

# WHILTON WINTER NEWSLETTER



*WINTER SCENE: RICHARD OLIVER*

**DECEMBER 2011**

—

**FEBRUARY 2012**

# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

December 2011 – February 2012



As we write this letter we cannot predict the weather conditions we shall have to face this winter, but we hope you enjoy the cover photograph provided by Richard Oliver, reminding us of last year's snow. The photo was taken in the fields between Long Buckby and Whilton.

The last really long cold spell was in the winter of 1947. The hedges were covered and at Lower Farm the drifts were up to the window sills. When the snow first came it fell for two days. Horace Clements (father of Maurice) remembered a foot of snow falling in one evening. Even so, he struggled on foot to Long Buckby station, only to find no trains running. Whilton was self sufficient in some foodstuffs, but there was no bread until Whilton men walked over to meet Long Buckby Co-op workers who were bringing loaves across on sledges.

After the blizzards the snow lay around for six weeks until 19<sup>th</sup> February. A car remained buried on the top road for all this time. When the thaw came it was dramatic. Horace said, "You could feel warm air coming at you." Flooding followed, but there do not seem to be memories of problems in Whilton. Horace, however, remembered going through Kilsby tunnel on a train with water coming up through the carriage floor. We trust there will be no such dramatic events this winter!

We are very pleased to welcome another member to our editorial team. Rochelle Lye of Langton Rise is studying Journalism and has agreed to join us as we plan future issues.

We are always looking for fresh material and ideas for the Newsletter, and welcome any contributions or suggestions. It may be that you have something for the cover, information for one of our pages, or that you would like to write an article. Do let us know.



We wish everyone in Whilton a very happy Christmas and New Year.

By the time of the next edition the days will be longer and spring may be in the air.



The Editors

## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

### **Congratulations to All**

#### July 2011

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	178	P Webster
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	102	L Gow

#### Aug 2011

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	201	M Clements
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	065	R Gardner

#### Sept 2011

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	043	R Hawkins
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	053	D Day

#### Oct 2011

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	133	D Brown
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	069	G Haynes

#### Nov 2011

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	026	M Kane
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	118	M & J Thomas

### WHILTON SOCIAL LUNCH

The autumn / winter social lunch took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November in the village hall.

Seventeen parishioners attended and on arrival were offered elderflower and fruit juice drinks and wine (kindly donated) before sitting down to a hearty meal of beef casserole and dumplings with extra vegetables. This was followed by a choice of three desserts: - Tiramisu, Trifle and Eve's Pudding and custard. Second helpings were taken for both courses. Finally tea, coffee and chocolate mints were served – all for £5.

**The next social lunch will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 12.30 for 1.00pm in the village hall. Each year at that time we try and include as many Fair Trade ingredients as possible in the lunch to support the Fair Trade Fortnight.**

**WHY NOT COME AND ENJOY OUR MENU AND HOSPITALITY?**

### TUESDAY CHAT

Tuesday Chats took place on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October and were very well attended. A variety of cakes were enjoyed with cups of tea and a lot of conversation.

**The next Tuesday Chat will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 pm in the village hall and will be Christmas themed. Also please note in your 2012 diaries there will be Tuesday Chats on 17<sup>th</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> February at the usual time and place. Please bring £1.50 to cover expenses.**

## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

A meeting took place on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and it was exceedingly pleasing to have a response for new members to fill the vacancies. The committee was pleased to welcome Anthea Hiscock, Jane Thomas and Philip Grant. It was agreed that nominations for a Chairman be left until the AGM in February. Maurice Clements, Vice-Chairman will carry on chairing the meetings until the AGM. Jane Thomas put forward her name for the vacancy of Secretary and was duly proposed and seconded. There had been vacancies for committee members for some time and the position was becoming quite critical when Mike Lewis, who was Chairman and Acting Secretary, resigned in May 2011. We now have a much stronger committee, which is a tremendous stride forward.

Whilton Village Hall Management Committee.

Dear All,

Thank you for supporting us on our journey up the village. We hope you enjoyed our lemon and lime juice. Thank you for all the money you gave for the Alzheimer's society. We got £20. Thank you for giving us good luck.

Yours sincerely,

Ethan Heard  
and Minty Gow

## ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY

We held our AGM on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in the village hall. Eight committee members attended and there were three apologies. All Officers and Committee members agreed to continue for a further year. Roy Haynes, a non-member, was welcomed to the meeting and was prepared to join the committee. He was proposed and seconded and this was unanimously carried.

In view of the state of sections of the footpath around the spinney, it was agreed to buy suitable material, known in the trade as MOT (granite chippings). This has been purchased and it is hoped to recruit a team to carry out the work.

The motor mower, which was purchased (second hand) six years ago, has reached the end of its working life, although Roy has kindly nurtured the machine over the last year. It was agreed that this be replaced and after consulting Browns of Daventry, a DR Strimmer on wheels has been purchased. This machine is ideal for the spinney terrain.

We have discussed with Jenny Holman, Leader of Brington and Whilton Pre-School, as to whether they will be interested in taking over and looking after an area in the picnic/play area, to plant wild flower seeds and bulbs. Jenny welcomed this opportunity and it will of course add a valuable topic for the children's education.

Whilton Spinney Project Management Group



# WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



The October meeting held in the Village Hall was well attended. Jenny Dixon gave an excellent talk and slideshow on autumn colours. She was very knowledgeable and passionate about her plants having brought with her a great many to show us and for us to purchase. Hopefully we will be able to include a visit her Nursery in our forthcoming program.

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Members Christmas Supper Social** in the Village Hall at 7 pm  
(Members that have not already volunteered to help out please contact)  
Tel; 07921429228 or 01327 844169

**Feb 1st AGM + quiz** Village Hall 7.30 pm

On behalf of the Committee we would like to wish all our members and helpers;

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**  
and  
**A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

## PLANS FOR THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE



On 15<sup>th</sup> November the Village Hall Management Group met to consider tentative plans for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next June. The Group has representatives of all the main organisations within the village, but invites anyone from the parish to join in preparing for this celebration.

At present there are suggestions for the making of a photographic record of the people of Whilton in 2012, a street tea party on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, perhaps followed by the opportunity to visit some of Whilton's gardens in the evening.

There will be a meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall to discuss these possibilities. If you have further ideas, or would like to be involved, please do attend this meeting. All are welcome.

## OCTOBERFEST

Amazing weather, great company, good wine and most importantly excellent food – all went to make “Octoberfest”, the first social event of the recently formed **Whilton Allotment Group**, really enjoyable.

The event was held to mark our official membership of the National Allotment Society and to celebrate the end of a growing season that, as usual, had great successes and dismal failures! We all agreed that each of our contributions to the food should come at least in part from produce we had grown on the allotments. And what a diverse spread it was – spinach and cheese quiche, lamb hot pot, nut roast, various salads and especially featuring this year’s star performer the tomato, along with bread, chicken liver pate and piccalilli, all created in Whilton kitchens. The chocolate and courgette cake, fresh raspberries and pear tart were topped off by Whilton Cherry Brandy, from that particularly good year for cherries, 2006. All this ensured we went home replete and full of bonhomie. I certainly did not feel the need to cook anything else that day!

Last but not least thanks must go to Sara and Paul Mitchell for their hospitality on the day and also to Ann Gilbert for all the work she has put in over this last year to start up this group.

All allotment holders are welcome to join Whilton Allotment Group (WAG) – we meet every 2-3 months to chat about any issues that we have with regard to the allotments. These are not formal meetings and always involve a couple of glasses of wine and usually a lot of laughter.



(There may still be one half plot available so if you are interested in taking this on please get in touch with The Chair of the Parish Council)

Jill Lees

## BARLEY, MALT AND BEER IN WHILTON



The Whilton Local History Society met on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, for an illustrated talk on barley, malt and beer.

Records of a 1388 investigation show that the lord of Whilton Manor had stores of malt in his granary and was growing more barley than any other cereal, some no doubt destined for brewing. The best malt for brewing ale came from barley, which grew well in Whilton.

Some people were very suspicious when hops were first introduced from the Continent. Andrew Boorde, an Englishman, wrote in 1557 "*... Beere is made of malte, of hoppes, and water; it is a naturall drynke for a doche [Dutch] man, and nowe of late dayes it is moche vsed in Englande to the detryment of many Englysshe men ... for the drynke is a colde drynke. Yet it doth make a man fatte, and doth inflate the bely, as it doth appere by the doche mennes faces and belyes.*" Eventually hops became accepted and records show hops being bought for brewing in Whilton by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The essential ingredient for malt is grain, and the best grain is barley. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Whilton farmers were making their own malt, and their wives brewing the beer for consumption by their families and labourers. A malt house and brewery would have been part of their farm buildings.

After soaking in a steeping vat, the swollen grain was drained and transferred to a vessel called a couch, where it began to germinate. It was then spread out on the growing floor, the depth dictated by the temperature, but sufficiently deep to encourage vegetation. It was turned at intervals to achieve even growth and over the next fortnight or so it was turned and moved towards the kiln. Temperature was also controlled by ventilation. As the germination proceeded the grain was spread thinner on the floor.

Once dried, the barley was moved into the kiln, for a few days. A slow fire was used to start, and then gradually raised to suit the purpose of the malt and the desired colour. Malt was stored for a few months to develop flavour. The art of malting depended on adapting to changes in weather and temperature, and in timing the different processes as the grain changed. Barley does not germinate well in high temperatures, and so malt houses were mainly in action during the winter, which was also a time when agricultural workers needed employment.

Because the process involved control of the fire beneath the malt, there were always some hazards. This probably explains why John Dunkley, a maltster who rented the kiln and part of what is now Holly House in 1735, included in his lease a "bedsted and bedding belonging to it", so that he could keep an eye on the process during the night. An additional hazard was that the kiln was thatched. We know that in 1748 Thomas Facer charged 18 shillings for three loads of straw to thatch this kiln.

While the grain was being roasted, it rested on a hair cloth to prevent it dropping onto the furnace below. In 1635 yeoman William Langton, who owned a malt kiln in Whilton, left "the steeping fatt and haire cloth belonging to my killne" to his son, William. This may have been the kiln purchased sometime before 1591 by Thomas Langton the Elder when he acquired a homestead with kiln and barns from Sam Lynnell. By the end of the 1700s, farmers were beginning to buy malt from professional maltsters, such as the Barkers of Holly House, but farmers' wives continued to be the brewers. George Judkins of Roughmoor left his brewing vessels to his wife in 1802, as did Thomas Emery in 1842.

But there was change in the wind. *The Plough in about 1925*

The Plough was originally a private house, but by 1786 the tenant was William Moss, who besides being a tailor, was brewing beer there and was described as a publican too. By the 1830s it was "known by the sign of the Plough," and Joseph Emery was innkeeper. Brewing continued here until Phipps the brewers took over in mid Victorian times, bringing an end to Whilton brewing.



It may seem surprising, but the 1841 census records four public houses in Whilton: the Plough, the Spotted Cow at the Locks, which also served the canal, the Wheatsheaf in Brington Lane, and the Mill, which probably provided refreshment for the miller's customers. The publican was his elderly mother aged 84. Other publicans had second or even third occupations and did not rely on the pub for their whole livelihood.

*The Spotted Cow about 1930*



In addition, Whilton had a short lived off licence. Sometimes before 1901 the Stone House acquired an "outdoor beer licence". In 1913, the house was put up for sale. The auction was held in the Plough and the house was bought by Phipps the brewers, who cannot have enjoyed the competition from down the road. As a result there is a codicil in the Stone House modern deeds, stating beer may not be sold from the house.





*Customers in the Plough about 1950*

After the war country pubs began to decline, although the Plough and the Spotted Cow survived into the 1950s. There is a codicil to the story of pubs in Whilton, because there was an attempt to create a new one. The Bannaventa pub was built by David Steele in 1975 on the site of the old farmhouse at the Locks. Its history was not

happy and it failed to attract locals or passing trade. It closed in 1991 to become the Whilton Locks Carpet Centre, a rather dismal end to the story.

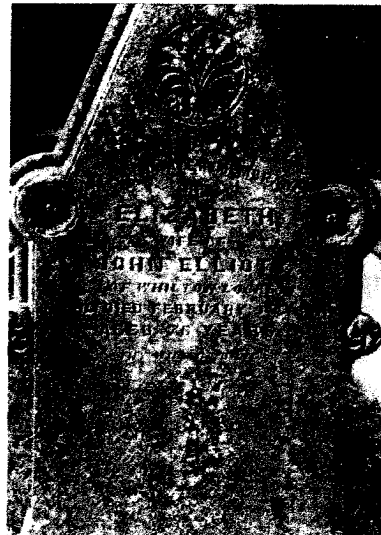
Within the last year Whilton-grown barley has stopped being used for brewing, and so this marks the end of a long tradition in the parish.



The next meeting of **Whilton Local History Society** will be on Thursday, 12th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

*The gravestone of Elizabeth Elliott, publican of the Spotted Cow, who died in 1891*

This will be a workshop, when we shall continue work on our leaflet about **Whilton Churchyard**, and also begin plans to help with the celebration of the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** (see separate article in this Newsletter.)



If you have photos of people who have lived in Whilton over the last 60 years, please bring them to share at this meeting.

Watch the village notice board and the website for details of this meeting.

## Whilton Bells

Perhaps you may be passing St Andrew's Church on a Monday evening and hear the Bells. This is our practice night (19:45 to 21:00). We are a happy band of Ringers from Whilton, Great Brington and further afield and are a mixture of ages from 10 years upwards. Some of us have been ringing for years – others have only joined us this year.

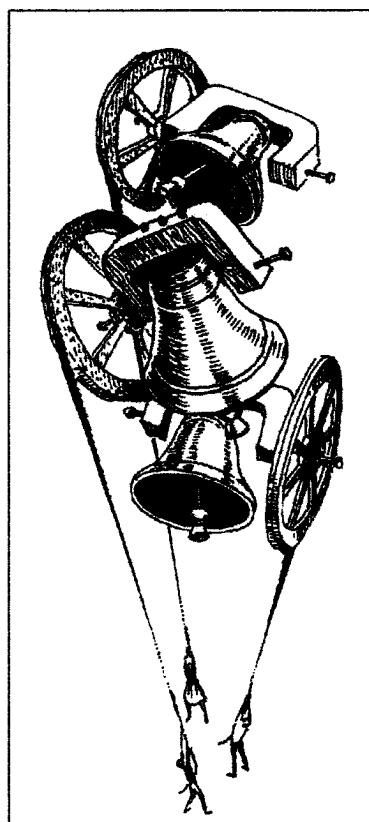
In April this year we enjoyed ringing to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Our ringing included "firing" the bells, which is tradition of striking (sounding) all 8 bells at exactly the same time to sound like cannon fire – this tradition reserved especially for Weddings. We have also rung for many other important services over the year including most recently Phillip Waights' Funeral and Remembrance Sunday. We plan to ring for Services during the Christmas season – including the Carol Service at 18:00 on 11 December.

In the UK and a few other places in the world we ring what is called 'Full Circle Ringing'. This means that the bells are rung through 360 degrees under control of the Ringer using a rope and wheel. The art is to be able to control one's bell to strike its clapper in time – a bit like playing music to a beat – but ringers call it 'striking'. We ring 'Changes' to mix up the order of the bells and make differing tunes. As well as being an excellent physical pastime – it is also a mental one. As we ring as a team, each ringer concentrates on making sure that their bell is struck at exactly the correct moment in relation to the rest.

Whilton belongs to the Daventry Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Ringers (<http://www.pdg.org.uk/>). As well as monthly meetings to visit other towers and ringers, they organise a number of social events, Training Events and inter Branch competitions. The wider community also have Societies within large companies and Universities – a great way to make new friends.

We are always keen to welcome new people of any age to our practice. If you would like to have a go at learning to ring or would just like to see us in action, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Justin Baker  
01327 844 263  
[j.t@lineone.net](mailto:j.t@lineone.net)



## St. Andrew's Church – Fundraising and Social Events and Services

The annual Harvest Supper following the Harvest Festival was again a lively and enjoyable evening.



After a two course supper the produce donated at the Harvest Festival was auctioned off, by yours truly, ably assisted once again by Hannah and Miles Baker. Hannah very enterprisingly used her scooter to zoom up and down the village hall delivering goodies to the successful bidders and Miles practiced his auctioneering skills at various intervals. It can

This year's highest bid of £12.00 for a jar of marmalade fell just short of last year's record of £13.50 for a jar of pickled beetroot but the bidding throughout the evening was every bit as competitive as previous years. Overall £377 was raised for church funds and a great evening was had by all.

*PS – if you donated an assortment of vegetables on a woven plate then the plate is in the church awaiting your collection.*

## Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas bazaar held in church on 6<sup>th</sup> November was well supported by villagers and visitors alike. Stalls included assorted crafts, handmade cards, gifts, books, tombola, raffle, cakes and preserves along with Mary's legendary refreshments.

Over £600 was raised for church funds.



Gordon made an excellent teaboy!

**Don't forget** - you can request the church floodlights to be switched on to celebrate a special occasion at any time of the year. As usual, you can also sponsor the floodlights for one of the Christmas and New Year evenings. The cost is just £10 – please contact Janet on 842851.

## December Services

There have been changes to the programme of services this year so please note the following dates and times.

10.00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Benefice Sung Eucharist at Harlestone
6.00 pm	11 <sup>th</sup> December	Village Carol Service
9.15 am	18 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion with hymns
4.00 pm	22 <sup>nd</sup> December (Thursday)	Christingle
12.00	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Celebration



### WHO CAN USE DACT CARS & MINIBUSES?

**Volunteer Cars** – are for **Anyone of any age** who cannot use public transport due to infirmity, illness (either long term or temporary) or lack of public transport, or if the time of the public transport does not fit the appointment., or if public transport would not be suitable for the treatment that is being given.

**Minibuses** – Any non profit making community group can use the service, and any group formed as a non profit-making travel club.

#### **\*Has your bus route been axed or reduced? - Does your Village need a Travel Club?\***

A Travel Club is a club formed for the purpose of arranging transport for the club members. Members of your club can be any age. People in your local area join the club and then decide what transport they need and where they want to go. It's easy to run a Travel Club; once set up it's just a matter of a phone call to arrange your club's transport. We are a charitable organisation and our drivers are volunteers, so a friendly service is always given. Run a club that goes on regular weekly trips - shopping maybe? Run a club that travels to places of interest or for a meal weekly, fortnightly, or monthly. Run a club that goes to a number of different places at different times more than once a week. Run a club that lets your members travel on one- off trips whenever they want to go. – You choose the way you want to run your Travel Club. **Tel :01327 701665 / 6 / 7**

**Bus Axed or Reduced Services?** -You could have a regular shopping trip set up to go from your village to a shopping destination of your choice; this would let people get their weekly essentials. If you go to a town, people can use the Bank, Building society, Post Office, as well has get their shopping.

## MIXED FRUIT MARMALADE

22 years ago, Whilton WI produced a cookery book, which sold well in the village, and some of us still have our copies.

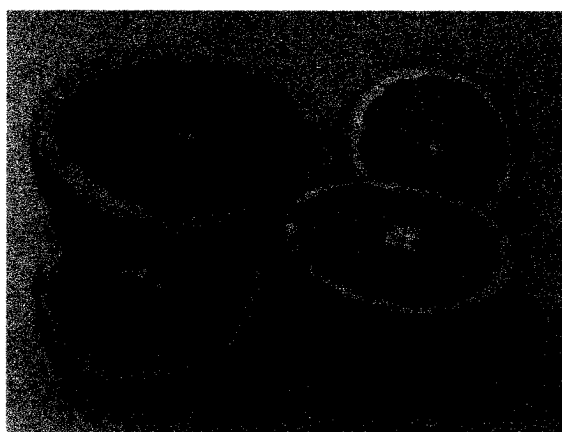
Late January and February are the times for marmalade making, as these are the weeks when Seville oranges come into the shops. However, not all marmalades require these particularly bitter fruits.

One contributor to the WI book was Mrs King from Blackpool. I assume she was a relative of a WI member. Perhaps she is still known to someone?

Her recipe was for **MIXED FRUIT MARMALADE**, and was as follows:

### Ingredients

1 ½ lb fruit ( 1 orange, 1 grapefruit, 2 lemons)  
3 lb sugar  
3 pints water



### Method

- Scrub fruit, cut in half and squeeze out juice.
- With a tablespoon, scoop out pith and place in a muslin bag.
- Cut peel to thickness required and place in a steep-sided pan with water and juice, and bag of pith.
- Bring to boil and cook for about 1 – 1 ½ hours until liquid has reduced to half.
- One dessertspoon of lemon juice can be added if the taste is too sweet.
- Turn off heat and leave to cool.
- Squeeze bag to get as much moisture out as possible, then heat pan up again with the sugar added, stirring until dissolved.
- Boil for about 15 minutes, testing after 10 minutes for gelling.
- When setting, turn off heat and leave to settle for five minutes.
- Put into hot jars.

## WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:

<b>Peter Wingrave (Chair)</b>	'Foxhill,' Brington Lane, NN11 2NR	842594
<b>Ken Bowers (Vice Chairman)</b>	'Heritage,' Brington Lane, NN11 2NR	842851
<b>Jonathan Hanslip</b>	'Rustlings,' Brington Lane, NN11 2NR	842401
<b>Greg Lye</b>	1 Langton Rise	844181
<b>Nora Swinford</b>	1 South View, NN11 2NN	843197
<b>Michael Thomas</b>	3 Langton Rise, NN11 2QP	843395
<b>Susan Wingrave</b>	'Foxhill,' Brington Lane, NN11 2NR	842594

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Neighbourhood Watch Report

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October we have a new number to contact Northamptonshire Police.

The 101 non-emergency number will provide you with a single, easy to remember number to call to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency police response. 999 should still be used in an emergency.

Our local number 03000 111 222 will remain available while 101 becomes established. The dedicated Watchline number 01604 432436 is still fully operational.

Street surgeries for Whilton will be as follows:

Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>        3 – 3.30 p.m.  
Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>        5 – 5.30 p.m.

Ros Gardner, Co-ordinator

## VACANCY FOR A PARISH CLERK FOR WHILTON

<b>Name of Council</b>	<b>Whilton Parish Council</b>
<b>Job Title</b>	Parish Clerk
<b>Vacancy Statement</b>	Whilton Parish Council has a vacancy for a parish clerk and responsible finance officer.
<b>Requirements</b>	<p>Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, although training will be offered. Enthusiasm to learn will be seen as an alternative to formal qualifications. The parish clerk will be responsible for the administration of the business and finances of the council.</p> <p>The post includes attendance at the bi-monthly council evening meetings and occasional attendance at civic functions. The successful applicant would be expected to have, or be prepared to obtain, CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration). He or she must be computer literate, with good communication skills. Friendly and positive outlooks are essential.</p>
<b>Salary</b>	Salary to be discussed
<b>Hours</b>	20 hours per month.
<b>Place of work</b>	Work from home.
<b>Please apply in writing to:-</b>	
<b>Contact</b>	Mr Peter Wingrave
<b>Position</b>	Chair, Whilton Parish Council
<b>Address</b>	Foxhill Brington Lane Whilton Daventry Northants NN11 2NR
<b>Telephone</b>	01327 842594
<b>Closing date for applications:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2011

**To find out more about the role of the Clerk download an introductory booklet entitled, "The Essential Clerk" at <http://www.northantscalc.gov.uk/?p=257>**

### Early Childhood Memories by Joan Davies

I was born in June 1913 in a village called Holmes Chapel in Cheshire. My father had inherited a Manchester Cotton Broking business from his father before him; formed from an alliance with a Scotsman called Richie and a Syrian immigrant named Hashim. The business of Richie and Eason (the latter my father) weathered the economic storms and the crash in the cotton market of the 1930s with equanimity. This was due to the sharp management and diversification into the revolutionary Rayon yarn initiated by my grandfather and subsequently selling out in the mid 1960s. My father, who was very deaf, continued the business through the Great War of 1914-18 because it was important for the war effort but his disability debarred him from military service.

When I was about three years old the whole family moved to a village called Styal which had a working mill. No church as the house we had rented from the landowner Mr. Gregg was a Unitarian (incidentally Florence Nightingale was too). Our nurse, Mrs. Morley, a plain middle aged woman with spectacles, lived in the nursery upstairs looking after me and my brother Ted who was two years younger. It was often the case in the late nineteenth century amongst children of my background to be looked after at home then educated by a governess before being sent to boarding school. Our parents came upstairs once a day to see us when they were at home. My earliest recollections of the nursery was looking from the window to watch the milk float with a high stepping pony being driven at great speed out of the farm gate every morning; milk churns rattling and the whistling boy heading for the rail station. (Some years later, when grown up, he came to work for my father.) The farmer across the road made us very welcome he also asked us to look for eggs in the hayricks and around the farmyard which was great fun when I was only seven or eight years old. I also remember that cracked plates, etc. were ground up in a sort of hand grinder to make grit for the hens. Watching the cows coming and going for milking made farming seem a peaceful way of life but when the farmer died and a new tenant took over he told us to b---r off and said he would set the dogs on us, although we did learn to sneak through his fields to get to a woodland where we could play undisturbed.

The new governess fed us and took us for walks and I was allowed to visit a neighbouring house for lessons on how to read and write. On our walks we sometimes met a "Princes Christian" nurse, dressed in a smart uniform walking her charges. They held hands and walked like little soldiers. Of course we were just the opposite, running ahead, much to the annoyance of our governess. She always carried an umbrella which was the only way we could get past the geese who would charge us with necks outstretched en route to the pond. Every night I said my prayers:

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild

"Look upon a little child

"Pity my simplicity."

It was later that I found out it was not about mice or a lady called Cility!

Ted and I bought some pigeons in Yorkshire and the gardener made a super house for them. We kept them for a week and then let them go, and of course they flew back to Yorkshire. The next ones we were given were Fantails. We let them loose a field away and they didn't come back either. The dogs had a wretched time always being dressed as humans and the goat would pull them all in a cart. We did spend hours playing and trying to teach them circus tricks like riding on the pony and jumping over sticks. My next dog was a Yorkshire Terrier who hated children and spent most of its time hiding under the settee. He was given away to an old lady and lived happily to a ripe old age.

As I was rather a wimp my parents thought it would be a good idea to send me to boarding school to toughen me up, but by half term I had been so ill my father came and brought me home. One of



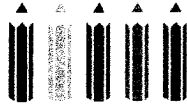
the things I recall was that every afternoon, rain or shine, we all had to go out for a walk. On one occasion in a very heavy downpour lightning struck the ground a few feet away, frightening the life out of me. Also a girl accused me of being a murderess for picking wild flowers and to this day I have never been able to do so.

After that I was sent to a day school in Alderly Edge reached by train each morning after walking about a mile to the station. I enjoyed this school and made good friends. One particular girl called Betty and later her sister became lifelong friends, as we were both hopeless at almost everything (but later at boarding school in Surrey this hopelessness proved to be to my advantage). After a while, to my horror, Betty started to put lipstick and powder on. To me that was unheard of and I felt very awkward so I began to pal up with her sister more. When I attended Horsley Tower boarding school in Surrey I found that I was not like other girls, my toes were too long and the doctors told my parents that they couldn't be shortened because I might lose my balance. (It was not until later in life that I had a successful operation.) P.E. and dancing were out of reach, in fact I also found that I was unable to retain what was being taught so I would sit under my bed clothes with a torch trying desperately to revise. But I always came bottom of the class and became quite used to it (Eason bottom again). At Lacrosse I could run well but not hit the ball, at hockey I was always out in goal so as not to trip anyone over. Even at cricket I was also hopeless looking for ants in the grass instead of watching the ball. I enjoyed my schooldays and was very popular, mainly because the other girls had no competition.

At the school there were two girls who became notable in later life. The first being Diana Caldwell, she came from Brighton and was remarkably athletic she bounced like a ball, a bit on the fat side but later in life became a real beauty called "Lady Delamare". A film was made about her called "White Mischief" which I saw in Daventry cinema about 30 years ago. The other girl called Merula Salaman became Mrs. Alec Guinness. I sometimes stayed at her home and found her two ballet dancing brothers quite exasperating. Alas my school report was very poor (which did not help when I wanted to go to Agricultural college later on; failing the entrance exam). My only saving grace was Art.

I had given up trying to look ladylike because my feet were only comfortable in canvas shoes and boots. I was at an all time low, but all was not lost because my father bought me a pony which I could ride. I rode Sammy everywhere and became very happy. Most weekends the whole family, including visitors, followed the Beagles. When I grew out of my pony in my teens my father thought it was time I was introduced to following hounds on horseback, having followed Beagles on foot since childhood; (rather reluctantly) but he used to say, "Exercise, exercise every time you can, exercise, exercise will make you a man."

*To be continued.....Early Memories of Following Hounds*



# Brington & Whilton Pre-school

We are well into the school year now and all the children have settled well into Pre-school. We have an average of 10 children each morning and are getting to know the children really well. As a staff team we said farewell to Jayne Batson last July and thanked her for all her hard work over many years of service. In September we welcomed Pippa Wright, one of our parents, on to the staff team along with Hayley James who returned back to us after maternity leave and we have quickly begun to work as a new team to give the children our care and support.

We were fortunate to be offered a free Forest School during the first term back and enjoyed a very different experience from our time in Forest School during the Spring months as the woods were very different. During our time we explored the woods, made natural paints out of berries, leaves and mud!, played 1,2, 3 Where are you? and made journey sticks, collecting natural materials on our walk to remind us where we had been and then at our last session we enjoyed cooking marshmallows and popcorn over an open fire.

During this term we are looking at different stories, how they are made up and have talked about which characters are in the story. We have acted out the story, used puppets and sequencing cards to make up our own versions of stories. During December we are looking forward to visiting the Royal and Derngate to interact with the story of 'Down the Rabbit Hole'.

**On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December we invite everyone to join us at Whilton Parish Church where the children will perform our own version of the Christmas Story. We shall start at the church at 10.30am and finish in Whilton Village Hall for Coffee and Mince Pies.**

If you have or know of any child aged 2yrs to rising 5yrs who would benefit from attending a caring setting, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Holman 01604 770083 or 07948724415 for more information or to visit one of our sessions.

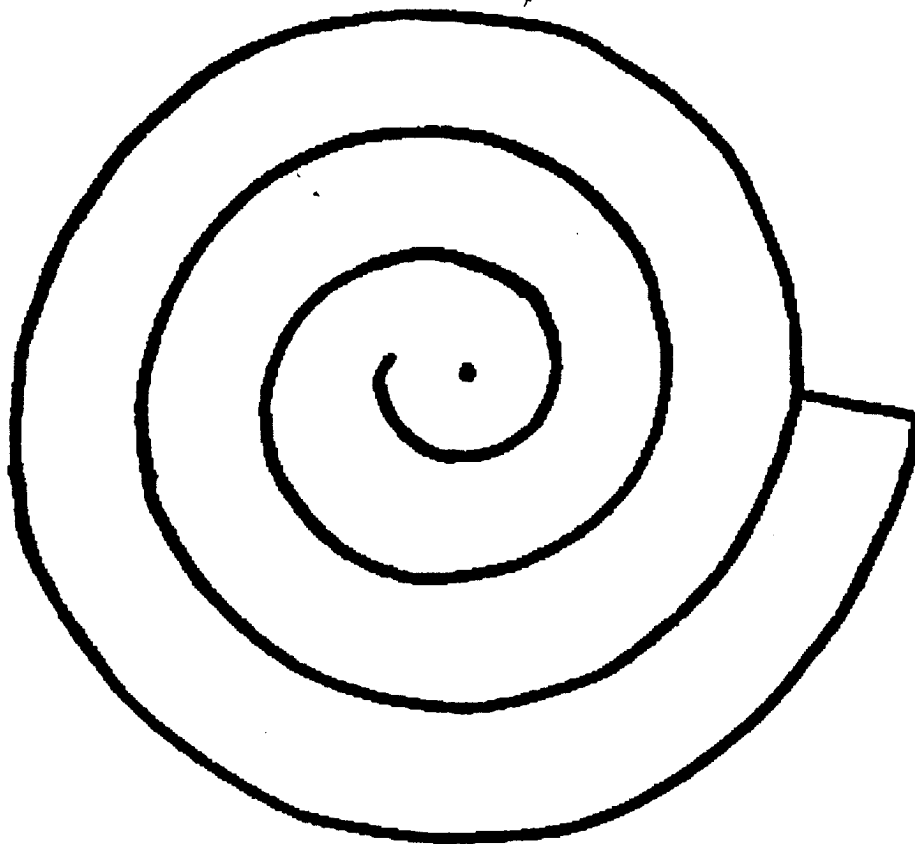
**Down the rabbit hole.....**



## REVOLVING RESOLUTIONS?

Most of us make New Year resolutions, but find them hard to remember and especially to keep! Perhaps this spiral will help you to remember.

- Colour it with patterns or stick on sequins or glitter, then cut along the lines.
- Turn over and write your resolution on the back.
- Then thread a piece of cotton through the centre and hang it up.
- As your decorations catch your eye, will you also remember to keep your resolution in 2012?



## WHILTON FAMILY NEWS

### Philip Robertson Waights (09/05/1927 – 03/10/2011)

Philip was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the only child of a second family. His mother died when he was ten days old and his father being in his seventies was left with a baby to bring up. Fortunately, this task was taken on by Miss Higgins who became his nanny and devoted the rest of her life to him.

Miss Higgins returned to Northamptonshire to look after her ailing father and continued to bring Philip up in Hartwell after her father died. As he grew up he attended Eaglehurst College, Northampton Grammar School for Boys and Sandhurst Officers Training College. This education moulded the character of Philip producing the true gentleman we know – never failing to be courteous and kind.

Having avoided the harsh reality of war, he returned to Miss Higgins and became an auctioneer with Bennetts, a skill he used in later life at charity events with his own style that always brought a smile. He became part of Northampton's social life making lifelong friends through the Weston Favell Tennis Club and the Old Northamptonians Rugby Club where he met up with David Mitchell, both old boys from Eaglehurst. David introduced Philip to Jean and was best man at their wedding.



Phil was a hardworking and ambitious breadwinner and studied part time to gain planning qualifications. He followed this career to Chester and Annette and Alan were born there. When Annette was ten and Alan eight, the ideal career opportunity arose for Philip and he returned with his family to their beloved Northampton. Phil became Chief Planning Officer for Daventry District Council until he retired. Providing leisure opportunities was really important to him. He was responsible for Daventry Country Park and was involved in connecting several footpaths across the county. He was a member of the UK Sports

Council and took great pleasure in giving grants to improve children's play areas in villages and towns.

When he and Jean moved to Whilton over thirty years ago he soon became involved in the village activities. Phil was a member of Whilton Parochial Church Council and supported St Andrews Church and all their fundraising. He was also at one time Chairman of the Whilton Village Hall Management Committee and took over the role of one of the volunteer collectors of the 200 Club run by the village hall. Latterly he chaired the Whilton Village Development Plan. Whenever help was needed for events within the village, Phil was always there to assist.

Phil's passion was playing golf and he was a member of the Northamptonshire County Golf Club in Church Brampton and was still playing when he was eighty plus. It was here that he met up again with Geoff Ekin, a friend from the past. After Jean had sadly passed away he and Geoff had a regular luncheon arrangement and tried out various eating places throughout the area on a regular basis on Tuesdays. Later Geoff's brother-in-law joined the party and when Phil was unable to drive due to his health, Derek Brown joined them – **'four gentlemen who lunched'**. Phil had a wonderful sense of humour and the meetings were full of laughter

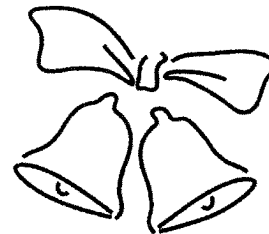
Phil was a caring and loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather and all his family will miss him very much.

In the latter years, when Phil was struggling because of his health, Janet Bowers was a great support to him and Gerry Healey cared for his computer and its problems. Phil left the village in November 2010 and moved to an apartment at Richmond, Grange Park, Northampton where care was available, Phil kept in touch with the village and we are sure, when we say that all who knew him and we ourselves, will miss him very much.

Derek & Shirley Brown

\*\*\*\*\*

We send congratulations to Abigail, youngest daughter of Keith and Anthea Hiscock of Langton House, who married Dr. Steven Hardiman of the Met Office on 1<sup>st</sup> October, the hottest 1<sup>st</sup> October ever recorded.



\*\*\*\*\*

We are sorry to report that Whilton's former feline correspondent, Molly, passed away in November. She was 16 and moved to Whilton 14 years ago. Over several editions Molly gave a cat's eye perspective on subjects as diverse as catnip and individualism.

*If you have news of family events and special achievements, please let us know, so that they can be included in future issues.*

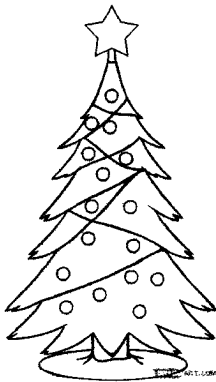
## News In Brief

### Recycling



**Postage stamps** can be dropped off at the Daventry Express office in the High Street, Daventry

### Christmas trees



After Christmas, don't forget to look out for the dates and locations for recycling of Christmas trees.

### Mobile Library



To assist with your winter reading, the Mobile Library is scheduled to be at the Green, Whilton, between 2.50 p.m. and 3.10 p.m. on the following Saturday afternoons:

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012



### Daventry Freecycle

Why not register with this local group to recycle unwanted items. You can use the free message board to offer unwanted items and to request items.

There are restrictions: amongst them no pets, unwanted relatives and no buying and selling.

### Pot Luck Supper



This idea was suggested and hosted by Agnes at the Little Rectory in October. Over a three course supper six Whilton ladies chatted, joked and generally put the world to rights.

The next meeting of minds and culinary skills is planned for December and fully subscribed. If you would like to join a future evening then call me (Teresa) on 843988 and I'll put you in touch with the hostess.

### Photos

Please remember that if you have photos of Whilton people who have lived here during the reign of our present Queen, the Jubilee planning group will be interested to see them over the coming months.

Perhaps there will be time to look them out over the Christmas period?

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

**The Editors are:**

- **Anthea Hiscock, Langton House, Main Street.  
Telephone: 01327 843319  
e-mail: [anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk)**
- **Teresa Leadbetter, Woodview, Brington Lane.  
Telephone: 01327 843988  
e-mail: [teresa@tlc-uk.co.uk](mailto:teresa@tlc-uk.co.uk)**
- **Karen Whitcombe, Inglenook, Main Street  
Telephone: 01327 843544,  
e-mail: [karen.whitcombe@cummins.com](mailto:karen.whitcombe@cummins.com)**
- **Rochelle Lye, 1 Langton Rise  
Telephone: 844181  
e-mail: [rochellelye@btinternet.com](mailto:rochellelye@btinternet.com)**

**We welcome material for the Newsletter. If possible, please supply a memory card with your contribution, or send it 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 to May 2012. The last date for contributions will be 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012.**

**Whilton is also proud of its website - [www.whilton-village.net](http://www.whilton-village.net). This contains details of the organisations of the parish, previous Newsletters and a very comprehensive Picture Gallery. If you have the facility, why not take a look at the content?**

**WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON?  
WINTER 2011-2012.**

(Events are in the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise)

Sun	4	Dec	10 a.m. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Benefice Eucharist at Harlestone Meet the reindeer at Whilton Locks Garden Centre
Wed	7	Dec	7 p.m.	Gardeners' Association Christmas Supper
Fri	9	Dec	10.30 a.m.  7.30 p.m.	Brington and Whilton Pre-school Christmas service at St. Andrew's Church Queen's Diamond Jubilee Planning Meeting
Sun	11	Dec	6 p.m.	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church
Fri	16	Dec		Pre-school end of term
Sun	18	Dec	9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion with hymns at St Andrew's Church
Tues	20	Dec	2.30-4 p.m.	Christmas-themed Tuesday Chat
Thurs	22	Dec	4 p.m.	Christingle at St Andrew's Church
Sat	24	Dec	2.50 – 3.10p.m.	Mobile Library at the Green
Sun	25	Dec	12 noon	Christmas Celebration at St Andrew's Church
Wed	4	Jan	9.30 a.m.	Pre-school term begins
Sat	7	Jan	3-3.30 p.m.	Police Street Surgery
Wed	11	Jan	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Thurs	12	Jan	7.30 p.m.	Local History Society
Tues	17	Jan	2.30-4 p.m.	Tuesday Chat
Sat	28	Jan	2.50 – 3.10p.m.	Mobile Library at the Green
Fri	1	Feb	7.30 p.m.	Gardeners' Association Quiz and AGM
Sun	5	Feb	5-5.30 p.m.	Police Street Surgery
Tues	14	Feb	2.30-4 p.m.	Tuesday Chat
Tues	21	Feb		Deadline for Spring Newsletter, March – May 2012. Please supply your contribution by this date to be sure it can be included in the next edition.
Sat	25	Feb	2.50 – 3.10p.m.	Mobile Library at the Green