

# WHILTON NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2008 & JANUARY 2009



### **WHILTON VILLAGE HALL** **200 CLUB 2009**

*The 200 Club is essential to raise funds for carrying out improvements to the Village Hall for the benefit of the community in the parish of Whilton. The rental income that is received, at present, just about covers the overhead expenses incurred in running the Village Hall.*

*In this present age it is difficult to recruit volunteers to assist in the operating of the 200 Club particularly the collection of the annual membership subscription. The present year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December meaning that the initial collections take place mainly in the dark evenings. After considering all factors it has been decided to move the commencement date for the year to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 which is felt will more acceptable to the volunteer collectors.*

*Until recently we've had four collectors, one having resigned in January of this year after many years of collecting, and at least one other has indicated they would like to be relieved of this duty, having been involved since the inception in the early 1990s.*

*We do urgently need further volunteers for the start of the new year on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 and anyone who has time available and would like to assist, please contact*

**Shirley & Derek Brown on 842968.**



#### In this issue

- \* Parish News
- \* Church News
- \* Whilton Gardeners' Assoc.
- \* Whilton Photographic Club
- \* Whilton Local History Society.
- \* Police Surgery
- \* Neighbourhood Watch
- \* Whilton Social Lunch
- \* Christmas Sign Competition
- \* Brington Primary School
- \* Whilton Village Hall
- \* Future Events

THE EDITORS WISH ALL  
READERS IN WHILTON  
PARISH  
A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR

## **DOROTHY SAWFORD**

**1925 – 2008**

It was very sad to lose Dorothy so soon after Ken. She was a much beloved and loving wife, a devoted sister and dedicated mother and grandmother and a dear friend.

For over sixty years Dorothy & Ken had an intensely loving marriage. There was never enough time for them to fit in all the things they liked to do together. They shared so many interests: music and singing, the natural world, National Trust outings, the theatre, eating out, spending time with friends and family and visiting new places. They were never bored together except that Dorothy could never quite share Ken's passion for steam engines. Dorothy was also a wonderful housewife who did all that she could to create a perfect home for the family. Indeed, there is a rumour that Whilton had been dust free since the Millennium, when they moved in.

Although she made looking after all of the family the focus of her life, she had many creative talents which she could have exploited if she hadn't been so busy putting everyone else first. When Jill was young it was she who taught her how to draw and paint. She loved literature, especially poetry and she spent many of the lonely hours since Ken's death re-reading some of the classics including all the works of Jane Austen which she loved to discuss with her daughter Jill.

Since Ken's death Dorothy coped brilliantly but we all know how desperately she missed him.

The courage she has shown over the last year has been tremendous particularly during the months when she was so ill prior to her death.

*Dorothy was very much involved with activities in the village, WI, Yoga, the Local History Society, Whilton Gardeners' Association and also showed a great interest in Roughmoor Spinney. She was also a supporter for all the social events and always volunteered to help.*

*Dorothy and I had a little social luncheon arrangement, once or twice a month, trying out various local restaurants. This was very enjoyable as she was very easy to talk to and was an amazing listener. Sadly these outings had to cease when Dorothy became ill.*

*Shirley Brown*

## PARISH MATTERS

### FINANCE

All Parish Councillors were present for the Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Cheques were approved for payments for electricity, printing the Newsletter, the clerk's salary and rent for the Village Hall. The annual audit has now been completed with no matters requiring a separate report.

There was a preliminary discussion concerning the budget for next year, which will be decided at the January meeting. Councillors were asked to decide whether to include an amount for a new light at the Locks. It was agreed that the purchase of a new mower will not be included in the budget, but that some money will be earmarked for "sprucing up" the village before next year's Village of the Year competition.

### APPROVAL OF NEW MODEL PUBLICATIONS SCHEME

It was agreed to adopt the New Model Publications Scheme, and that the village website should be used for minutes, agendas and current information. Other records will be available in hard copy from the Clerk. This decision will be reviewed if required.

### PLANNING

The Parish Council has been notified that permission has been granted for a conservatory at The Coach House (at DA/2008/0814), and for a replacement dwelling and associated landscape works at Roughmoor Grounds, (DA/2008/0870.)

#### **Parish Council approach to planning applications and following up decisions.**

Greg Lye and Nora Swinford declared an interest and left the room, as the planning consent for 7 South View was being discussed. The DDC decision to give permission for this development included in its notes that there had been no response from the Parish Council. In fact a response had been e-mailed, which had received an out of office reply from the DDC. There has been no apology or explanation, and it was agreed that the Parish Council should write expressing disappointment and concern that the system did not work on this occasion.

In addition it was agreed that:

- The Clerk should set up a tracking system, to make sure that our messages are received by the DDC.
- When responding to an application, the Parish Council should automatically request a copy of the case officer's review as soon as it is made.

There was also some concern that the DDC made no mention of the Design Statement, which was adopted on 15 May 2008.

Greg Lye and Nora Swinford rejoined the meeting, but as the discussion turned to the rejection of planning permission for the barn at the end of Brinton Lane, Susan Wingrave declared an interest and left the room. Councillors agreed that the work being done to the above property is not against planning regulations, except for the use of the entrance, for which, it is understood, there is no permission. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Enforcement Officer to check this. Susan Wingrave rejoined the meeting.

### **Daventry growth**

The appeal concerning the applications for developments in Daventry is to be held in Northampton from 20 January 2009. It was agreed that Whilton will not send anyone to speak, but that our written representations will stand.

The DDC consultation on the Proposed Conservation Area: Daventry Reservoir, will be circulated among Councillors

### **ROADS AND SAFETY**

Mike Lewis reported that the traffic survey will shortly be taking place. The Parish Walk was arranged for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November. The resulting list of problems needing attention has been reported. This includes the water lying on the road near the railway bridge at the Locks, and the blocked drains through the whole parish.

### **STREET FURNITURE**

The quotes for erecting and altering street furniture were opened. It was agreed that the quote from CPM for £490.00 be accepted. It was suggested that the old seat from the Green could be placed on the allotments, if this was permissible. It was agreed to request E.ON to remove the ivy obscuring the street light at the steps to South View.

#### **The new village sign**

It was agreed to have a competition for a design for the new village sign, with a small prize.

### **ELECTRICITY IN WHILTON**

A DVD has been received from E.ON explaining reasons for short electricity cuts. Mike Lewis said that other electricity cuts had been caused by a problem at Thrupp, which has affected an area much wider than Whilton.

### **POLICE**

The first Police Community Support Officer surgery in Whilton has taken place, and the next surgeries will be in the Village Hall from 1 – 2 p.m. on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November and from 2 – 3 p.m. on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

All are welcome.

### **Your Parish Councillors are:**

- **Mike Lewis, Chairman, 3 Whilton Locks Cottages**
- **Ken Bowers, Heritage, Brington Lane**
- **Jonathan Hanslip, Rustlings, Brington Lane**
- **Greg Lye, 1 Langton Rise**
- **Nora Swinford, 1 South View**
- **Michael Thomas, 3 Langton Rise**
- **Susan Wingrave, Foxhill, Brington Lane**

### **Clerk to the Parish Council:**

**Anthea Hiscock, Langton House**

## Christmas Competition: A new Village Sign



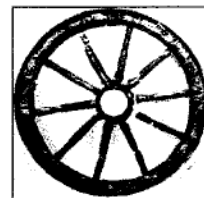
Woad



St Andrew's



Watling Street



Wheel (Wheal-ton)



Barley

What's your style?



The canal



Whilton music

How would you design  
the new  
Whilton Village Sign?



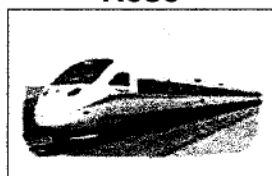
Cherry in flower



Rose



Cow



High speed train



Sheep



Motorway



Steam engine

The Parish Council invite all parishioners to draw or paint a design for the new sign. There will be a small prize for the best entry.

The design should fit into the rectangular frame on the Village Green, and may incorporate any of the following:

- Whilton crops and livestock: e.g. woad, barley, sheep, cattle.
- Routes through Whilton: Roman roads, canal, motorway, railway
- Whilton buildings
- Your own idea

Please leave your entries, with your name and address, at Langton House, Main Street, by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

# ST ANDREWS CHURCH

**DECEMBER 2008**

<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Benefice Sung Eucharist at <u>East Haddon</u></b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Christingle Service</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Blessing the Crib at <u>Brington</u></b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Family Holy Communion</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Benefice Sung Eucharist at <u>Brampton</u></b>

## **SERVICES TO NOTE**

Christingle	14 <sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm
Carol Service	21 <sup>st</sup> December 6.00pm
Christmas Morning	25 <sup>th</sup> December 11.00am

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CAROL FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**Sunday 7th December 2008 1.00pm – 5.00pm**

**St Andrew's Church**

*Donations to the following stalls will be gratefully received  
(Tombolas – prior to the day please)*

<b>Toys &amp; Books</b>	<b>Ibi Walton, Felines, Brington Lane Cathy Battison, Tudor House, Main St</b>
<b>Children's Tombola</b>	<b>Delilah Walton &amp; Jemma Battison as above</b>
<b>Tombola</b>	<b>Jon Brierley, 7 Langton Rise</b>
<b>Crafts</b>	<b>Ros Gardner, The Dove Close, The Green</b>
<b>Cakes, Christmas Fare &amp; Refreshments</b>	<b>Mary Emery, Hilltop Farm Janet Bowers, Heritage, Brington Lane Teresa Leadbetter, Woodview, Brington Lane</b>
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>Philip Grant, Westcombe House, Manor Lane</b>

## **ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS AT CHRISTMAS**

*For the Christmas period the floodlights will be illuminated when sponsored for a small cost of £10.*

*You can then light up the church for an evening during this period in memory of a loved one, an anniversary or other special occasion.*

**Please contact Janet Bowers on 842851**

© Kristingle

invitation



invitation



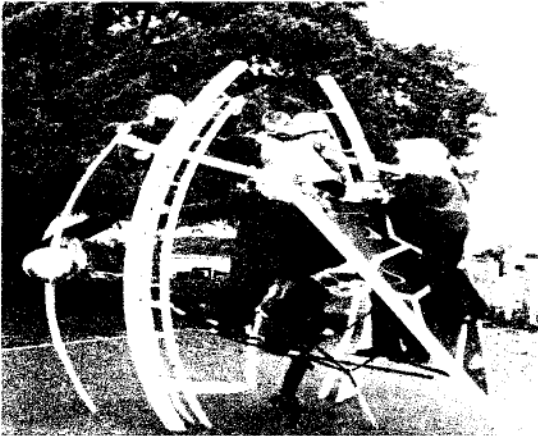
## News from Brington School



### School Disco.

We are holding a Christmas Disco on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December** from **5.30pm until 8.00pm**. This is open to all primary age school children, ex-pupils and you can even bring a friend! Any pre school age children will need to be supervised by an adult. Tickets are £3.00 each and there will be squash and crisps available to buy on the night. **Please contact the school office on 01604 770286 for tickets.**

We have had some new play equipment installed in the playground. Pictured on the left is a Space Age climbing frame, and on the right, a Tyre play area for the younger children.



### Parking at open and close of school

It has been noted that cars have been parking on the pavements in Little Brington. Children are having to step onto the road due to the pavements being blocked, which is causing a major safety issue. Please consider the safety of pedestrians, as well as the local residents when parking your vehicles.

Also remember that parking on the yellow zig-zag lines at the front of the school is not allowed.

**Village Residents** We are sorry about the congestion outside the school at 8.45am and 3.30pm. Please be patient and negotiate the parked cars with care. We are doing all we can to encourage parents to park with consideration for other motorists and to share transport where possible.

### Blessing of the Crib



The school children will be singing carols at the service on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.30pm at **St. Mary's, Great Brington**.  
All welcome!

Wishing you all  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year  
from all at Brington Primary.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



# Whilton Photographic Club



## Future Meetings 2008

### December 9th - AGM

A chance to review the club's activities in 2008 & discuss the topics you would like the club to cover in 2009.

If you want get more from your camera, contact me, or just come along to our next meeting.

**Neil Phillips** (Tel: 01327 844182, E-mail: [neiljphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:neiljphillips@hotmail.com))



### **ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY**



**Due to the inclement weather unfortunately the Working Party scheduled for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008 could not take place. However we are grateful to the volunteers who go along from time to time and carry out essential maintenance work.**

**The next Working Party will be arranged to take place in late winter / early spring.**

**Whilton Spinney Management Group**

## **Brington Mums & Tots**



**Starts Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 9.30-11.30am.**

**The Reading Rooms, Main Street, GB.**

**£1 donation to cover room hire and refreshments.**

**Children of all ages welcome; soft play for babies.**

**Daventry Play Rangers providing toys, games, crafts and music.**

**Please come and join us and meet other local mums and their little ones. We are hoping that this will be a regular weekly get-together for village mums and pre-school children.**

**We would like to accrue a store of toys and games so donations of any no-longer-wanted toys, games and books will be gladly accepted.**

**Many thanks to those of you who have already donated toys. We also need a large cupboard or shed to store the toys in.**

**If you can help please..**

**Call Lucy 07779646074**

## BABYSITTING

- 22 year old, reliable female available to work evenings and weekends (has own transport)
- Currently working in a primary school (enhanced CRB checked) with lots of experience in looking after children
- If interested, please contact Daniella on 07863 551059 for further information.



## WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



The Autumn Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 was a most interesting talk by Mr Stewart Phillips on growing vegetables in small plots, including containers. Also he answered questions put by members present on a variety of related issues. Mr Phillips was accompanied by Jill Glover who displayed for sale a selection of cards and pictures all painted and printed by herself. These made very good stocking fillers.

### TIPS for WINTER

- Trees, Shrubs:** Remove dead, diseased and untidy branches. Firm shrubs that have been loosened by wind, stake if necessary.
- Hedges:** Tough deciduous hedges, such as Hawthorn & Privet, can be hard pruned in mild weather.
- Dahlias:** If your tubers are withering, soak them in tepid water overnight allow to dry before returning to store.
- Lilies:** Pot Lily bulbs for an early display under glass or indoors.
- Fruit:** Continue winter pruning trees; burn the pruning. Feed trees, bushes and strawberries with sulphate of potash.
- Lawns:** Scatter worm casts with a Birch Broom.

Regarding the latter, February's Meeting may give you some insight as to how to make a Birch Broom.

Date for your diary not to be missed, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, AGM, Christmas meal, (wine provided) and get-together.

The Gardeners' Association is a great way to meet like-minded people and new members are always welcome.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, we wish you all a Very Good Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year both in your home and garden.

Olive (General Dogsboddy)

Contact Nos. 01327 843169 and 07921429228

## **Whilton Local History Society**

**Our next meeting will be  
A MEDIEVAL WINTER MEAL  
with a tasting of foods known to have been eaten in Whilton  
in about 1388**



**7.30 p.m. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
In the Village Hall**

**All are welcome.  
Watch for details after Christmas  
and be sure that you have booked your place!**

### **Other Local History Society dates to note:**

Thursday, 12 March 2009  
Whilton festivals and fetes

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009  
Monuments and memories in Whilton Church

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
Landlubbers and boatmen: the canal at Whilton

## WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our November meeting was based on the Whilton Charities, and we heard something about the three people who founded them.

**John Murcott** was a gentleman of Warwick Square, London, who died in 1833 leaving £100 to the Rector and Churchwardens of Whilton. The interest was to be used for "*the benefit of the Poor of the said Parish in purchasing clothing and night covering, except a few shillings to be given to each poor person to commemorate the name of the donor.*"

John Murcott was born in Whilton in about 1772, and was possibly the brother of the Methodist, Thomas Murcott, of Inglenook. If so, he was one of the eight children of Thomas and Elizabeth Murcott, and may well have had memories of not enough bedclothes to go round, leading to his bequest towards "*night covering*". It is interesting that he left some money to be given as gifts to the poor *to commemorate the name of the donor*. This suggests he hoped some people would remember him, and in a way we are commemorating him now.

Over the years the use of his charity changed and it became the coal charity. In providing coal, it continued to fulfil the aim of helping to keep people warm.

**Rev Langton Freeman** was the fifth son of Richard Freeman and the first son of his second wife, Elizabeth Langton, after whom he was named. He was born in Whilton in 1710, but in contrast to John Murcott, seems to have lived most of his life here.

Langton was destined for the Church and was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford. As Rev Langton Freeman, he became Vicar of Hellidon in 1735. He kept this position until 1760, but this did not stop him also becoming Vicar of Long Buckby in 1738 and then Rector of Bilton. He was never Rector of Whilton, but he did hold property here and in 1749 inherited his position of Lord of the Manor of Whilton

Langton was a wealthy lifelong bachelor, but gained the reputation of a miserly eccentric. It is even claimed, probably correctly, that he stayed the night with someone and unpicked the threads from his host's blankets to mend his clothes!

He ended his days in the house known today as the Manor House in 1784. The strange terms of his will were adhered to, and his body was sealed up in the summerhouse in the garden, surrounded with evergreens and a fence, painted dark blue. Perhaps by his death he regretted some of his mean actions, as in his will he bequeathed a recompense to those whom he had robbed in his lifetime! However, in the charity he founded, he showed little sign of generosity, leaving only £20 to the poor of Whilton. This was such a small amount that in later years it was amalgamated with John Murcott's coal charity.

**Mrs Ann Rose** was the widow of Rev William Lucas Rose, who had been Rector of Whilton until he died in 1814. During her many years in the Rectory she had helped the poor girls of Whilton with clothing and wanted this to carry on after her death.



In 1823 she set up a trust deed, founding her charity. The trustees were to use the income from the £400 she gave *“to purchase once in every year for ever twelve pairs of shoes and twelve pairs of stockings and once in every two years for ever the several articles of clothing hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, twelve bonnets, twelve tippetts, twelve pairs of mittens and twelve gowns”*.

The clothing was for girls who lived in Whilton and who were aged between six and fourteen. This was a charity which had the double benefit of providing apparel for girls and work for dressmakers and shoemakers. During our meeting we dressed Katherine Waterhouse in clothing of the 1820s, as was probably worn by the first charity girls. We now have an idea of how they all looked when they arrived at church on Sunday mornings.

As the years passed the fashions changed. We heard memories of about 1930, when the girls trooped down to Miss Tomlinson, the dressmaker at the Locks, to be measured for their dresses, and how when all the straw hats arrived at the Rectory, there was no choice of hat: you just had to wear the one that fitted your head! Later on girls were given money and could go to Northampton to purchase a coat, and we saw a photo of Susan Gardner wearing hers in about 1951.

By late Victorian times the coal charity was being distributed at Christmas once every three years, to about 40 households. The trustees *“considered this the best course to adopt, the coals being then equally divided between the poor inhabitants of Whilton, whereas if it was distributed every year all the poor persons could not participate in the Charity.”*

The modern regulations of the Charity Commissioners no longer allow such general distribution, but the Whilton Relief in Need Charities continue with new definitions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Stay safe at home with **DASH!**

Daventry Area Safety in the Home (*DASH*) is a partnership project involving a range of community safety organisations. These include Daventry District Council, the NHS, Age Concern, Care and Repair, The Police, The Fire Service, DIAL (Disability Information Advice Line) and Daventry Volunteer Centre. It aims to improve the safety and well-being of older people by reducing risks that commonly affect them in their homes such as fire risks, household accidents, home security, and poor heating systems

Since the project began over 3,600 residents across the District have taken advantage of the initiative and now have homes that are safer, more secure and more energy efficient. The project employs a Co-ordinator to support village volunteers who help to spread the word about the project and may provide a familiar link when workers arrive to carry out a job in someone's home.

*DASH* can offer:

- Grants for heating and insulation; (or FREE in some cases)
- FREE low energy light bulbs for the over 60's;
- FREE home fire safety checks,
- FREE smoke alarms for all residents;
- FREE security checks
- FREE door chains for the over 60's and
- FREE medication review
- FREE Door Intercoms
- FREE loft insulation for the over 70s.

For more information about *DASH* please contact Mal Thompson  
on **01327 300614**.

### WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

#### AUG 2008

1st Prize	139	P Webster	£45
2nd Prize	093	C Print	£25

#### SEPT 2008

1st Prize	026	M Kane	£45
2nd Prize	038	A Tilston	£25

#### OCT 2008

1st Prize	039	C Phillips	£45
2nd Prize	043	R Hawkins	£25

#### NOV 2008

1st Prize	109	G Martin	£45
2nd Prize	004	P Morris	£25

#### DEC 2008

1st Prize	084	T Treacy	£45
2nd Prize	079	A Roskill	£25



# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



## Don't Tempt the Christmas Criminal

Burglars know there are rich pickings to be had at this time of the year as many houses are packed full of presents and because it is dark so early, burglars can easily spot when someone is not at home.

Community Safety Officers from across the Force have urged residents to take simple steps to ensure their property stays safe during the festivities, which includes:

- \* Don't keep Christmas presents under the tree, keep them out of sight of prying eyes and away from windows
- \* Keep any hard-earned cash you have saved for the festive season in the bank for as long as possible rather than at home
- \* Keep your purse or wallet out of pickpocket reach
- \* Never leave belongings unattended in fitting rooms
- \* Always use available alarm systems, even during the night
- \* Make good use of security lights, both inside and outside of your property and make sure they are in good working order
- \* If you think you will be returning home after dark install a timer on an inside light to automatically switch on at dusk and welcome you home. A house in darkness is an open invitation to burglars
- \* Don't put empty boxes from expensive electrical or other Christmas presents outside your home, keep them stored in a safe place until the refuse collectors are due to call
- \* Make sure all doors and windows are secure, especially downstairs, and place small portable items such as handbags, wallets, keys and mobile phones in a secure place when you go to bed
- \* Finally mark all new property with your postcode -if you need advice call your local Community Safety Department.

## **LATE REPORT FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

There have recently been two incidents in Whilton where houses have been broken into during the night and it would appear the specific purpose was looking for motor vehicle keys with the view to stealing vehicles parked out on driveways. It is known that people do leave their car keys in very accessible places, particularly overnight, which is not a good practice. It is strongly recommended that keys are taken to the bedroom overnight, whether it is ground floor or first floor.

**Anyone who notices suspicious activity around property is asked to call the Northamptonshire switchboard on 08453 700700 or 999 in an emergency.**

## **USED STAMPS**

Teresa Leadbetter and I are collecting used stamps for the RSPB. British and foreign are acceptable.

If left for me, please leave on the windowsill by the back door of the Old Plough

Trudy Haynes

## **DECEMBER POLICE SURGERY**



**Our Police Community Support Officer,  
Lorraine Humfress,  
will be holding a surgery  
in the Village Hall  
on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December  
from 2 – 3 p.m.**

**She will be pleased to talk with any parishioner, and to  
hear your concerns.**

### **NORTHAMPTON COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**

**VISITS WHILTON EVERY THIRD TUESDAY AND STOPS OUTSIDE THE OLD PLOUGH,  
MAIN STREET AT 9.15 AM UNTIL 9.30 AM.**

**THE DATES FOR DECEMBER ARE 9<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> AND JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

### **WHILTON VILLAGE LUNCH**

**The next Whilton lunch will be held in the Village Hall on  
11<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30p.m for 1 p.m. This is an  
excellent opportunity to meet and chat with other members  
of our parish over a three course meal prepared and served  
by a small band of willing members of the community.**

**The cost of the meal is £4 per person.  
If interested please inform Anthea Hiscock or Ros Gardner.  
If you need further details please telephone 843324**



# The origin of Sayings and Expressions

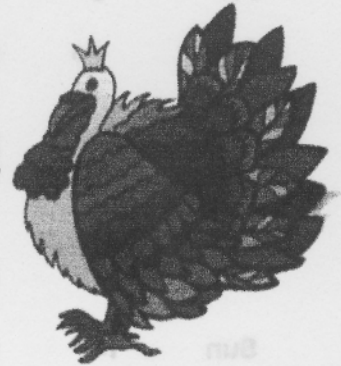
## THE APPLE OF ONE'S EYE

The apple was once used as a term to describe the pupil and was considered to be precious and irreplaceable. Nowadays this term is normally used to describe a child.



## TALKING TURKEY

Today we use this expression to describe frank and direct discussions or getting down to business. This phrase is thought to be American in origin possibly coming from the turkey hunters who made gobbling noises, prompting the birds to respond giving away their whereabouts.



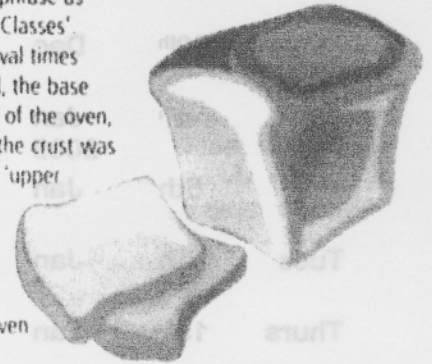
## BRING HOME THE BACON

This phrase is used when somebody has achieved something notable or won a prize or award. There are several explanations for this and one originates from the Dunmow Fitch Trials held in Great Dunmow, Essex. Still taking place every four years, this is a trial which challenges all married couples in England to live for a year and a day without a cross word, with the winners taking home a side of bacon.



## UPPER CRUST

Today we think of this phrase as referring to the 'Upper Classes'. This comes from medieval times when a loaf was baked, the base which was on the floor of the oven, tended to burn before the crust was properly browned. The 'upper crust' would be cut off and served to the lords and ladies of the household with the blackened underside given to the servants.



## GONE FOR A BURTON

This phrase is usually used to indicate that someone has had an unfortunate mishap or someone has been lost altogether. Burton's Ales ran an advertising campaign before WWII showing a player missing from a football team and he was said to have 'Gone for a Burton'. This slogan was adopted by the RAF during the war and was used when a pilot was killed in action.



## HAIR OF THE DOG

This is the shortened version of the phrase 'the hair of the dog that bit you'. There was an old belief that someone bitten by a rabid dog could be cured of rabies by taking a potion containing some of the dog's hair. These days it is used as a reference to a hangover cure where a few more drinks are supposed to cure the effects of a hangover.



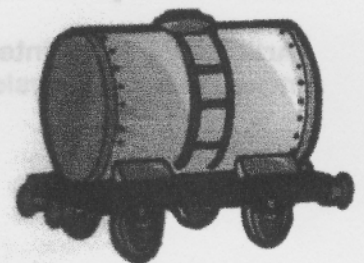
## DRUNK AS A NEWT

A 'newt' was the name given by gentlemen in the 17th and 18th centuries to the boys who looked after their horses while they went out on the town. The gentlemen of those times spent their evenings drinking and gambling and used to send out drinks to the newts, who usually ended up rolling drunk by the time the horses were collected.



## ON THE WAGON

If you are on the wagon it means that you are avoiding alcohol and derives from the phrase 'on the water wagon'. Water wagons were a feature of US streets from the end of the 19th century and those who had given up alcohol often waited for the water wagons to quench their thirst. Many would actually ride on the wagon to drink as much water as possible to help quash their desire for alcohol.



## SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec	7.30 pm	WGA – in village hall – AGM
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	5.30 pm	Disco at Brington Primary School + Ex-pupils
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	1.00 pm	Christmas Bazaar & Carol Flower Festival – St Andrew's Church
Tues	9 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9.15 am	Library Van in village outside The Old Plough
			8.00 pm	Whilton Photographic Club – AGM in village hall
Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	12.30 pm	Whilton Village Lunch
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	4.00 pm	Christingle Service in St Andrew's Church
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	Dec	6.00pm	Carol Service in St Andrew's Church
Tues	30 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9.15 am	Library van in village outside The Old Plough
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 2009		<b>CLOSING DATE FOR VILLAGE SIGN COMPETITION</b>
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	8.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting in village hall
Tues	13 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	8.00 pm	WPC – in village hall
Thurs	15 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	7.30 pm	Whilton Local History Scty. –in village hall – Medieval Meal
Tues	20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	9.15 am	Library Van in village outside The Old Plough
Wed	21 <sup>st</sup>	Jan		<b>DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY / MARCH NEWSLETTER</b> Please hand in your contribution before this date or otherwise we cannot guarantee it will be included in the next edition.

The Whilton Newsletter is published bi-monthly and circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council. The Editors are:

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Please supply a disk or memory card with your contribution if not emailed so that we can manipulate the text to fit if necessary. If you do not have a PC or typewriter the editors will type the articles as we have always done in the past.

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