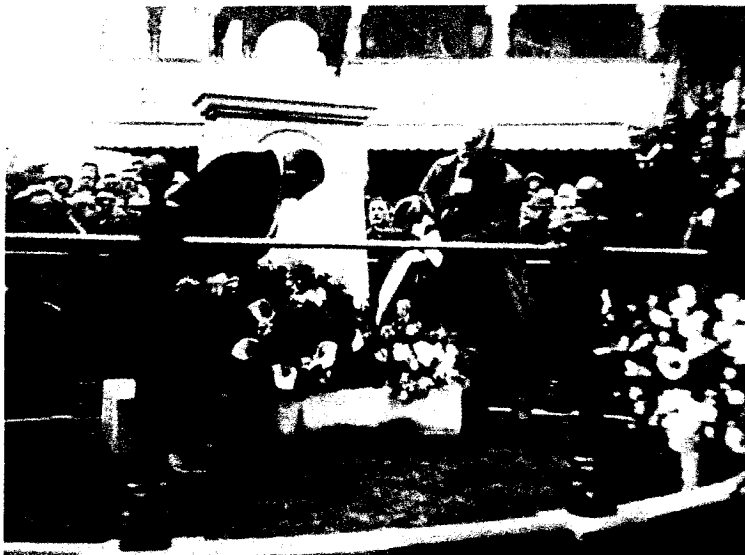
4 oz (125 g) currants, cleaned	4 oz (125 g) cooking apples, peeled and cored
4 oz (125 g) stoned raisins, cleaned	2 oz (50 g) shelled walnuts
4 oz (125 g) sultanas, cleaned	4 oz (125 g) shredded suet
2 oz (50 g) glace cherries	8 oz (225 g) Demerara sugar
2 oz (50 g) cut mixed peel	1 level tsp mixed spice brandy, rum or raisin wine to mix

- Coarsely mince or finely chop dried fruit, peel, apples and nuts.
- Add the suet, sugar, spice and enough spirit or wine to give a moist mixture.
- Stir well; leave to stand, covered, for 2 days.
- Stir well again and put into jars.
- Cover as for jam and allow to mature for at least 2 weeks before using.

The Saints Memorial

Graham McKechnie lives at Field View in Whilton, and is sports editor at BBC Radio Northampton. He has made several radio documentaries about the First World War and is co-author of 'Kelly's War'. In this article he records some of his recent work, with a surprising local connection.

The War Memorial at Franklin's Gardens has always had a prominent position. Twelve Northampton Saints players killed in the First World War are named on the Portland stone pedestal, alongside the town's crest and the words "They Played the Game". Another eight players from the Second World War have their names inscribed on an additional panel.



The unveiling of the Saints War memorial in 1922

It is the twelve men from the First World War who have been the focus of my attention for the past couple of years. They are recorded on the stone as they would on a team-sheet: initials and surname. There is no rank, title or regiment to separate the men. In death they are all equal. Some have been easier to research than others. Edgar Mobbs was – and remains today – a great of Northampton Saints and the story of how he raised a company of men at the Gardens and rose through the ranks to command the 7th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment is still well known. Blair Swannell was Saints first Lion, touring Australia in 1899 and 1904. He is perhaps better remembered in Australia, where he emigrated, than here. He went on to play for the Wallabies and enlisted with the Australian Infantry. Swannell was hit by a sniper's bullet on the opening day of Gallipoli, on 25 April 1915.

I've been lucky enough to re-tell both Mobbs' and Swannell's stories for BBC radio over the past couple of years, taking Tim Rodber and Ben Foden to the battlefields of northern Europe and Turkey. But in many ways the most exciting and rewarding part of the research has been finding out about the ten players who have slipped from our memory beyond being names on a memorial. Their stories go beyond tales of soldiers at war. They are also about the families, about the rugby club and about the wider community. The staggering scale of losses in the First World War can make it difficult for us to grasp the human tragedy. It becomes much more personal and real by following an individual story.

Take Tom Collins— a shoemaker from the town (as many of the Saints players were), who used to earn an extra bob or two by carrying the kit-bags of the wealthier players to the matches. He left his wife and six children to go the Western Front. In October 1917 Collins and eight other men went out with a stretcher to bring in some wounded soldiers. A shell hit the stretcher party; five were wounded and three were killed, including Collins.

William West emigrated from Northampton to work in a shoe factory in Canada. He came back with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was killed on the final futile bloody day of the tumultuous Battle of the Somme. His wife was left with four children to raise on her own. From two men, that's ten fatherless children – something which is repeated over and over again across Britain, Europe and the world.

Not all stories ended on the battlefield. Ernest White – a stalwart of the club – won the Military Cross for putting out a potentially lethal fire at an ammunition dump. He came home on leave in October 1918, developed Spanish flu which killed him. In Percy Fussell's papers there is a letter from his father to his commanding officer, expressing the disbelief and shock at the news they had just received via a telegram that their son had died of appendicitis.

Even though the First World War is a hundred years ago and has slipped from living memory, the sense of tragedy lives on today. You only have to meet the descendants of these men to appreciate their sense of loss. The War Memorial was re-dedicated at Franklin's Gardens a couple of weeks ago, bringing together many of the families. When it was unveiled in 1922 it was the wives, parents and children of the players; this time it was the great-nieces and nephews, grandchildren and even great-children. Tears were shed and family stories were shared. A grandson of Tom Collins told me that for a working family from Northampton, having his grandfather remembered in such a way for a century is the nicest thing that had ever been done for them.

Many of the relatives were unaware until recently of their family's connection to Northampton Saints and to rugby. The Wests – still out in Canada – had never before seen a photograph of their grandfather. And there is one more story to mention – that of Charles Jack. He was gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, but unlike any of the other Saints' war casualties, he never set foot on the Western Front.

Jack was an Irishman, born into a large Methodist family in Cork in 1890 – his father Robert being a saddler in the city. He trained as an engineer and moved to Northampton to work for the Borough Engineers Office. Jack arrived at Franklin's Gardens at the start of the 1913/14 season and made ten appearances during the season – the outbreak of war deprived him of the opportunity of making it more.

Jack was called up on New Year's Day, 1917. Despite his sporting prowess, his eyesight was poor and he wore glasses, which according to his sister ruled him out of overseas service. Instead Jack would work in one of the newest parts of the army – in the emerging arm of anti-aircraft defence. Ever since January 1915, when German Zeppelins dropped bombs on Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn, Britain had faced a new danger. Jack manned guns in Coventry, Staines and Dover during the next two years until November 1918.

He survived the war, but his name still appears on the War Memorial because, like White, Jack was killed not by a German gun but by the Spanish 'flu epidemic that winter. He died five days after the Armistice on 16 November 1918 at the military hospital in Guildford – his effects including, amongst other things, papers torn to pieces during his delirium. It may have been some comfort to his parents that they at least could take Jack's body back home to Ireland to have him buried in a military grave at St Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork.

The Jack family were not able to be present at the unveiling of the War Memorial in 1922 but they were there 93 years on, because his great-nephew Andrew Jack was able to make the relatively short journey to Franklin's Gardens from where he lives today, right here in Whilton.

.....

CAPTAIN HENRY REYNOLDS, VC, MC

No soldier from Whilton died in the First World War, but Captain Henry Reynolds, who had lived almost all his life in Whilton, won both the Military Cross and the Victoria Cross in 1917.

We now have a work party, making plans about how we will remember this event and celebrate the Captain's courage in September 2017, a hundred years later.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Anthea Hiscock:
anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk.

**CAROL SINGING
2015**



The village carol singing will be on Tuesday 15 December this year. Singers will tour the village and will be collecting funds to be donated to charity.

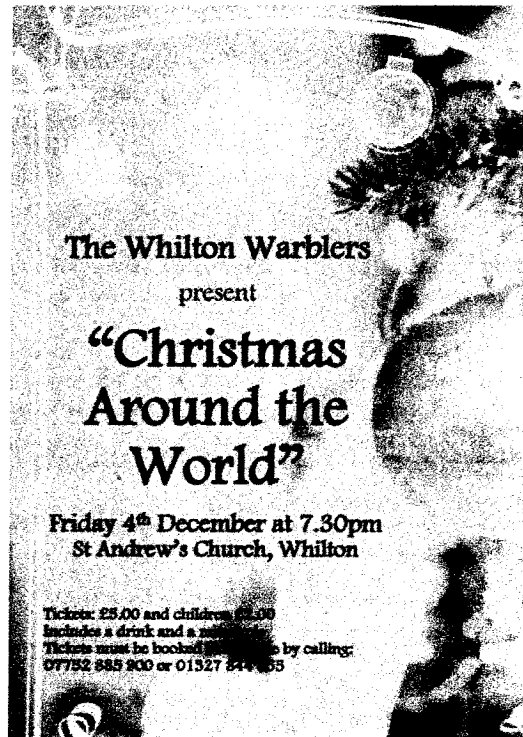
We try to visit all parts of the village so keep an ear open for a knock on the door and please give generously!

WHILTON WARBLERS

Choir practice resumed in September and we immediately started learning and rehearsing songs in preparation for the Christmas concert on 4th December. Our numbers have swelled too as new members have joined us – all women though, where are the men? Come on, boys, don't be shy. The choir needs YOU!

Judit continues to challenge our abilities with her choices of songs and arrangements and in rehearsals we have good weeks and bad weeks. The hope is that we have more good weeks than bad as the concert date approaches.

The theme for this year's concert is "Christmas Around the World" and the title says it all. We'll be singing in a number of different languages – some of the songs will be familiar to you and some will be new. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us on the night – but please note, *admission is by ticket only* and they're being rapidly snapped up.



ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY

Roughmoor Spinney was given to Whilton parish as a Millennium gift from Griff and Joan Davies of Roughmoor Grounds. The Spinney is managed by a Management Group, and has occasional work parties of volunteers from the village.

It is an area of wet woodland with a stream and pond. The path through it allows access for walkers and anyone wishing to observe plant and wildlife there. At the end near the gate there is an area where children's activities can take place, and where the Pre-school visit regularly. The far end is quieter for wildlife.

This is a good venue for a short winter walk not far from the village, with access from the footpath at the start of Manor Lane, but do remember that, as this is wet woodland, you need to wear waterproof footwear here.



Parish Farming Notes

In my last note I highlighted the change in farming practices before and after the Second World War. During the last 30 years there has been much less change although in Whilton the number of holdings has reduced.

As regular dog walkers using the village paths I am interested to see what is happening in the fields as the seasons change. I spoke to Gordon Emery to find out what he is growing this year. Gordon now farms most of the fields adjacent to the Top and Middle of the village and of course he, Mary and Martin are a familiar sight going up and down the village.

This year Gordon is growing Winter Wheat in 2nd Wadd Close. This will be sold to Heygates Mill and will be processed in to flour for biscuits. In the next field, Brook Close, Winter Beans have just been sown. This will be used for cattle feed or exported to Egypt.

In Home Field he has planted stubble turnips which are currently being grazed by his lambs until January. This field will then be sown with Spring Barley.

Winter Barley has been planted in Gamages Hill.

Gordon operates a rotation system in order to maintain the nutrients in the soil – currently Beans / Winter Wheat / Winter or Spring Barley.

Most of the other fields (Wadd Close, Dairyground, Tarry's Orchard and The Slade) are permanent pasture used to graze sheep and beef. The Rams (or tups as they are known locally) were put in with the ewes on 1 October and they will come out in December. The first lambs will be born at the end of February with March being a very busy time. Beef stores will arrive in spring and will be sold on in August or September.

Gordon also farms many of the fields on your left as you go down to Whilton Locks – those on the right are farmed by the Ashbys who own Whilton Mill.

I hope that this gives you some idea of what is happening in the fields which surround the village. If you are using the footpaths please respect the Countryside Code and keep dogs under control.

Jon



Thank you to our farmers!

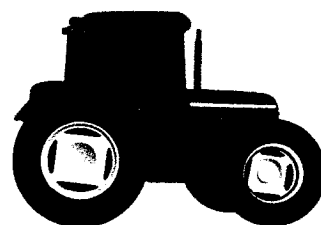
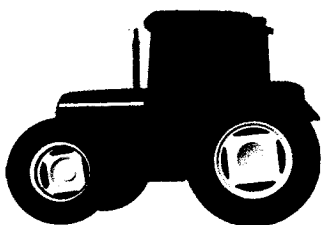
by Sarah Thomas

Reason 1 - My son Hugo loves watching the tractors chug past our house. He likes to shout out the word 'tractor' and is most disappointed if we don't do the same. (The Old Post Office - you don't have to mad to live here, but it helps!) Gordon and his team are always kind enough to give my son 'the tractor enthusiast' a wave, and if he's very lucky a toot of the horn. On one very special occasion when out walking, we stopped to watch Gordon tending a field. Despite having a lot of work to do, Gordon was kind enough to pull over and let Hugo sit in his tractor. This made a big impression on my son for sure! He now seems able to recognise Gordon whatever vehicle he is in.

Reason 2 - A little embarrassing, but true. Hugo has a knack for falling asleep at the wrong time. We were returning from an activity group in Daventry and I was desperate for my lunch. Hugo had fallen asleep on the journey home. I thought I would check my emails on my phone whilst waiting for him to wake, but in true Whilton style, I had no signal. I made the decision to close my eyes in the hope of a quick power nap! Much to my horror when I opened my eyes once again a tractor was passing and the driver stopped in the road to see if I was ok. Apparently the farmer on board had passed earlier and had seem me slouched forward, and feared I had taken a turn for the worse. I thanked him profusely for stopping, whilst blushing I'm sure, and pointed out the snoring red head in the back of my car. He nodded at me in a knowing way. I think he thought - a new mum...say no more!

If you have someone you would like to thank, let us know.

The Editors



SEEDED PARMESAN SHORTBREAD

Prepare: 15 minutes, plus chilling

Cook: 15 minutes

Makes 26 (*so the recipe says, I make nearly 50 using these quantities*)

Note: Whilst the recipe states Parmigiano Reggiano I've also used other strong cheeses. The recipe is great for using up odd bits of cheese or that cheese leftover from the dinner party that you froze and which crumbles when you defrost it.

- 130g plain flour, plus a little extra for dusting
 - 110g Parmigiano Reggiano, finely grated
 - ½ tsp salt
 - ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
 - 100g cold butter, cut into cubes
 - 2 large egg yolks, plus 1 yolk for glazing (*NB I just use one egg and a little milk*)
 - 1 tsp Dijon mustard
 - 60g mixed seeds
1. Place the flour, cheese, salt, cayenne and butter in the bowl of a food processor and blitz until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
 2. Scrape down the sides of the bowl then add the egg and milk, the mustard and seeds. Mix until combined and then shape into a ball.
 3. Place the dough on a lightly floured surface and roll out to about the thickness of a pound coin. Using a 5cm diameter fluted cutter, cut out and place the rounds on a baking sheet lined with baking paper. Brush each biscuit with a little egg or milk and chill in the fridge for an hour.
 4. Preheat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4.
 5. Bake the shortbreads, in batches, for 12 minutes in the middle of the oven.

They will keep for up to 5 days in an airtight container or tin (if you can resist them for that long).

Teresa says:

I sometimes freeze the biscuits after I've cut them out, layer between greaseproof paper and freeze in a box. Can be baked from frozen: brush with a little egg / milk, sprinkle with sea salt (optional) and cook for about 15 mins.

THE ALTHORP PARTNERSHIP OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS



HARLESTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.harlestone.northants.sch.uk
Email: bursar@harlestone.northants-ecl.gov.uk
ecl.gov.uk

BRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.bingtonprimaryschool.org.uk
Email: [bursar@brington.northants-](mailto:bursar@brington.northants-ecl.gov.uk)
ecl.gov.uk

WOULD YOU MAKE A GOOD SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

All over the country, School Governors are helping to ensure that children get the best from their time in school. Here at **Brington Primary School**, part of The Althorp Partnership of Primary Schools, we are looking for people to become Co-opted Governors.

This is your chance to influence the key decisions affecting all children at our school and to make a real contribution to the local community both now and in the future. In addition, being a Governor provides opportunities to develop new skills as well as practice existing ones. Governors make strategic decisions about the running of the school, including the curriculum, target-setting for pupils and staff, how the school should improve, the budget, staffing, health and safety and the management of the premises.

We want people who can bring energy, ideas and experience of life to support school staff in the organisation and management of our schools and who will act as ambassadors. You don't need formal qualifications but particular skills in Finance or Accounting, Information Technology(IT), Education or a proven link to working with the local community would be great although we welcome and will consider all applications. Governing Bodies act corporately and are collectively responsible for decisions. The emphasis is very much on collaboration with other Governors and the Executive Headteacher.

As far as time commitments, as well as attending a Full Governing Body meeting a term (these take place in the evening), you could also serve on at least one of the Governing Body's sub committees (these meet once a term on a different evening to the Governing Body). You will also receive great support from the existing Governors as well as Local Authority training courses to help to build your skills.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email the Chair of the Governing Body, Jon Lake for further information(appsgovernors@outlook.com) or contact the School directly on 01604 770286.



Brington and Whilton Pre-School

The children are now back into the full swing of Pre-school, they are settled and have enjoyed learning about farms during the first term. We were very fortunate to have a calf visit us at Pre-school and we also had a tractor ride, one of the benefits of living in the countryside with friendly farmers around. We learned about planting, harvesting, animals and their babies and finished the term with a stay and play session where parents came to help us with harvest activities. Donations were given for the Hope Centre.



We are now into a new term where we are recapping on shapes, numbers and colours, being superheroes for Children in Need and starting to practice for our Christmas Play. We would like to invite all villagers to join us in our Celebration of Christmas on Friday 11th December at 10.30am at Whilton Parish Church and afterwards back at Whilton Village Hall for Coffee and Mince Pies.

If you have a child aged 2 years to rising 5 years who would benefit from attending a caring setting, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Holman 01604 770083 or 07948724415 and book a visit to come and see us.

We wish all readers a very Happy Christmas from all staff and children at the Pre-school.

Tuesday 22nd December 2015

*The Visitors Centre, Daventry Country Park, 10.00am until midday
Call 01327 871100 to book - limited spaces may be available on the day.*

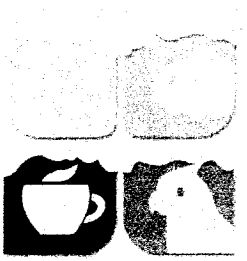
All children will receive a free gift from Santa

All donations to Danetre Rotary Club Christmas campaigns

Children must be supervised at all times

Please dress appropriately for the weather

Make Christmas extra special with a visit to meet Father Christmas



Winter Wonderland

AT WHILTON LOCKS GARDEN CENTRE

Ice Skating

Bigger than ever before- with real ice!

Santa's Grotto

The best grotto for miles –and smiles

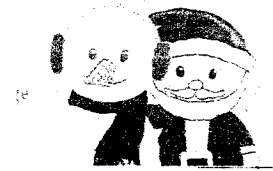
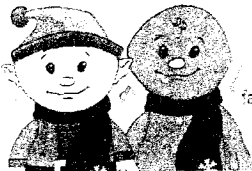
Breakfast with Santa

Canalside Fantastic Festive Food

Frozen Winter Wonderland

Meet a princess

For events, times and dates and booking details, go to: www.wlgv.co.uk
[facebook.com/whiltonlocksgardenvillage](https://www.facebook.com/whiltonlocksgardenvillage)



BRINGTON MUMS AND TOTS

The newly-reformed Brington Mums and Tots group, which meets on a Friday morning in the Brington Reading Room and has been very well attended since starting in September. We have enjoyed a themed session each week with the babies and toddlers, which has included salt-dough footprints, halloween dressing-up, bonfire night pictures, story time and even the Great Brington Bake-Off! The group has supported two charities since beginning, Macmillan and Children in Need. Forthcoming events are baby weaning, first-aid and, of course, Father Christmas will be stopping by in December! However, the best thing about Mums and Tots is being able to share your experiences of new parenthood with other people who understand, which we have all found helpful and supportive. It is also great for the little ones to make their first friends!

All are invited from the villages and beyond to join us for fun, refreshments and a warm welcome to tots, mums, dads and grandparents. Fridays 10-11.30am in the Reading Room, Great Brington, £2 per session, (newborn-3 years).

You can find us on Facebook or go to www.bringtons-pc.gov.uk/mums-and-tots.



Family Fun



What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

What do you call an old snowman?

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

(answers below)

A Peculiar Christmas

Snow? Absolutely not.
In fact, the weather's quite hot.
At night you can watch this new
Star without catching the 'flu.

Presents? Well, only three.
But then there happen to be
Only three guests. No bells,
No robins, no fir-trees, no smells

- I mean of roast turkey and such:
There are whiffs in the air (a bit much!)
Of beer from the near public house,
And of dirty old shepherds, and cows.

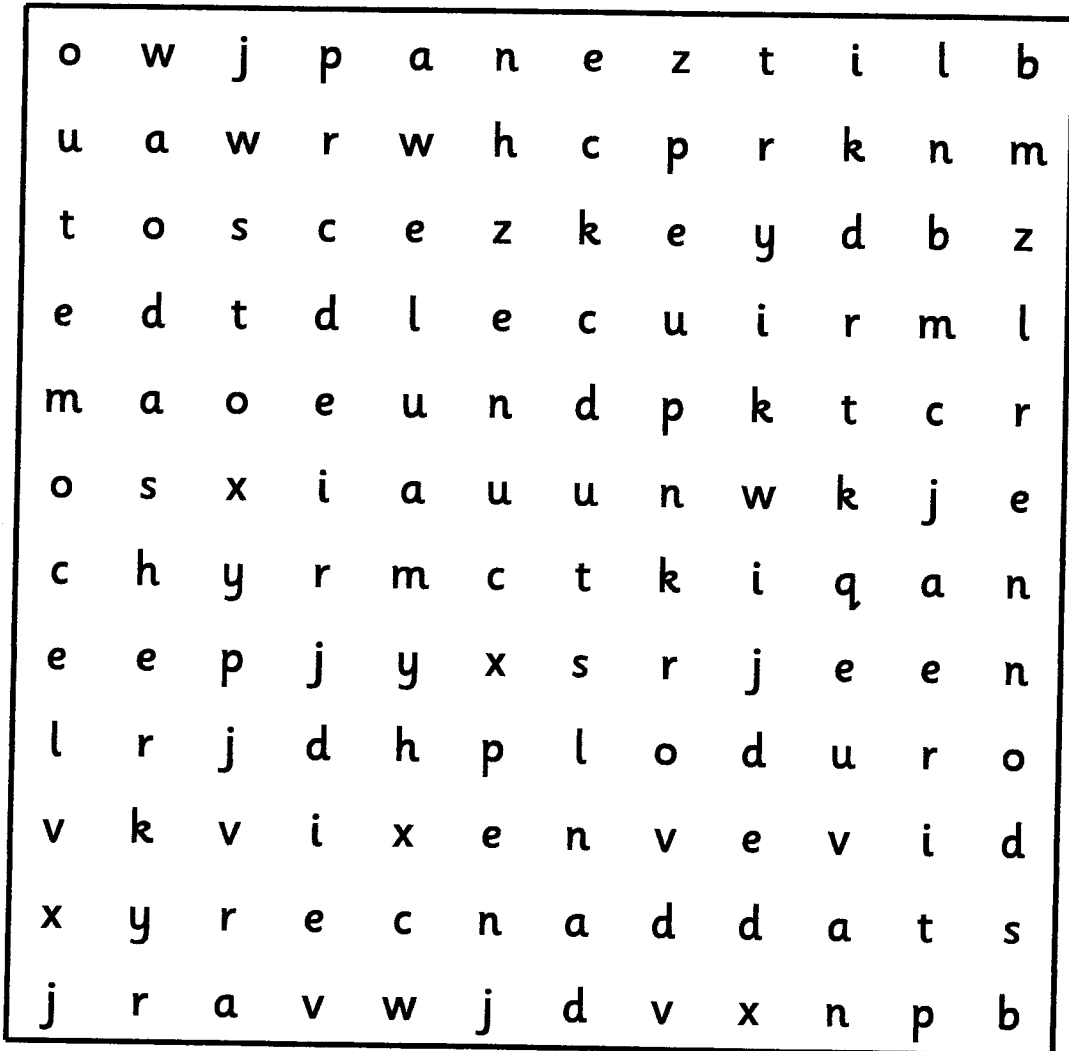
The family party's rather
Small- baby, mother and father -
Uncles, aunts, cousins dispersed.
Well, this Christmas is only the first.

by Roy Fuller

answers - Jungle bells, jungle bells! **A mince spy!** Water! **Santa Jaws** A pineapple!



Santa's Reindeer



Blitzen

Comet

Cupid

Dancer

Dasher

Donner

Prancer

reindeer

Rudolph

Vixen



The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated free to every household within the parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council.

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❖ **The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter. If possible, please send your contribution by e-mail. If you do not have a computer, the editors will be happy to type handwritten articles for you.**

❖ **The next issue will be the Spring Edition, covering March – May 2016. The last date for contributions will be 20 February 2016.**

❖ **The Newsletter is published quarterly, but Whilton also has a website: www.whilton-village.net. This contains details of the organizations in the parish, previous Parish Council Minutes and Newsletters and a comprehensive Picture Gallery. It also has latest news and updates on parish events.**

❖ **If you would like to advertise your local business, flyers can be delivered to every household in the parish with the Newsletter at a small charge. For information please contact one of the editors.**

WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON

WINTER 2015 - 2016

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Daily	Dec		Whilton Locks Garden Village	Ice Skating
Wed	2 Dec	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association Christmas Social
Fri	4 Dec	7.30 p.m.	Church	Whilton Warblers Christmas Concert
Sun	6 Dec	10 a.m.	Church	Benefice Eucharist
Fri	11 Dec	10.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Church Village Hall	Pre-school Celebration of Christmas Christmas Pot-luck Supper
Sun	13 Dec	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Tues	15 Dec	Evening	Village	Village carol singing
Sat	19 Dec		Church	Christmas Tree Festival Coffee morning 11 a.m.
Sun	20 Dec	6 p.m.	Church	Christmas Tree Festival Carol and Christingle Service
Fri	25 Dec	9.15 a.m.	Church	Christmas Day celebration
Sun	27 Dec	11 a.m.	Church	Holy Communion
2016				
Fri	1 Jan		Whilton Locks Garden Village	Frozen event
Wed	13 Jan	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council meeting
Fri	15 Jan	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society Saxon Supper and AGM
<u>Wed</u>	3 Feb	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association AGM
Tues	23 Feb	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Village Hall	Social Lunch

Regular weekly events include:

- **BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL** in the Village Hall:
Term time: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Mon, Wed 1 – 3 p.m. for over 3's.
- **BELL RINGING** at the Church: Mon: 7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
For further information please contact Justin Baker 844263 or Janet Bowers 842851
- **WHILTON WARBLERS CHOIR** in the Church: Term time: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.