

WHILTON WINTER NEWSLETTER



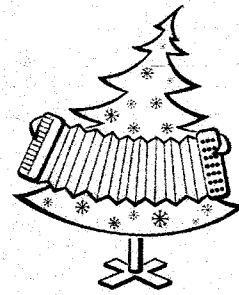
Christmas Tree Angel. Photo: Richard Oliver

**DECEMBER 2016 -
FEBRUARY 2017**

Winter 2016 -2017



Letter from the Editors



As we approach the Christmas season a variety of activities will be taking place in the parish, most of which are noted in this issue. The front cover features an angel from a previous Christmas Tree Festival and Whilton Warblers should put us in the Christmas mood with their concert on 2nd December. The Pre-School will be holding their Christmas Nativity in the church on the morning of Friday 16th December. This year the Carol Singers will be raising money towards the two defibrillators for the Locks and the Village, and we hope parishioners will be generous in their giving as they come round the village on 20th December.

The post-Christmas season can be quieter and sometimes colder, and so we may like to take some exercise outside. Footpaths from Whilton provide winter walks to Brockhall, Muscott, Brington and Long Buckby. An 8 mile circular walk from Whilton Locks is featured as one of the "Top 5 Northamptonshire Walks" at <http://www.walksandwalking.com/>. Ice skating at the Locks will continue over the New Year.

Some may prefer to stay warm indoors. We include an article about home-made entertainment in Whilton 150 years ago. January will see the return to work and regular routine for many of us. The next meeting of our busy Parish Council will be on 11th January.

We remind everyone that we are always ready to receive new contributions to the Newsletter, whatever your age, whether you wish to express an opinion, air a problem or share a poem.

We wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

The Editors

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It has been a very busy 6 months since the new Parish Council came into service for the community, with the team taking on a number of projects and challenges. But much of it may go unnoticed by the community. Hence, since the Council works for the community, it is probably worth highlighting some of the major issues that the Parish Council are dealing with at the moment.

- **Allotments.** Currently, the allotment's land in Whilton is leased from the Daventry District Council (DDC), with a chance that they may at some time reclaim the land for development. Hence, the Parish Council is in the process of trying to purchase the land outright from the DDC for the benefit of the community, thereby securing it from development, and keeping it safe for the Parish and allotment holders. Whilst seemingly simple, it is proving to be a complex process, with both councils researching back through 70 years to try to determine the original intent for the land.
- **Broadband Speeds.** The Parish Councils of Whilton, Great and Little Brington, and Norton have made a joint approach to BT to try to improve the broadband speeds within the villages. Whilton itself is earmarked to have a new BT fibre optic cabinet in the village in 2018, which would dramatically increase speeds through BT Infinity, but the Council is attempting to get this bought forward to 2017.
- **Community Defibrillators.** The Parish Council is in the process of purchasing 2 community defibrillators for the Whilton and Whilton Locks. Local businesses have been very generous and assisted with our fundraising for these valuable pieces of equipment. Huge thanks go to Whilton Mill, Whilton Carpets and Whilton Marina.
- **Speeding in the Village.** We know that the village is used as a "rat run" and many drivers exceed the limit of 30mph. Even 30mph is too fast given the narrow roads, blind bends, children and horses. The Parish Council has tried but failed to get the limit officially reduced to 20mph. Please reduce your own speed and look out for our forthcoming campaign to make Whilton safer - "20 is Plenty for Whilton".

There are many horse riders along the Brington Lane, and cars need to slow down and take care, where the Council has obtained reminder signs to convey the message along the way. Large farm vehicles also need to take heed and reduce their speed, and take more care, particularly along Main Street where the larger vehicles are damaging and eroding the bank and drive way edges.

The Parish Council has been successful in getting the speed limit in Whilton Locks reduced from 60mph to 40mph!

- **Dog Waste Bin.** The Parish Council has installed a new dog waste bin in the village at the end of Buckby Lane, and this is proving to be a great success. Bagged dog waste can be placed in any litter bin, however please could you avoid using the Churchyard bin.

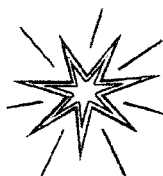
Other matters for community awareness:

- **DACT Transport Bus.** You may have heard of the DACT transport bus which is available to our village residents? Brington Travel Club use this facility, for a subscription fee, and we are wondering if any Whilton residents would like to also use this service. Please contact me if you would like further details.
- **Firework Events.** Firework events in the village need to be advertised and pre-notified, as there are many animals that could get spooked by these. Hence, if known, measures can be taken to protect animals. Any New Year's Eve parties planned (and for future events) please do try let the local residents know, especially the local farmers, who can then take precautions with their live stock.
- **Whilton Parish Council Website.** The Whilton Parish Council also does have a website at <http://www.parish-council.com/whilton/> which details all the work that it is doing for the community, together with any notices of interest for the Parish. There is also an e-mail address should you wish to contact the Parish Councillors about any matters relating to the village and this is councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk.
- **Whilton and Whilton Locks E-Mail Distribution List.**

Many notices, such as the firework events notification detailed earlier, may benefit from a generalised quick widespread distribution. One way of doing this would be via e-mail, and hence it may be advantageous for the Clerk to have a centralised database of everyone's e-mails for Parish. Now before everyone panics about giving out a personal e-mail address, there are various security measures that can and will be implemented. Firstly, only the Clerk will have visibility of all the e-mail addresses, which will not be passed on to third parties. Secondly, it is possible to send e-mails but keep the distribution list hidden. Hence, no one else will be able to see anyone else's e-mail address. So if you are still interested in joining this scheme, please send your chosen e-mail address to clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

As I close, I would like to inform you all that we still have vacant allotments in the village, should anyone like to take one on please contact the Whilton Allotment Group.

Sue Porter - Whilton Parish Clerk



NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

It is that time of year when we can start to look forward to Christmas.



Here at St Andrews we have a number of events planned. The Christmas Tree Festival is becoming something of a village tradition at which some of the many groups and societies can help to decorate the church with their own themed trees. If last year is anything to go by there will be many original and stunning decorations.

The trees will be on display on Saturday 17 December in time for our Carol Service which this year will be at 6.00 on Sunday 18 December. We will be serving fizz and mince pies after the service to get everyone in the mood. I do hope that you will be able to join us.

Christmas Day this year also falls on a Sunday and we will be holding a Christmas Celebration at 9.15.



Tree photos by Richard Oliver

Another tradition is the lighting of the church over the Christmas period. A number of people comment each year how much they enjoy seeing this and you have the opportunity to sponsor the lights on a day that you select. More information is on a separate sheet. If you would like the church to be lit to mark a special event or anniversary, this can be arranged at any time if you let me know. I can be contacted on 843380 or by email Jbrierley1@aol.com.

Jon Brierley, Churchwarden, 7 Langton Rise

ST ANDREWS 2016 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

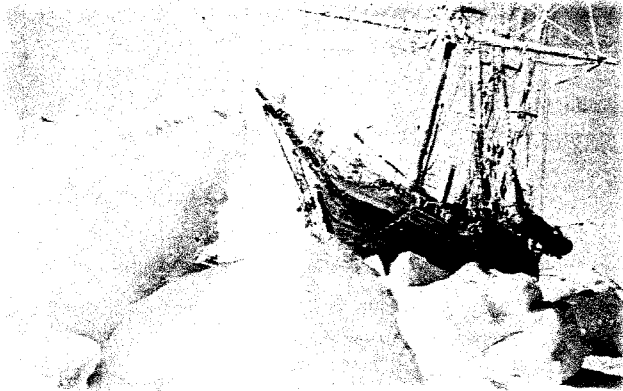


This year we are once again giving you the opportunity to illuminate the Church and make it a focal point of the village during the Christmas period. Cost is just £10 a night.

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

11 DECEMBER	<i>Jon And Helen Brierley</i>	25 DECEMBER
12		26
13		27
14		28
15		29
16		30
17		31
18		1 JANUARY
19		2
20		3
21		4
22		5
23		6
24		

Whilton Local History Society



On Friday 16th September the Society was fascinated to hear the story of **"SHACKLETON AND THE ENDURANCE EXPEDITION"**. The illustrated talk was given by our member Tricia Wood, who is a member of the Caird Society, the Caird being the name of one of the lifeboats on the Endurance.

We heard about the early life of explorer Ernest Shackleton and his determination to cross Antarctica via the South Pole. When the ship, the Endurance, was crushed in the ice, it was his experience, leadership and indomitable spirit which held the men together in almost unbearable cold, camping on sea ice with very limited resources.

We heard how when the ice floe broke up he led the men to the firm, but freezing, Elephant Island, and then with a few others went on in the adapted lifeboat, James Caird, through stormy seas to South Georgia, 700 miles away. Before he could get help, he had to cross the mountainous island on foot.

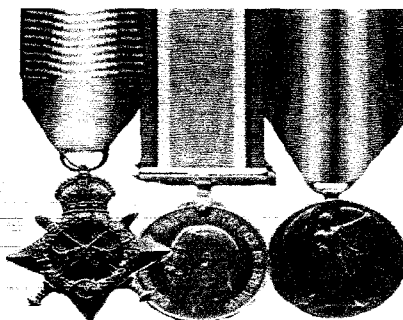
The fact that eventually all the men were saved was almost incredible, and Tricia's talk, given in September 2016 was just a hundred years after all were finally rescued.

The November meeting had to be changed, but instead the talk was based on **"THE WHILTON MEN WHO WENT TO WAR 1914 -1918"**. This again was a centenary talk, as it took place not only on 11th November, Remembrance Day, but also coincided with the centenary of the end of the Battle of the Somme.

Whilton was a small parish with a population of just over 200 in 1911, but in 1913 the Bevan family with their large establishment of servants and retainers had left Whilton Lodge for London and Radnorshire. The new owners were to use the Lodge as a hunting lodge, without keeping a large permanent household there. This significantly reduced the number of men in the parish who were eligible to enlist.

By February 1915 ten Whilton men were recorded as having enlisted, and others were added as the war progressed. We followed the progress of some of these. Among them was Tom Higgerson, whose parents lived at Field View. His father worked as a plate layer on the railway, but they lived a quiet rural life in Whilton, with the occasional complaints that their chickens were causing a nuisance in the churchyard. Tom was about 24 when war broke out and joined up quickly. He was part of the British Expeditionary Force, sometimes referred to as the Old Contemptibles.

He became a bombardier in the Royal Field Artillery and disembarked in France for the first time on 1st June 1915. He fought all through the war, and was awarded the Star, British and Victory medals at the end



The Star, British and Victory medals

He was back in Whilton after the war and attended a relative's wedding here in 1920, by which time his parents had moved across the road to the Old Cottage. Tom died in Reading in 1968, aged 78.

One man who became a Whilton resident during the war was Oscar Woodhams. He enlisted in Northampton on 1st September 1914 when he was a wheelwright, living in Long Buckby with his parents. He served as a private in the Northamptonshire Regiment and went to France on 15th April 1915. He was wounded in his back in that year, in his hand in 1916, and in his thigh in 1917. By 1916 his parents had moved to Whilton and were running the Spotted Cow at the Locks, and this was the home to which Oscar returned on leave and after demobilisation.

He too was awarded the Star, British and Victory medals. Oscar did not stay in Whilton, and by 1920 was living in Hanslope, Stony Stratford.

The Local History Society is hoping to provide a Whilton trail, showing the places connected with the local men who went to War, as part of the September 2017 event commemorating Henry Reynolds' winning of the Victoria Cross.

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Captain Henry Reynolds VC, MC.

The Working Group is continuing to plan for the centenary event which will be on 20th September 2017 and the following weekend.

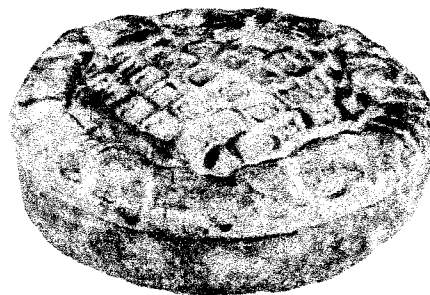
Our celebrations depend on grant funding. The Parish Council has already made a grant of £500, and during the coming weeks the Working Party will be seeking other means of funding, including sponsorship and applying for grants. Most of the planned activities can only take place if they are funded. If you are interested in helping with raising money, please make contact with the Working Party.

For further information email: anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk or phone 843319.

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
of the Local History Society will be on
Friday, 13th January 2017.

This will include a
TUDOR MEAL.



Further details will be sent to members
in the New Year.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2016/2017

AUGUST 2016

1 ST PRIZE	S Thomas	029
2 ND PRIZE	M Clements	033

SEPTEMBER 2016

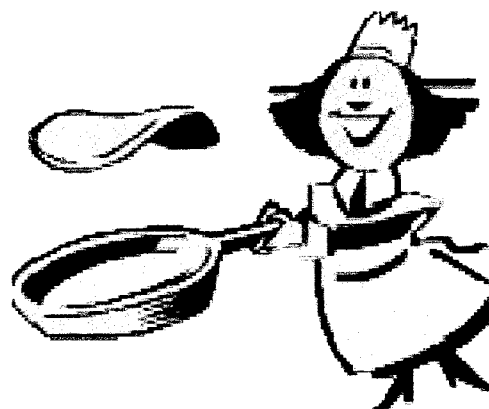
1 ST PRIZE	R Haynes	030
2 ND PRIZE	E Bell	036

Congratulations to all the prize winners
The next 200 Club Draw will take place
after the printing of this Newsletter

The next **SOCIAL LUNCH**
will be on
TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2017.
12.30 for 1 p.m. in the Village Hall.

This will be Shrove Tuesday and
the menu will include traditional
pancakes.

You can book nearer the time by
phoning Jane Thomas 843395 or
Anthea Hiscock 843319



WHILTON SOCIAL LUNCHES

Ten years ago Whilton's first Social Lunch took place on 30th November 2006, St Andrew's Day.

After Whilton WI came to an end it became clear that there was a need for a social daytime get-together for the elderly and infirm who were no longer confident going out in the dark. It was decided to provide an occasional lunch in the village hall.

Because **Whilton Feast** used to be held on St Andrew's Day, the first lunch was held to coincide with this. Pork pies were traditionally cooked for the Feast and so pork casserole was served at the lunch and locally grown apples used for apple crumble and custard. Bread rolls and butter were also available with fruit juice and wine which was donated. The meal was rounded off with tea or coffee – all this for a modest £3.50 per head. This event was attended by 15 villagers and enjoyed by all.

Although this was meant to be a self-financing occasion, a small profit was made, mainly due to donations, and this was held towards another lunch in July 2007.

By 2009 there were three Social Lunches in the year with the February/March meal using Fair Trade ingredients. Recently, a fourth lunch has been added to the pattern, covering the four seasons.

The lunches continue to be popular and an opportunity for villagers to meet. There is no longer the expectation that the meal is mainly for the elderly and infirm. The cost has now risen to £5 per head but this remains good value as it covers both food and the rental of the hall.

The lunches depend on much help from volunteers and we all thank those who have provided the food and the guests who also help by clearing the hall and washing up after the meal. This is always appreciated. The small team of cooks has varied over the years (Anthea and Shirley have been there from Day One!) but the birthday meal on 29th November was prepared by Shirley Brown, Ros Gardner, Anthea Hiscock, Agnes Lee, Marian Seal and Jane Thomas.

FAMILY NEWS

There are several pieces of good news to share in this issue.

We congratulate **Jane Drodge and Nick Busby** on their wedding in October, followed by a safari holiday to Kruger and then a few days in Mauritius. We wish them every happiness for the future.



Jane and Nick Busby on their wedding day

Congratulations to:

Christopher Halestrap of Langton Rise who was awarded a 2:1 in Maths and Economics from Nottingham University.

and to

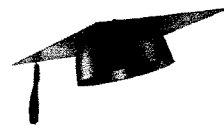
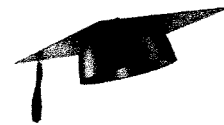
Jemma Battison of Tudor House for her brilliant A level results and securing a place at Exeter University to study French & Classics

and to her brother

Matthew Battison for gaining a First Class Masters & Bachelors Degree in Natural Sciences (Physics) from Cambridge University.

and to

Emily Thomas, daughter of Mark Thomas at the Old Post Office on achieving her Masters Degree in Psychology: Brain and Cognition at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.



We welcome **Emma**, born on 8th November, baby daughter of **Geoff and Helen Camps** and a sister for Daniel.

Winters at Whilton Lodge and Whilton Locks

By Jennifer Leighton of Whilton Lodge

It's November again and it seems colder now than this time last year. We just had a super moon which I was lucky enough to see on 14 November.

The Sunday papers say the UK is set for the heaviest snowfall in years, saying we are in for the Big Freeze of 2016. The bitter forecast comes amid predictions that subtle changes in atmospheric pressure will create trends of freezing air from the Arctic through the season. These factors will also contribute to a blocking pattern that will allow easterly and north easterly winds to dominate with numerous snow events throughout December and January.



The garden of Whilton Lodge under snow. 2009

ventured out and made a huge snowman. The snow didn't last as long the second year, but we had a lot of fun.

In the spirit of Christmas fun, four years ago, Winter Wonderland was brought to Whilton Locks Garden Village. It is an ice skating rink, which the first experimental year was made with plastic ice and it became so popular that every year since it has been a little bigger and a little more extravagant.

This may be the typical weather forecast drama our weather men have come to be famous for, and there are scientific reasons, but nonetheless the predictions reminded me of the wonderful snowstorms we had in late 2008 and on 5 February 2009 at Whilton Lodge, the year I first came to live here.

I woke up one morning and the world had turned to a fairyland. The snow was so deep that no one or their cars went anywhere for a few days. It was like magic and I spent so much time just happily looking out the windows. Then again, on 5 February 2009, it snowed again.

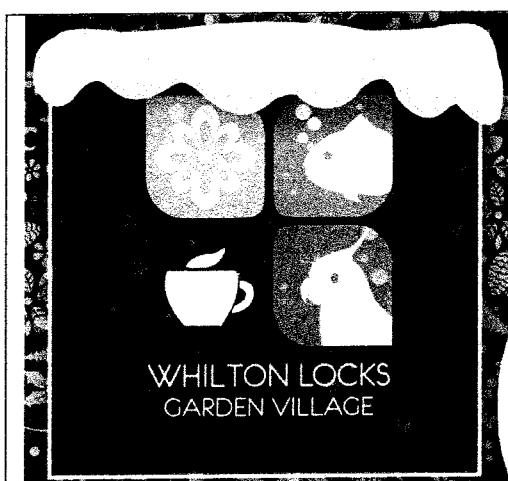
It was like a blanket dropped on the whole property by 7 in the morning, and it was wonderful. By 2:30, the neighbours had

This year beginning on 19 November, in addition to the ice skating rink with its real ice, there is a fifty foot 'Frosty the Snowman' bouncy castle. I have been there twice in the past two years with my son's family and my grandchildren, and we have had a wonderful time. The rink is undercover and is safe from inclement weather. The café is right there to provide hot drinks and snacks. Skate hire is included in the price and parking is free. For those that need a little help, push along skate aids are available to help those a little unsteady on their feet.

What's a snow rink without a Santa? Meet him in a grotto with your wish list and you can even have a breakfast of sizzling sausages with Santa. Other festivities include a Frozen themed meet a Princess Sing-a-long Afternoon Tea, Turkey and Tinsel at canalside, and some of the most incredible Christmas displays, for miles and also bringing home for your own Christmas trees if you like from the garden centre! Santa's ice helpers are so friendly and safety conscious.

It is a pleasant day out. If you come from far away you can book online at www.wlgv.co.uk. There is free parking and a great day for all. They can be found at Whilton Locks Garden Village, Whilton Locks, NN11 2NH. Telephone: 01327843100. Enjoy our local winter to the full.

Jennifer has American roots, but has lived in Northamptonshire for many years. We hope she will enjoy this winter here too.



CHRISTMAS AT WHILTON LOCKS

Ice skating

We have a host of fab festive fun at Whilton Locks Garden Village this Christmas. Our real ice, ice rink is bigger and better than ever - it's all undercover too so it's great whatever the weather. Ice Skating starts Saturday 19th November.

Displays

Our Christmas Displays are complete with huge savings on your theme this year with 3 for 2 on ALL orange labelled decorations. Traditional, Modern, Contemporary - and in every colour you can think of; we have the perfect decorations that are available today.

Meet Elsa from Frozen...

Plus a special snowy guest too who just loves warm hugs! Elsa will sing your Frozen family-favourites and host a delightful Afternoon Tea in our Canalside restaurant. Price includes a live singing performance, food and Frozen Gift.



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



Our October meeting was well attended, with 25 members coming to hear Linda Smith, from Waterside Nursery in Sharnford, Leics, give us a talk about attracting wildlife to our garden ponds. She spoke of the importance of having an emergence zone where creatures could easily leave the pond and she gave suggestions of how to plant up the pond to cater for the needs of the various creatures that may take up residence. The talk was illustrated with some stunning photographs.

It is a sign of the times that Waterside Nursery now trades entirely on-line and is no longer open to visitors.

Many of you will have known Olive Bardill-Tillett, our former membership secretary, who passed away last year. Whilst clearing out Olive's house her carer, Janice, came across a set of golf clubs which she donated to WGA for us to sell and use the money as we wished. The sale raised £50 and we decided to buy a large quantity of daffodil bulbs which have now been planted in the grass verge at the top of the village beyond Hilltop Farm and a few by the pumping station at the bottom of the village. Hopefully these should provide a nice display next spring, in memory of Olive.

Forthcoming events include our members' Christmas Social on 7th December and our AGM on 1st February.

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



♪ WHILTON CAROL SINGERS ♪

This year the Carol Singers will coming round on Tuesday, 20th December.

The Parish Council are raising funds for two community defibrillators for

Whilton village and the Locks.

Donations given during the carol singing will help towards this fundraising.



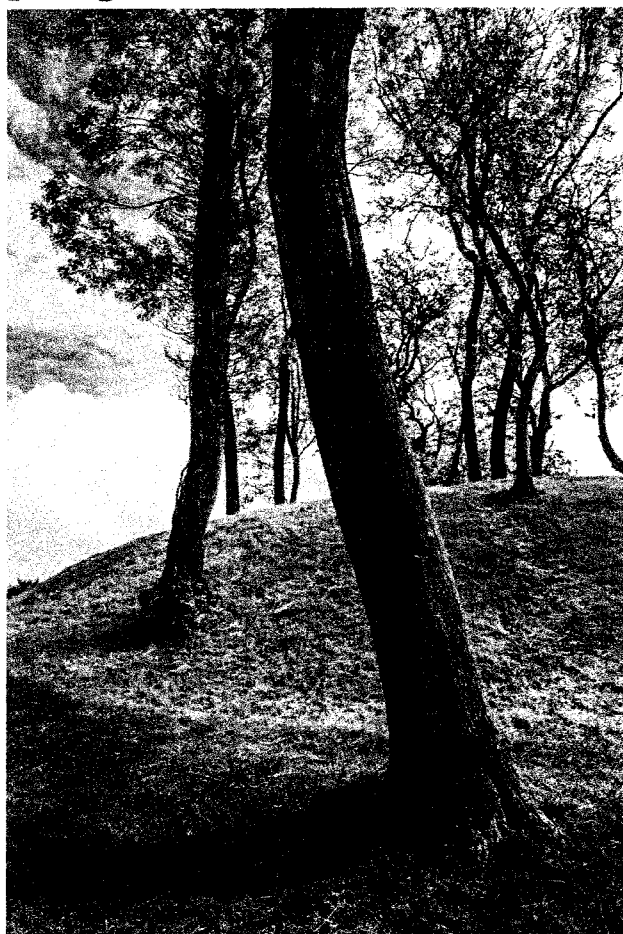
We thank Gordon and Mary Emery for organising this event each year.

Aperture Photography Group

In the last Whilton Newsletter we asked if anyone was interested in joining a new photography group. Since then we have set up the Aperture Photography Group and have twenty keen members. We have now met four times and our next meeting is on Wednesday 30th November.

The group welcomes anyone with an interest in photography. If you are a beginner or are more experienced, we offer a range of activities for all levels, including evening meetings, classroom training and outings to locations which offer everyone the opportunity to take some great photos. So far, we have visited Stowe Landscape Gardens, Lyveden New Bield, Blakeney Point in Norfolk and Towcester Races.

If you are new to photography and want to learn how to take better photographs then we are planning a series of classroom-based workshops covering basic camera skills, composition, enhancing photographs in your computer and many other topics. Combining these sessions with our outings will give you the opportunity to learn from more experienced photographers.



If you are interested and want to know more, then get in touch by phone or email.

Neil Phillips

Tel: 01327 844182

Email: neiljphillips@mac.com

BELL RINGING

Whilton Ringers meet in St Andrew's Church on Monday evenings from 19:30 to practice ringing on the bells.

We are keen for all people of any age (12+) to come and try their hand at ringing. It's not complex and you don't need 'muscles' - but is rewarding when ringing as part of the 'band' (team of ringers).

If you would like to 'have a go', please join us any Monday from 19:30. If you would like to 'take it further' - we will train you with the 'basics to handle bells'.

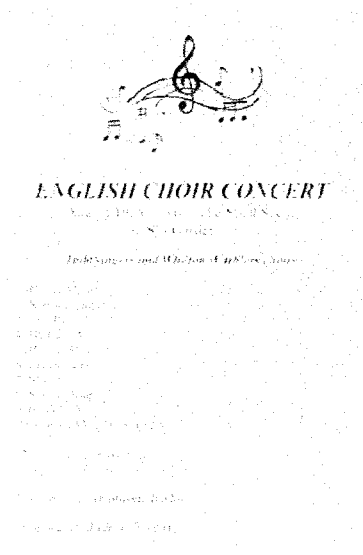
Call **Justin** (01327 844263) or **Janet** (01327 842851) if you would like to know more before you come along.

The Whilton Warblers go to Bulgaria



Varna. The largest city and seaside resort on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and recent venue for the combined Whilton Warblers and Judit Singers choirs led by Judit Felszhegy.

In 2014 and 2015 the combined choirs visited and performed in Budapest. This year Judit, our choir leader, entered us in the Varna Summer Festival.



After many hours of rehearsals we took to the open air Shell Scene stage in Varna's Sea Garden to perform a concert on the Friday evening.

We had spent most of Wednesday morning trying to learn a Bulgarian song, Ergen Deda, becoming more despondent by the hour as the intricacies of the unfamiliar language combined with the fast tempo continued to defeat us. In vain most of us hoped it would be dropped from the final programme but Judit was confident that the local people would appreciate our efforts and was determined we should master it.

She was right, of course. On the evening we delivered a fair version which the audience seemed to enjoy. As always the one hour concert passed all too quickly and (apart from the breeze blowing Judit and the pianist's music about) without any disasters. The venue for 2017 will be Croatia.

Teresa Leadbetter



150 years ago

FEBRUARY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT IN VICTORIAN TIMES

We may sometimes wonder how our ancestors managed without television, film and computers to fill the winter evenings. A century and a half ago, in February 1867, Whilton residents of both the Locks and village were making their own entertainment in the Schoolroom, now the Village Hall.

Whilton Penny Readings

"The fourth of these readings this season took place in the Schoolroom last Tuesday evening, and was as successful in its results as the previous meetings had been. The room was well filled, and the whole of the proceedings gave general satisfaction. The Rev R Skipwith, the Rector, presided. Subjoined is the programme:"

Reading: Rev R Skipwith: "*Mugby Junction, the Engine Driver.*"

Song: Miss E Elliott: "*The Cottage by the Sea*"

Reading: Mr T Emery: "*The servants at County Courts.*"

Song: Mr W Green: "*Muffins for tea*"

Reading: Mr Dyer Sen. "*Our Penny Readings*"

Song: Miss L Sumpter: "*Dreams of my childhood*"

Reading: Mr R Emery: "*My Gothic Steed*"

Song: Mr E Skipwith: "*Ka-foozle-um*"

Reading: Rev J Mellycott: "*In a Sore Strait*"

Song: Mr J Smith: "*The Costermonger's Donkey*"

Reading: Mr W Green: "*Mr Brown presents his wife with a dog.*"

Song: Mr T Emery: "*London, Chatham and Dover.*"

Reading: Mr W Elliott: "*Mrs Caudle's Curtain Lectures – the Shirt Buttons.*"

Song: Mr Dyer, jun: "*The Lost Child*"

Reading: Mr W Dunkley: "*The Lost Gold Watch*"

Song: Mr R Emery: "*The Cork Leg*"

Reading: Mr E Skipwith: "*A fashionable Dancing Party*"

Conclusion: "*God bless the Prince of Wales.*"

"The chairman announced that a special reading, by females only, would take place on the 12th of February, and that the ordinary Penny Readings were fixed for Tuesday, the 19th of February."

Unfortunately no one reported on the evening run by the women.



Roughmoor Spinney – the end of an era?

In 1997 Roughmoor Spinney was given to Whilton Parish as a Millennium Gift by Griff and Joan Davies of Roughmoor Grounds. The Spinney has been open to the public since 2000, and has been developed, maintained and managed by a Management Group of volunteers from the parish.

However, after 20 years there is an **immediate need** for new blood and for people willing to take on the responsibilities of **Chair and Secretary**. It will no longer be possible for the group to function legally without these offices being filled. The group has a Treasurer, but he will resign now if no one comes forward for these tasks.

An early bonfire as volunteers cut paths through the Spinney and cleared the wood after the felling of the hybrid poplars which had overshadowed it.



Volunteers working here are: Richard Bunce, Derek Coates and Jeremy James.



The Spinney stream in full flood in the winter of 2012/13

The Spinney remains an asset to the parish, with its wet woodland, flowers, animals and birds. It is used by walkers and nature lovers, and especially by the Pre-School, who have regular activities there. It is a place for a quiet walk, yet very near the centre of Whilton. It has been the venue for activities varying from quizzes to treasure hunts and guided walks.

Over the years there have been a number of work parties to plant, prune and tidy, clear ditches and especially to make the paths firmer and safer for all. There are now very few, if any, who turn up for these activities, or are willing to arrange them. Without management the Spinney will no longer be safe for the use of parishioners.

If you are interested in this and can help please contact **Richard Bunce** (Treasurer), Hill End, Manor Lane, or **Janet Bowers** (Acting Chair) 842851 or janbowers22@gmail.com by 31st December 2016.

If no one comes forward, the remaining members of the Management Group will hand the Spinney to the Parish Council. The Councillors will then have to decide how they will proceed, but without active management the Spinney will have to be closed to the public, apart from the short public footpath between the two bridges.

This is a sad and disappointing outcome for those who have worked for the Spinney for so many years. It may also be a reflection on the changing lifestyle and expectations of the residents of Whilton village. There is no doubt that the Parish Council will work towards the best interests of Whilton community and we can hope that they may find a positive solution, rather than closing this small wet woodland to local people.

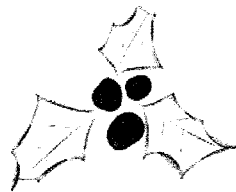
Meanwhile:

Watch the website and the notice board for the date of the next work party in December to lay granite chippings on the paths.

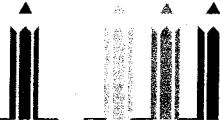
THE SOLUTION IS IN YOUR HANDS.

THE CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL

A poem by Stan Henniker of Whilton Marina



*Christmas time is on its way
Happy yuletide and twelve months to pay,
Boys want this and girls want that
They think you pull it from a hat.
Round the clock shopping without respite,
Whatever happened to Silent Night?
Hark the Herald Angels Sing,
Let's go down to the Burger King.
'Tis the season of good cheer,
We'll do it all again next year.
Once in a while it would be nice
To celebrate the birth of Christ.*



Brington and Whilton Pre-School

Whilton Village Hall NN11 2QP

www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk

So far we have had a very busy year with our Stay and Play sessions and the Halloween Event in Whilton Spinney providing a great time for the children. During this term we are looking at 'People who help us' and have had a Doctor into the setting, the Fire Brigade visiting us with their engine, a Policeman telling us what his job is and a visit to the local Library to see how they help us and hear some stories. Then, if that has not been enough, we have Christmas coming up, with Coffee Mornings, Nativities and Parties – what an exciting time the children have.

We would like to invite you all to our Christmas Nativity which will take place at Whilton Church on Friday 16th December 2016 at 10.30am – come and hear the little ones singing, then join us for Coffee and Mince Pies back at Whilton Village Hall. It would be lovely to see you.

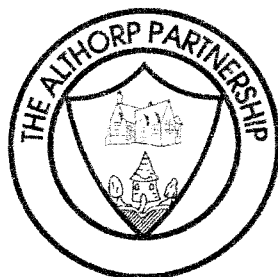
We still have a few spaces left, if you have a child who is 2 years old and would like them to attend a small, friendly Pre-school, please contact Jenny Holman on 01604 770083 for a visit and more information.

The staff and children of the Pre-school wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



The visit from the Fire Brigade

**THE ALTHORP PARTNERSHIP OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
HARLESTONE AND BRINGTON
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016**



December 2016

The end of another very busy term is nearly upon us.

France residential

At the end of September, 17 Year 5 and 6 children spent a week on a residential visit to France. They took part in numerous activities such as abseiling, fencing and climbing. They also experienced French culture by visiting a local French market and had to buy their own ingredients in order to prepare their own lunch. It was lovely to see them put their French vocabulary skills to good use. They also had the opportunity to eat snails! During the week they also spent a day visiting Mont St. Michel. The children had a great time and we are already planning our next residential visit.

Sporting events

Our children have taken part in a number of different sporting events over the course of the past term. A small group of children visited Champion to take part in an inclusive sports morning where they had the opportunity to try wheelchair basketball and boccia. Eight children went to Salcey Forest to take part in an orienteering challenge which was organised by the County Council as part of the 20 million steps weekend. Class 1 at Brington took part in a rugby morning which again was organised by Champion school. We have also entered two football competitions, most recently the local cluster schools competition for years 5 and 6. We competed against 12 other teams and managed to finish a very impressive 5th!

I am also very pleased to report that we have been recently awarded the School Games Mark Silver award. This is in recognition of the many sporting opportunities that our children have both during the school day and as extra-curricular activities. We were also recognised for encouraging the children to take leadership roles at lunchtimes and our year 5 and 6 children do this by organising sporting activities for the other children to play. This is a great achievement and one that the whole school community can be proud of.

Armistice Day

Children at Brington attended 'The Bringtons Remember' at the village Reading Rooms. This was an interesting exhibition about WW1 and how it affected Great Brington and Little Brington. The children also laid crosses at the war memorial. They were extremely interested in the exhibition especially when they realised that some children live in the same cottages as some of the soldiers who went off to fight. The school was very fortunate and extremely pleased to receive a photograph from Brington History Society which shows the survivors outside the front of the school.

Forthcoming events

In December our KS1 children are visiting West Lodge Rural Centre to take part in a nativity as well as to meet Father Christmas. Both schools are holding nativity performances as well as hosting Grandparents Tea Parties. Brington's takes place on 12th December. Brington children will be taking part in a Christingle service on 14th December and will be watching a pantomime on 16th December.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

John Sarbutts, Executive Headteacher

SLEDGING AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN WHILTON



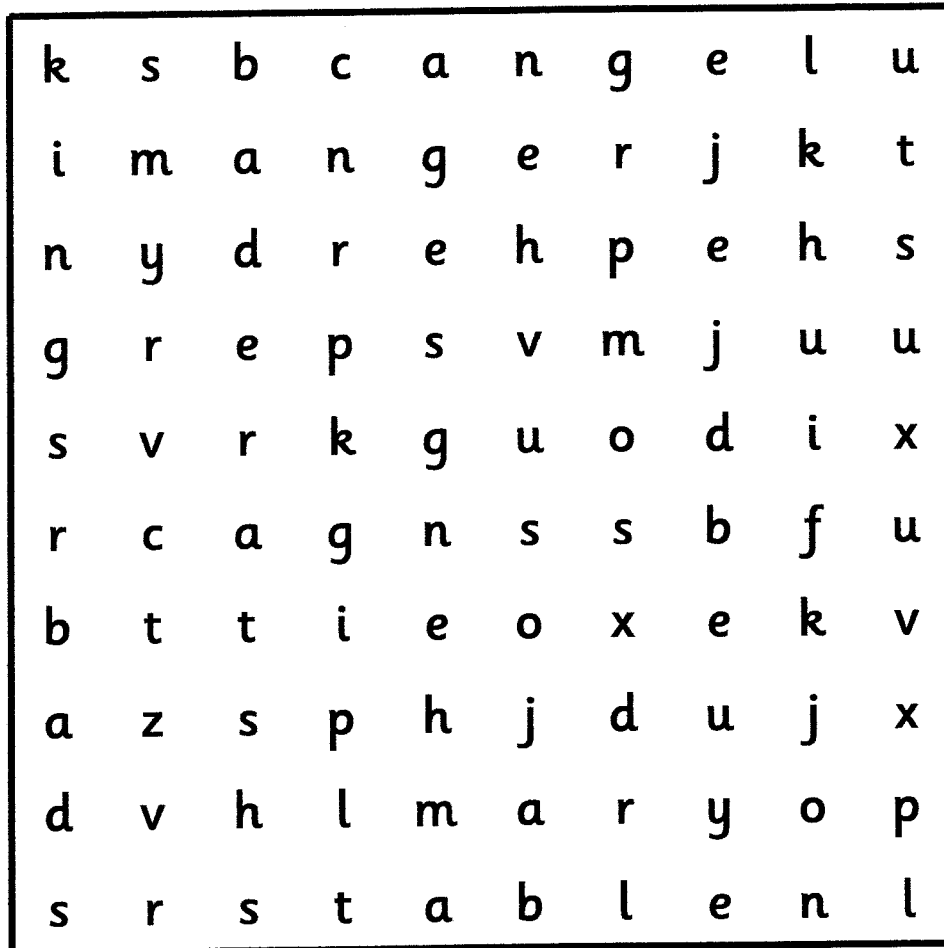
Before the Second World War the traffic was limited on Whilton Hill, especially in snowy weather. Will Adams, born in 1909, could remember how the rector and his relatives used to lend their toboggans to the village children, so that they could sledge down the hill.

Old Whilton Bridge was round a bend in the road and on one occasion a sledge missed the bridge and ended up in the frozen brook. There were, apparently, no injuries.

Seventy years ago was the long cold winter of 1946 -7, with deep snow lasting for weeks. Whilton was cut off and residents were forced to survive on their stores and local provisions, but bread ran out. A group of Whilton men trudged over the valley and up the hill to Long Buckby in deep snow. They brought back a welcome sledge full of bread from the Long Buckby bakery.



Nativity Wordsearch



angel

donkey

Jesus

Joseph

kings

manger

Mary

shepherd

stable

star



Family Fun

Rudolph Marshmallow Decorations

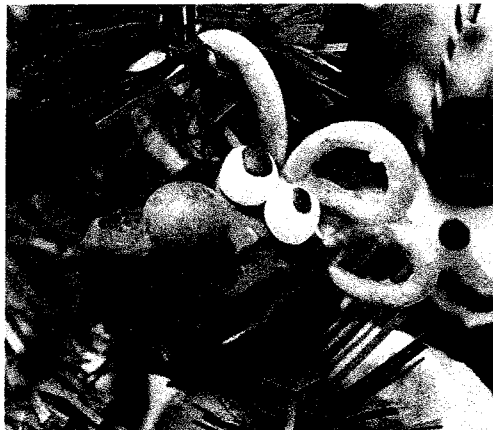
Ingredients

- 100g milk chocolate
- Large marshmallows
- Pretzels
- Ready-to-roll white and black icing
- Red Skittles or Smarties

Equipment

- Greaseproof paper
- Ribbon

1. Melt your bar of chocolate.
2. Dip each marshmallow into the chocolate.
3. Press the pretzels onto the back of the marshmallow to make the antlers.
4. Make Rudolph's eyes using ready-to-roll icing.
5. Add the red sweetie nose and eyes.
6. Pop in the fridge to set on some greaseproof paper.
7. Thread some ribbon around the pretzel antlers and place on the tree.



Christmas Jokes

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?
The elf-abet!

What carol is heard in the desert?
O camel ye faithful!

What's the most popular Christmas wine?
'I don't like Brussels sprouts!'

Which football team did the baby Jesus support?
Manger-ster United!

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 2017. The last date for contributions will be 20th February 2017.**

❖ **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 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 2016 - 2017

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Daily	Dec		Whilton Locks Garden Village	Ice Skating
Fri	2 Dec	7.30p.m.	Church	Whilton Warblers Christmas Concert
Sun	4 Dec	10 a.m.	Harlestone Church	Benefice Eucharist
Wed	7 Dec		Village Hall	Gardeners Association Christmas Social
Sun	11 Dec	9.15 a.m.	Church	Holy Communion
Fri	16 Dec	10.30p.m.	Church	Pre-School Christmas Nativity
Sat	17 Dec	11 a.m.	Church	Christmas Tree Festival Coffee morning
Sun	18 Dec	6 p.m.	Church	Christmas Tree Festival Village Carol Service
Tues	20 Dec			Village Carol Singing
Sun	25 Dec	9.15 a.m.	Church	Christmas Celebration
2017				
Sun	1 Jan	10 a.m.	Church	Benefice Service
Wed	11 Jan	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council meeting
Fri	13 Jan	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society Tudor Meal and AGM
Wed	1 Feb	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association AGM
Tues	28 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.
- For **CHURCH SERVICES** after 1st January, please see notice board.