

WHILTON WINTER NEWSLETTER



A snowy day at The Old Cottage in the late 20th century

DECEMBER 2020

-

FEBRUARY 2021

Winter 2020-2021

Letter from the Editors

Producing a Newsletter for the Village in 2020 has presented us with new and varied challenges. We are pleased by the number of you who have provided content to keep us informed about what is happening. This is very important as we emerge from another Lockdown but with much uncertainty about what the next few months will bring.

One challenge this time has been the physical production of this Christmas edition. The costs of printing the Newsletter are paid by the Parish Council. Unfortunately the printers that we have used in Daventry have filed for Administration so we have been forced to look for other printers. We have been fortunate to find one business who will do the work (and we are very grateful to Steers Printers for helping us). It has prompted us to question whether in 2021 it remains appropriate to try to produce a printed copy for every household in the village. So much has changed in the way that we read Newspapers and Periodicals - many of us are now very used to reading an electronic version delivered to our inbox or access news channels on line.

The options available to us would be to load the content on to a Village Website or to deliver by email. There are pros and cons to both - not least that we do not have a complete email directory for the village and we also aware that some residents may find it difficult to access. A compromise might be to have a very limited print run for those who need it and deliver the remainder electronically. It would be a major change and we really would welcome your thoughts and input before the Spring Edition.

The months covered by this Newsletter are likely to be difficult, but we shall be moving towards spring. We cannot yet provide a schedule of activities and events once the winter is over, but we hope the pages of this issue will help to pass some of the time.

We wish everyone a different but Happy Christmas and a brighter, healthier New Year.

The Editors

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

It looks like we are in a case of déjà vu again, as for the last newsletter input I mentioned that the Parish was slowly pulling out of lockdown to try to get back to some form of normality, and here we are again slowly pulling out of lockdown again to try and regain some normality again for the festive period.

Whilst we have together faced some very challenging times over the last few months, the key message is that, since Covid will not discriminate between the young and the old, we must all remain safe and look out for each other – social distancing, hand washing and wear a mask – the simple things can make a big difference for everyone.

So what has your Parish Council been doing through all of this?

- **Traffic Issues in the Parish.**

- **Whilton Locks Speed Limit.**

The Parish Council successfully managed to get the Highways Authority to agree to reduce the speed limit through Whilton Locks from 40 to 30mph. We will hopefully be seeing the new signage in place very soon.

- **Whilton Village – Large Vehicles.**

Many of you will have witnessed the large size of some of the vehicles that try to use Whilton village as a short cut, and this has often resulted in the grass verge along one side of Main Street being damaged, and parked vehicles being damaged on the other. We have looked at various ways to try and stop this happening. The first challenge is that Highways own all the verges along Main Street, and the Parish Council trying to impose a financial penalty for damage to the verge is near on impossible to enforce. The second challenge is that it is a public highway and open for anyone to use, so stopping large vehicles entering Main Street is difficult to enforce. A plan of action that we are now trying to take is to put a warning sign at either end of the village warning drivers that the road narrows considerably along the way. As usual, there are all sorts of legislations that we need to abide with regarding such signage, but we should hopefully have something in place very soon.

- **Irresponsible Dog Owners Around Whilton Village.**

This problem has become a regular point to raise in the Newsletter, and we still receive a number of complaints from disgruntled Parishioners regarding dog fouling through the village. Just as we seem to be seeing improvements in the issue, we receive further reports of more dog fouling being seen on the pavements, or around the church yard (which does seem to be a particular ‘hot spot’ for cases).

As a result of all of this, we have now asked the Daventry District Dog Warden to get involved, as we suspect that many of the incidents are being caused by dogs being allowed by their owners to roam free through the village.

In the meantime, I would urge everyone again, if anyone sees a dog fouling around the village in a public area, and the owner failing to pick the mess up afterwards, please pass on any details you have either to myself or the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk. Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence, and we will then forward the details onto the Daventry District Council to deal with the individual accordingly. Together, let's eradicate this problem of irresponsible dog owners in our village.

- **Gigaclear.**

Superfast broadband is here, and there is a growing number of residents connecting to the network. As with any new installation, there have been a few teething problems which have mostly now been resolved, but generally the feedback that I receive from people is that the connection and the service for many has been great with no problems, and everyone appreciates the greater speed offered.

- **Connecting to the Gigaclear Network – Hints and Tips.** It's probably worthwhile reiterating the following for those who have yet to connect to the network.
- **Packages.** The packages that Gigaclear offer can be found at www.Gigaclear.com/home-broadband. Some of the details are a little confusing, but each package will come with a standard router which also broadcasts wifi around your house. If you want a wifi extender for better coverage, or what they call a mesh system, the 300 and 900 mbps packages come with an additional router as part of the package which can be used to extend your wifi into other areas of your home.
- **Discounts.** Through social media, there have been various discount offers from Gigaclear, and these can also be found at www.rural.gigaclear.com. Note that these also appear to change quite frequently. So it is worthwhile keeping an eye out for the latest offers.

- **Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) Service.**

The Parish Council recently worked jointly with the Brington Parish Council to successfully establish a DACT bus service for residents to provide regular trips to Daventry and Northampton. However, with the current health crisis, the decision was taken to cancel the service until further notice. Further updates will be notified on the village notice board and through the Parish e-mail distribution list.

- **Defibrillators.** There are 2 defibrillators located within the Parish - in Whilton (by the Village Hall) and Whilton Locks (next to the BT phone box on the canal bridge). Each cabinet is locked with a code, which can be obtained from the emergency services when you dial 999 should they be required.

- **Whilton Parish E-Mail Distribution List.**

The Parish e-mail distribution list is a closed list to keep people informed of the latest issues and information concerning the Parish. If you are interested in being added to the list to find out what is going on in your Parish, please send your e-mail address to clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

- **Parish Council Website.**

The Whilton Parish Council also do have a website at www.parish-council.com/whilton/ which details all the work that they are doing for the community, together with any notices of interest for the Parish. There are also details of who your councillors are, and how to contact them about any matters relating to the Parish. Of note, the e-mail address is councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk.

- **Parish Council Meetings.**

The Parish Council hold a regular meeting in the Whilton Village Hall every 2 months, which is open to the public to attend and raise any issues. However, in the current health crisis, all meetings are now being held virtually via Zoom, to which everyone is invited from the comfort of their own homes. Virtual coffee and biscuits will be served during the meeting.

- **The Spinney.**

Some of you may be aware that that we have a special place towards the bottom of Whilton village known as The Spinney, comprising of 2.25 acres of mainly wet woodland, with several walkways throughout the area. It was gifted to the people of Whilton as a millennium gift and is free for anyone to visit.

The management of the area now comes under the Parish Council, where a separate work party of volunteers are responsible for the general maintenance of the area and the completion of safety checks on a monthly basis. However, following periods of inclement weather, there can be occasions where trees or branches may have fallen and have yet to be cleared away. Hence, I would urge you all to visit and enjoy the Spinney, but also to be vigilant of any hazards that may be in the area. If you do notice anything that may be a danger, please report it to the Parish Council clerk at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

Finally, on behalf of your Parish Council, I wish you all a very Merry 'safe' Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Randal Smith

Rose Briar

Chair of the Whilton Parish Council



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



As we have been unable to hold any events this year, we have rolled over subscriptions into 2021. Anyone who has paid their membership subscription for 2020 will continue to be a member in 2021 without paying again.

As there is still a lot of uncertainty about when we will be able to resume our meetings, we have postponed the AGM, which would normally be held in February, until later in the year, when, hopefully, the situation will become clearer.

We currently have no speaker booked for April. Our June meeting would usually be the open gardens and buffet. It is possible that we could run an outdoor event by then, we will keep our options open. We do have speakers booked for the August and October meetings, so we'll keep our fingers crossed that things are returning to normal by then.

I hope you all manage to stay healthy.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Roy Haynes, WGA Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB WINNERS

<u>AUG 2020</u>	1 ST PRIZE	R Hawkins	043
	2 ND PRIZE	C Wade	025
<u>SEPT 2020</u>	1 ST PRIZE	M Kane	070
	2 ND PRIZE	C Phillips	039
<u>OCT 2020</u>	1 ST PRIZE	G Denbigh	009
	2 ND PRIZE	R Toone	078
<u>NOV 2020</u>	1 ST PRIZE	D Halestrap	160
	2 ND PRIZE	M Edkins	121
<u>DEC 2020</u>	1 ST PRIZE	S Hardman	157
	2 ND PRIZE	J & S Hanslip	129

January 2021 sees the 30th Anniversary of Whilton Village Hall 200 Club. We would like to thank all our members for their continued support. We are especially grateful for our founder members. There are still some living in the parish. We send our gratitude especially to Tom Price from Whilton Locks, who is our oldest founder member, for his continued interest and support over the 30 years.

NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

In preparation for writing this piece, I read what we wrote at this time last year. We had plans for our Christmas Tree Festival, Pre School Nativity, Warblers Concert, Carol Service and a Christmas Service. Sadly this year will be very different.

The second lockdown meant that we had to close for services again although have been able to keep the building open for private worship. The new rules from 2 December mean that we can re-open for Worship but with restrictions. We know that many people do like to sing carols at Christmas and so we want to hold a Carol Service on the last Sunday before Christmas.

Unfortunately the rules on singing in church are very strict as this is seen as a way of spreading the virus. Whether or not you agree with the science on this, we are not allowed to sing indoors. We also have limited capacity inside the building in order to maintain 2 metre distancing. Different churches will have their own solutions to deal with these issues and we have been offered a number of proposals, including limiting numbers through admission by ticket and the congregation humming along to the carols.

We have given this a lot of thought and have decided that the best solution is to organise an outdoor event which we will be holding at 4.00 on Sunday 20 December in or around the churchyard. We will have short readings to tell the Christmas story and traditional carols which you will be able to join in and sing. It will be socially distanced and organised to keep you safe. The only variable is the weather so let's hope for a fine afternoon! It's not perfect, but we think it is the best we can do in the circumstances. We will be able to give more details nearer the time and these will be communicated by email. We do hope that many of you will want to take part and if you are interested please let Jon know.

We will also be lighting the exterior of the building during the Christmas period. This has been well supported in the past and we are again looking for your sponsorship to enable this to happen. This gives you an opportunity to pick out a special day. The cost is £10 and if you would like to take part, let Jon know on 843380 or by email Jbrierley1@aol.com.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Jon Brierley and Linda Treacy

ST ANDREWS 2020 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. You can pay by cash or directly in to the bank account 309255 00083490 quoting Lights and surname. To reserve or to select a date, please contact Jon Brierley (843380) Jbrierley1@aol.com

11 DECEMBER	JON AND HELEN BRIERLEY
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The Spencer Benefice of Churches

**Church
services are
now on
zoom!**



We'd love to see you for our simple and friendly services.

Sunday service at 10am &
Wednesday morning prayer at 9:30am.

Email Rev Kathryn for the link on
revdkevans@gmail.com



or message via our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ourgroupofchurches>

PARISH CHARITIES FOR THOSE IN NEED

Most of you will know the Parish has about £5000 to make small grants (up to £400) for helping towards the needs of any parishioners in financial difficulties. This is a very unusual and unsettling time when some certainties have been swept away, or reasonable expectations will be unfulfilled. The Charities were created to help. The details and what sort of circumstances have been helped in the past are on both Parish Noticeboards. However we live in times of new difficulties and I do ask those affected by them, or parishioners who think they may know of a resident here who we might need help, to contact one of the two Trustees, Ann Gilbert and myself, or in the absence of our Rector, Rev Kathryn Evans, her curate, for a confidential chat to see if we could assist.

Keith Hiscock (phone 843319)



This photo appears to show carol singing on the Green.
Can you date this or identify anyone? Please let the Editors know if you can.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020

The Church was closed on Remembrance Day, but the significance of the day was not forgotten.



Randal Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council, affixes the wreath .



Whilton War Memorial

The young men named on the war memorial.

Percy Fleming came from the Locks. After leaving Whilton School he was a pupil at Daventry Grammar School. He then worked in the lamp costing and accounting office of the BTH Engineering Works, Rugby. In photographs of the 1920s and 30s, Percy's laughing face suggests that he had a sense of fun and many friends.

He became a Leading Aircraftman in the RAF and was training as a wireless operator and air gunner or navigator. He was killed in a flying accident, while training on 4th October 1940.

Lawrence Welch, oldest son of Bill and Flo at the Shop, had also been taught by Mrs Osborne at Whilton School. He joined the Royal Navy and was lost at sea in the Mediterranean, when his ship was torpedoed on 26th March 1942.

Harold Townley, son of Shelah and Blanche at Church Gate, another pupil of Whilton School, became a carpenter and was only 18 when he joined the 5th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment and went to North Africa. There he was wounded and after a period in hospital, died of wounds on 30th November 1942.

Oliver Adams was the younger son of Tom and Kate Rose who rented the Manor House. He too was a Whilton School pupil. He was a plumber, married with a little daughter and another on the way. He had served in Italy and then had come home, where he trained for the airborne troops. He was serving with the Royal Artillery 1st Airlanding Light Regiment and was parachuted into Arnhem. There he was killed on 24th September 1944.

Further details of the story of these men will be shared later in 2021.

Teresa Leadbetter writes:

I was inspired in November when I saw Sally and Roger Toones' artwork to create a poppy wreath of my own.



Sally and Roger's poppy



My modest tribute

Last year I repaired and reupholstered a couple of Edwardian dining chairs for my brother and his wife. They are both army veterans and the chairs had belonged to my grandfather, a mature participant in the Second World War. The material my sister-in-law chose featured poppies and cornflowers and I appliqued remnants of this onto a plain blue backing and attached it to our gate.

On walking around the village, I noticed other households had also displayed poppy wreaths on their front doors. Heartening to see that the Pre School had also created a poppy wreath and placed it on the Henry Reynolds memorial stone.

Poppies and Puppies

Not to be outdone Marley and his good friend Cadbury also wore their poppies with pride. Unfortunately trying to photograph Marley is like herding cats, he's as easily distracted as Cadbury is patient.

Marley is more interested in what's going on next door....



CHRISTMAS PAST

Although safety restrictions will prevent the holding of a Christmas Tree Festival this year, we share here a few reminders of decorated trees from previous years.



CHRISTMAS 2020

RADIO NORTHAMPTON INVITES THE COUNTY TO A DOORSTEP CHRISTMAS SINGALONG.

This will take place on **Wednesday December 16th** with the radio station asking listeners to tune in at 6 p.m. and sing along to the festive songs on their doorsteps.

The song sheets can be downloaded from the BBC Radio Northampton website. If you do not have the equipment for this, please let the editors know, as we have a volunteer who has offered to provide the words for you.

We hope many villagers will be singing on their doorsteps on that evening.

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Local History Society has shared the fate of most other groups and has not been able to meet during the pandemic. We are planning no meetings through the rest of this winter and hope that we shall be able to hold our 2021 AGM in the summer.

Our 2020 speakers have offered their services for next year and we hope to hold events around the Whilton Stone and the men who died in the Second World War. We shall await guidance about when it will be appropriate to resume some sort of normality.

Meanwhile we are continuing to add articles and photos to our website, *whiltonlhs.org*. We also intend to add one or two history-based activities in the new year. Our latest publication, "The Mystery of the Whilton Stone" is still available at £15 – see the website, or contact Anthea Hiscock 843319 or Brian Melling 844258.

A SALUTARY TALE FROM THE NORTHAMPTON MERCURY OF 22ND DECEMBER 1832

**On Monday last an inquest was held at Whilton, before Mr. Abbey, one of the coroners for this county, on view of the body of Thomas Smith, late of that place, mason, who, in consequence of an immoderate quantity of gin and rum and water which he had taken the Monday preceding, was reduced to such a state of inebriety and helplessness that he was conveyed home in a wheelbarrow, and remained in a state of torpor and insensibility until Sunday last, when he died.
Verdict – " Excessive Drinking."**

All the Whilton pubs have closed now, but in 1832 there may have been several establishments or ale-houses which could have provided the fatal mixture which killed Thomas Smith. The government was getting concerned about civil disorder caused by "the vice of intoxication" in the class of labouring workers in ale houses. Thomas Smith may well have fitted this description.

The investigations of the Parliamentary Select Committee led to the passing of the Beer House Act in 1840, after which Whilton had four licensed premises: the Plough in Main Street, the Wheatsheaf in Brington Lane, the Mill and the Spotted Cow at the Locks.

Whilton Allotment Gardeners. Autumn-Winter 2020

As I write this it is a bright and sparkly morning and already we have had a few when the early morning sunshine twinkles on the frozen leaves of kale and broccoli. Hard to believe that those same plants were sown at the back end of 2019, nurtured through the Winter in the greenhouse and planted out after one of the wettest Februarys on record. They have provided us with vitamin C rich leaves once or twice a week since June and I have next year's crop in three seed pots sitting on a shelf in a cold greenhouse. Successful gardening and growing depends on forward planning and good preparation or so all the experts would tell us. However, sometimes a late decision over sowing or planting can yield satisfactory results.

Whilton Allotment Gardeners have had a satisfactory year overall especially during this exceptional year when travel and exercise have been limited. It is not just about growing produce and fruit to share or eat oneself but being outside when the weather is favourable, enjoying the different aspects of light and temperature, observing the changes to leaf and stem, the bird life and other creatures, including the pesky ones like slugs and green and black aphids. A GP(Doctor) in Gloucestershire identified unused land belonging to a local hospital in 2015/16 and started a "Growing on Prescription" project. Four years on, the allotment project has 60 raised beds each 4 'by 16' managed by a community group called "Down to Earth" The gardeners all had the prescription 'go out and garden' and all have benefitted discovering high levels of satisfaction from

Improved health and wellbeing, independence, confidence and self reliance. Thanks to National Allotment Society for this insightful report, more of which can be read by going to their web pages: www.nsalg.org.uk

Currently one of our plots is ,as estate agents say "surprisingly vacant with immediate possession." Let me know if you are interested and we can arrange a viewing No Stamp Duty! Cheap rental!

The down side for us has been the absence of social gatherings. Usually we have a Summer BBQ on the site, a November Bonfire Party and regular indoor meetings with food and wine. Sadly as for other community groups up and down the country these have been lacking. Making do with an AGM via Zoom was of little comfort but necessary in the circumstances .At this meeting it was decided that I would stand down as Chair but continue as Treasurer, thanking Nick Jackson for his work in setting up our bank account and keeping our creditors happy since the inception of WAG.

The Parish Council give us good support and we have benefitted from them becoming our landlords in the recent years. Long may it continue.

Our new Chairperson is Jon Brierley who is looking forward to taking Whilton Allotment Gardeners into the next few years, whatever they might bring

Keep Plotting

Brian Melling, South View, Whilton

Aperture Photography Group

As the seasons change and we are now in autumn, it is getting more difficult to find the right weather for outdoor photography. Many of the APG's members have managed to get out and have typically been photographing the autumn colour. However, as we now head into winter the APG decided to set its members a new photography challenge, one they could do indoors, so on this occasion our choice was still life.

At first glance making a still life photograph looks straight forward, find a bowl, stuff it full of fruit and click the shutter. Sounds easy, but the result may not match your expectations as there is much more to it.

I always consider the subject of a still life to be like the leading actor in a play. To make the photograph work, the actor has to be on a well lit stage and may need supporting actors and props. Where the actor stands on the stage is important, it is no good he/she being stuck at the back behind the chorus line. In terms of photography this means attention to detail in terms of staging, composition and lighting.

Christine and I have been littering the house with props, an ample supply of fruit from the supermarket and lots of pieces of foam board for the 'stage set'. We have also scoured the local woodlands and returned with a selection of leaves, twigs and berries. Now we are creating a variety of compositions and busily making photographs when the sun shines through the window, providing suitable soft lighting. So if you go past our house on a bright sunny day and notice our blinds are closed, you will know that we are hard at work.

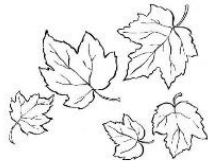
The photo shown here is an example of the sort of images we have been making. This time my 'actor', a single leaf, is alone on the stage, which is a piece of white card, and it was lighted from above using natural light. Once I had downloaded this simple image into my computer I decided to convert it into black and white, slightly adjust the exposure and add a vignette and border.

It probably won't be the photograph I submit for the group's assignment, it is too minimal and the vignette is too obvious, but the assignment has tested my creative skills. Whilst many people are struggling at the moment, photography has been one of the ways that we have kept going through this latest period of lockdown. Having a hobby that keeps the mind active is vital. I know the other APG members have been busily making their own still life images and I am looking forward to seeing their work in mid-December.



If you are fortunate to receive a camera for Christmas and would like to know how to make great images with it, please do get in touch and see if the APG could help you improve your photography skills. Our meetings and training events will have to be online for the next few months, but we are hopeful that we will be meeting up again in 2021.

If you would like more information about the group, check out our website (www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk), or contact Neil Phillips via email (neilp.apg@gmail.com).



AUTUMN IN THE SPINNEY

As Autumn comes to a close, the Spinney remains with its all-year walkway, a place to go for a saunter or brisk walk. Fortunately we managed our second work party on 7th October with a record turn-out of 9 volunteers. We were split into two working parties.

The smaller group shared a new task within the village and never got to its allotted task in the Spinney. At the suggestion of Jonathan Hanslip, the Parish Council asked us to visit all the drains in the village and clear all the summer accumulation of grass and weeds around them. We cleared any we saw along the way, parked cars permitting, that would impede the flow of water along the gutters or end up clogging up the drains, so that water could speedily flow down the street. We managed most of this including all the lanes off Main Street.

The completion has been curtailed, as have the Spinney work parties themselves, through the new November Lockdown. The Parish Council have asked me to invite some usual work party members to individually keep an area free of growth for the rain flow to the drains. I am now requesting this. At the same meeting the leader of the Preschool suggested some of her young people would be keen to tidy away some of the growth below the hedge opposite the village hall when a suitable day dawned.

However, in October, the main work party worked extremely hard to clear the remaining stream, so that it was flowing and gurgling free throughout its Spinney course, and a sinking rotten walkway support was skillfully replaced, despite water seeking to speedily fill the hole before the new posts did. We look forward to work parties resuming in the new year. Meanwhile our monthly risk assessments continue so it remains a safe place for people and animals, be they on leads or wild.

Finally, in wishing you all Christmas blessings and exercise can I remind you: if you see anything apparently amiss on your visits to the Spinney, please give me or another Parish Councillor a ring, so the problem can be assessed.

Keith Hiscock

Get Ready for Spring. Get your feet on the ground, Gardening is Good for You.

One vacant allotment plot suddenly now available. No Stamp Duty! Low Rental!

Contact Brian Melling 07597097900 brianmelling47@gmail.com

THE SILENCING OF WHILTON.

Society has seen many ripple effects from Covid19 and the measures taken to defend ourselves. As we approach Christmas and the winter months the sounds of live music will not be there to punctuate and cheer the short dark days.

- Distanced worshippers may not sing in church.
 - Whilton Warblers are in abeyance.
 - The carols singers will not gather.
 - The bell ringers may not meet in their tower.

This silence breaks a long heritage of live music in Whilton since at least the 18th century, when John Abbey, born here in 1785, spent his early childhood in the village. In later life he built great cathedral organs across France, but in Whilton he helped his father build the small but beautiful organ which once graced our parish church.

That organ was played when the two Whilton choirs of men and young women sang here in 1790s. With only a few gaps, choirs and organs have continued to play here. In Victorian times our choir took part in Peterborough music festivals, and in the 1880s the organist and choir master was William Ansty Dyer, who won a prize in 1881 for his harmony paper at Trinity College of Music in London. He was described as “professor of music of Whilton, Daventry.”

Betty Pride became organist and choir leader in the 1930s, adding games and entertainments to the choir’s activities. She taught several generations of children and some adults to play the piano, the organ and the recorder and through her generosity some were able to have singing lessons too. In 1993 on her retirement, her place was taken by John Townley of Home Farm. John was a music enthusiast, who had his own organ at the farm and sometimes gave recitals there.

Through the 19th and early 20th centuries there are records of various parishioners playing the piano and stringed instruments in village concerts and for dances. Concerts were varied with amateur offerings from villagers, so that in 1877 a concert could include a Mozart piano duet from the Dyer family, choir items such as “Sleep gentle babe”, and solos including “Susan’s Sunday Out” and “The Two Obadiahs.” More fashionable musical events sometimes took place at Whilton Lodge with visiting soloists.

The Spotted Cow at the Locks was known for its music in the 1930s, when the Wright family were landlords. Frances William played the cornet and his son Jack provided both piano and accordion accompaniment for singing and dancing. The boat people danced there in their clogs, but up in the village there were dances in the schoolroom, on the Rectory lawn and sometimes in a marquee in Wadd Close.



Canon Jim, Harold Haynes, Janet Bowers and one of the bells.

The church bells were silenced during wartime and occasionally for repairs, but in 1994 the old bells were taken down the motorway on John Townley's trailer. They were recast in London and two more added. We look forward to the time when our ringers can practise again on a Monday evening so that the village can hear the eight bells pealing once more.

A February Event in 1871, 150 years ago.

WHILTON.
OLD AND NEW HAY (to go off).
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
By Mr. BLISS,
 On Tuesday next, the 7th of February instant,
 on the Farm Premises at Whilton in the occupation of Mr Joseph Darlow
 A RICK of Prime OLD HAY, about 24 Tons;
 a RICK of NEW Ditto, about Eight Tons.
 The Ricks are well secured, off good land, and very convenient for removal.
 Sale at Two o'clock.

Joseph Darlow was a Whilton butcher, who also held land for grazing.

Before the days of refrigeration meat had to be kept on the hoof.

For most of his life he lived in Dormer Cottage with his mother and brothers, but in 1862, aged 56, he had married widow Matilda Fletcher and bought Cottam, which he converted so that part was a shop.

Brington and Whilton Pre-School

Autumn Term

We started back at Pre-school in September learning all about Colours, Numbers and Shapes, looking at autumn colours, numbers and shapes in the environment around us.

The children have made the most of our outside spaces including exploring and looking for animal tracks on our field walks, muddy puddle jumping, climbing, pond dipping, planting spring bulbs and winter pansies at the allotment, making bird feeders out of oranges, bug hunting and we even found a toad that was hibernating in one of our mud kitchen cups at the spinney.



The children had fun at the spinney mixing colours in the woods with natural resources they found, also finding different coloured autumn leaves and collecting them to make leaf people.



This term the children have been very busy learning all about The Elements- Fire, Water, Earth and Air and of course Christmas. So far we have been learning about Hallowe'en and pumpkins, fire and firework safety, Diwali and looking at the water cycle.

The children learnt all about Remembrance Day, making a wreath to take to the memorial in the village, making their own poppies to display in Pre-school and to take home and we read all about Captain Tom Moore and his 100 steps.



If you are having a clear out for Christmas, we have a clothes bank located at Brington School, Little Brington that takes all used clean clothes, shoes, towels and blankets. The proceeds are shared between the Pre-school and Brington School. Please support us by donating your old clothes.

As part of our kindness Advent calendar this year the Pre-school children will be collecting again for the children who will have to spend Christmas in Northampton Hospital children's wards. Last year the hospital was so grateful for our toy hamper we gave them, but this year is slightly different as all the toys will need to be brand new and sealed.

If you would like to donate a new small toy to our hamper, or have a child between 2-4 years old, and would like to know more about Brington and Whilton Pre-school please contact Trisha at managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com or call 07546 440572 to find out more about us. Please look us up on our Facebook page- Brington and Whilton Preschool.

This year has been very challenging for us all, but as a pre-school we feel very lucky to be located within such a lovely rural area and to be supported by the villagers and parish council of Whilton village. Thank so much for all your support this year.

We hope you all have a lovely safe Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

With love from us all at Brington and Whilton Pre-school.

CHILDREN'S WINTER WARMERS

The Newsletter is usually filled with a variety of events which involve eating together, but the pandemic means that this year we are having to forego this enjoyable community experience. Within our homes, however, good food is being consumed.

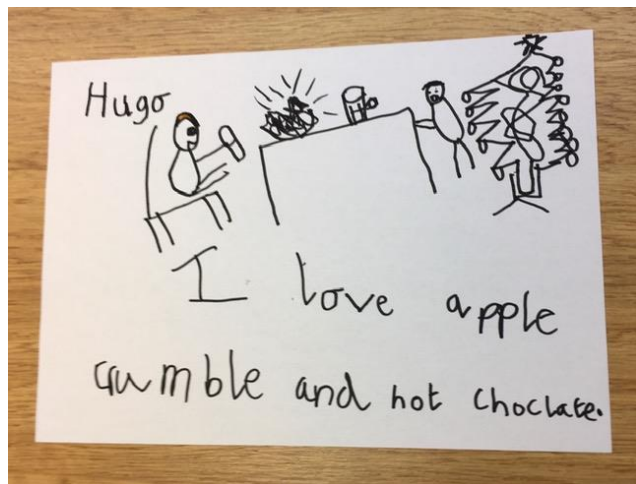
As we move into the winter months, the children of Whilton are looking forward to some of their favourite foods.

Roast turkey is favoured by Maeve, while her brother Ralph prefers roast gammon. Lottie likes pasta with Bolognese sauce and her brother Charlie would choose lasagne with lots of parmesan.

Maisie likes fish pie and toad-in-the-hole with vegetarian sausages. Brother Archie enjoys Lancashire hotpot, toad-in-the-hole and mince pies, especially those he has cooked himself.

Daniel goes for carrots, but younger sister Emma is a girl for pasta.

Holly loves sausages.



Peter is not a "foodie" but does enjoy fruit crumble.

Hugo shares his taste and has drawn a picture (above) for the Newsletter.

Mycroft (left) made a model of his favourite meal of chicken nuggets and chips.

We hope that all our readers enjoy good food and good health over the Christmas period and through the New Year.

What are a Christmas tree's favourite chocolates?

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

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Ornamints.

A pineapple

Tinselitis

ANOTHER WINTER WARMER

CHEESE PIE



This recipe is believed to have come from Trudy Haynes, who used to live in the Old Plough, and was Roy Haynes' mother.

As can be seen exact amounts are left to the taste of the cook.

Ingredients:

- 1 onion
- 2 garlic cloves
- Olive oil
- Several spoonfuls grated Red Leicester cheese
- Several spoonfuls grated Cheddar cheese
- Breadcrumbs from 2 slices of wholemeal bread
- 2 beaten eggs
- Mixed herbs
- Tomato puree

Method:

1. Chop onion and crush garlic cloves.
2. Fry in olive oil.
3. Stir in the cheeses, bread crumbs and beaten eggs.
4. Add mixed herbs and tomato puree to taste.
5. Put into an oven-proof dish and bake in the oven.

Trudy would have cooked this in the AGA and would have assumed the cook would use her own judgement about oven temperature and length of baking. Perhaps you might like to experiment with this warm and filling dish this winter.

WHILTON LOCKS



It's bigger, better and icy-er than ever before at WLGV. Open air, fully undercover and with real ice you can experience an exhilarating skate with friends and family.

Our real ice rink can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. We have a team of trained ice stewards who ensure that our rink is safe and well maintained at all times. Free skate hire is included in the ticket price.

For details of ice skating, visits to Santa and tea with Elsa and Anna, and other events see the website : whiltonlocksgardenvillage.com

We are also still here for you – we know how beneficial gardening and plants can be for our mental health and wellbeing. So if there is anything essential you need delivering, from plants & compost, to pet foods & accessories, we can deliver it to you.

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DACT **Daventry Area Community Transport**

Despite COVID19 causing many disruptions over the last year, we have still been able to offer essential services to those who need them.

Please visit our website www.dact.uk.com follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DaventryAreaCT - or call 01327 701665 to enquire about the services we are able to offer under the attest government guidelines.

The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated to every household within the parish boundary.

The costs are met by the Parish Council.
The Newsletter is delivered by volunteers who willingly give up their time to bring this to your door,
and we thank all who contribute information and articles.

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The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter.

The next issue will be the Spring Edition, covering March – May 2021.
The last date for contributions will be 20th February 2021.

In the circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic we are unable to produce the usual “What’s on” page, but we hope the following may be helpful.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND CONTACTS

WHILE REGULAR ACTIVITIES ARE CHANGED OR IN ABEYANCE

Aperture Photography Group: 844182 or via email. neilp.apg@gmail.com

Brington and Whilton Pre- School: www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk

Daventry District Council: www.daventrydc.gov.uk

St Andrew’s Church: Churchwarden: Jbrierley1@aol.com
Curate: revdkevans@gmail.com

Whilton Gardeners Association: e-mail: royandtricia@btinternet.com

Whilton Local History Society: <https://whiltonlhs.org>

Whilton Locks Garden Village: www.wlgv.co.uk

Whilton Parish Council: www.parish-council.com/whilton

Whilton Village Website: www.whilton-village.net