



WHILTON NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1994

Editorial Committee

We are sorry to have to announce the resignation from the committee of Mr. Jim Gardner. Jim did say some time ago that he could not really afford the time to continue to serve on the editorial committee and now extra work commitments have forced his hand. We appreciate, too, that he is heavily committed in other directions, not least as chairman of the parish council. Jim has done sterling work for the Newsletter since its inception in September, 1987 and we would like to record our grateful thanks to him. We shall miss his cheerful presence and ready wit at our editorial meetings!

The rest of the committee would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be prepared to join us. No special qualifications are necessary but obviously typing skills and access to a word processor could prove very useful!

Ed's.

CANON JIM WRITES.....

Well, no sooner do we get Christmas over than the mood changes completely, and Lent, Holy Week and Easter are with us again. They are very very much about spiritual reflection and assessment - getting back to basics if you like - mingled with anticipated hope and thankfulness because we know how the story ends. The fact that they come rather early this year is something to do with the Moon, but I have never quite understood why, and I think I would personally opt for a fixed Easter if the choice was there. Mind you, I shouldn't have said 'get over' Christmas, as if its message really does only last twelve days. The baby grew up, with a job to do. In that sense Christmas flows naturally into, and contributes to, Lent and Holy Week, and then triumphantly into Easter.

There is a free booklet giving all the information you need about our church programme for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and you can pick this up at the church, or just ask me or a member of the congregation for one. It might help you though if I give details of the main events, so that you can put them in your diary.

ASH WEDNESDAY (the start of Lent) is 16th February. There is no service at St. Andrew's, but Holy Communion will be said at Church Brampton at 11.00am, and sung at Brington at 7.30pm.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is 13th March. There will be a Family Sung Evensong with Communion at Whilton, during which small bunches of flowers will be given to the children and to the ladies of the congregation. The service begins at 6.00pm.

PASSION SUNDAY (20th March) will be a very special day for Whilton. At 6.00pm the WATLING SINGERS will give a performance of Sir John Stainer's -

'THE CRUCIFIXION'

one of the most popular of all Passiontide oratorios. The Watling singers came last year to do this piece, and return by overwhelming demand. Admission is free, but come early.

PALM SUNDAY - and the start of Holy Week - is 27th March. We have at St. Andrew's the beautiful night office of Compline at 6.00pm, which will include the Story of the Passion read in dramatic form.

GOOD FRIDAY falls on 1st April. Again there is nothing at Whilton this time, but there will be a traditional **THREE HOURS' SEVICE** at **Church Brampton** from Noon to 3.00pm. Come and go as you can during hymns.

EASTER DAY (3rd April). There will be a Festival Sung Eucharist at St. Andrew's at 6.00pm. The church will, of course, be gloriously decked in flowers to add to its atmosphere of joy and welcome.

May I add that if anyone cannot get to church because they are homebound I will more than happily visit them, especially if they would like their Communion. Just give me a ring.

Of course, before Lent begins, Whilton, Brington and Norton will have joined with Harlestone, East Haddon and the Bramptons to form a new, united group of parishes, all under one priest - me! It will be quite a challenge for all of us, as I have written before in the Newsletter, but already it is clear that each village has its own experience and strength to add to the whole, and I very much hope that Whilton will benefit from the partnership. The experiment will last two years, and will then be reviewed by the diocese.

One of the changes, inevitably, is that I will no longer be able to take every Sunday service at St. Andrew's - there are nine places of worship in the group. May I, then, introduce you to the other people who will be helping me, and leading worship at Whilton?

The Revd. Max Parker is a retired priest, and was at one time Vicar of Long Buckby. He came to Ordination later than most of us, having served first as a police officer in the London Met! He and his wife live at West Haddon.

The Revd. Martyn Davis is the Diocesan Youth Officer. Previously he had a parish in Hove, Sussex. Martyn's work with young people takes up many of his weekends, but he hopes to give two Sundays each month to the group.

Mrs. Karen Jongman is a Reader at East Haddon, and doing a remarkable job promoting Family Services there, and at Brampton. She is already helping me with the monthly young people's service at Brington, and paid her first visit to Whilton in December for the Christingle festival.

I am sure you will welcome them as warmly as you have me.

Finally, my thanks again to all of you who helped the village Christmas celebrations go so well, particularly those centred on St. Andrew's. The church looked wonderful, the pews were full, and the carol singing round the parish the most intoxicating I have ever been involved with. What a fabulous Christmas!

Every blessing,

Jim Richardson

Brington Rectory
0604-770402

The **Christmas Bazaar**, held last November, was mentioned in the previous Newsletter but the financial result was not given. A profit of £506.85 was made, which has gone into the Bell Restoration Fund. Grateful thanks to all who made this excellent result possible.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council have been held on 30th November 1993 and 4th January 1994. Among items discussed were the following ;

Footpaths - A letter had been received asking the parish council to inform the County Council which of the public footpaths in the parish were, in their opinion, the most important in order that a hierarchy of County paths could be formulated. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council stating that all paths with the exception of FL2 and 3 should be deemed as of importance. It was also agreed that in the spring of 1994 a complete review of signage and fences/stiles etc. would be undertaken by the parish council and any necessary materials etc. be requested from the County Council.

Best Kept Village Competition - A cheque for £20, our prize from the 1993 competition, had been received and banked and it was noted that it would be used for future environmental use within the parish.

Newsletter printing - A letter had been received from our printers, Trinity School in Northampton, stating that a price rise from 1.25p to 1.50p per sheet had been introduced. The parish council felt this was still a very good rate and agreed to continue with the school. Can anybody produce it cheaper ?????

Parish council reserves - The parish council monies formerly in a deposit account had now been transferred to a Business Reserve Account, earning a higher rate of interest.

Emergency Planning - The parish council had been requested by the county council to prepare a plan for use in a Lockerbie type disaster. This document had now been prepared and was to be circulated to all parish council members. If they were happy with the document then it would be adopted by the council and be held by council members.

Local Government Review - Documents relating to the accelerated review timetable and consultations were discussed. A resume of the timetable and consultation procedures would be included in the next newsletter.

Operation Springclean - The parish council had been invited to take part in the annual clean-up operation. As in previous years it was agreed to ask the local primary school for volunteers.

Allotments - conditions of tenure - It was agreed that the present conditions of tenure be revised to include a clause requiring the tenant to keep their allotment in a reasonable, weed free condition or be liable to have it cleaned by the council and be charged the cost of such cleaning up. The present tenants would be notified of this change with their rent reminder letters.

Whilton Locks - Mr Lewis reported a general lack of interest from the residents of Whilton Locks to his attempts to try to formulate guidelines for future development. It was agreed to leave this subject open for the time being.

Whilton Locks - Signs - It was reported that an application made on the parish council's behalf for direction signs at the A5 crossroads had been turned down by the Department of Transport. It was agreed that the parish council would re-apply in its own right and to this end Mr. Gardner, Mr Price and the Clerk would formulate that application.

Whilton Locks - Tourism - A report was given regarding a further meeting between Mr.B.Harding of British Waterways and the Clerk. A plan had been devised to move forward the work of promoting Whilton Locks as a tourist area and gather information for an application for tourist signs for the area. The parish council agreed that this plan should be adopted and that the Whilton and Buckby Tourism and Commerce Association should be approached for their co-operation in this venture.

Whilton Locks - Caravan parking at Garden Centre - After discussion it was agreed that due to the conditions of the recent planning permission being ignored by the applicant, the parish council would register their concerns with the Planning Authority.

Gravel Extraction near Dodford - P1 - application from McAlpine - The parish council agreed to write to the County Council stating their concern regarding potential traffic problems particularly at the A5 crossroads and ask what road safety measures would be considered if the proposed extraction site were to go ahead.

Planning Applications -

Consideration was given to the following applications ;

Refurbishment of Garden Store and change of use to Acupuncturists Clinic - Inglenook .
Change of use of existing extension to Acupuncturists Clinic - Tudor House.

The above two applications were discussed and provided parking and working hours were controlled then the parish council would support both applications.

The parish council has since learnt that both applications have been granted with conditions regarding working hours being imposed.

Conversion of Garden Store - The Thatched Cottage - this application has now been granted with conditions regarding hours being imposed.

Change of use of land to temporary use for caravan storage (to maximum of 160) - Whilton Locks Garden Centre - this amended application has been granted with conditions regarding landscaping, new entrance, service roads and layout being imposed. A three year time limit was also imposed.

Jim Gardner.

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Please support the Newsletter by contributing articles etc. The deadline date is always included in the diary of events and any of the Editors would be pleased to receive articles from you.

What does the European Community do for Whilton?

(Anthony Simpson, TD, Member of the European Parliament for Northamptonshire and South Leicestershire, has written this article and asked if we would care to publish it in the Newsletter.)

I am often asked "What does the European Community do for me and my community?" My best answer is another question: "What would become of you and your community were we not members of the European Community, the world's largest trading group?"

Many residents from suburban and rural areas commute to London or to neighbouring towns or cities. Many jobs in the county (and in the rest of Britain) depend directly on our membership of the European Community - with whom we do almost two thirds of our total trade. Northamptonshire and Leicestershire are particularly well suited, because of location and excellent road and rail links, to take advantage of increased business with Europe.

We are all affected by Community policies on, for example, the environment. Pollution knows no boundaries. Cleaner water, cleaner air and quieter transport are all the results of Community agreements that contribute to a better environment for us all.

Despite the excesses of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Community is encouraging diversification in the countryside. The new emphasis to promote rural communities involves the preservation of the countryside, the encouragement of rural tourism and increased opportunities for suitable employment in the villages. Villages must be more than dormitory suburbs. These measures will encourage the prosperity of our rural communities.

We must never forget the underlying reason for the creation of the European Community: peace in Western Europe. There has been peace for the last fifty years. Now that the Iron Curtain has fallen, we must extend this to the whole Continent.

You share with the other 342 million citizens of Europe, opportunities unknown to earlier generations. In working together with the Community, all its citizens are creating a better future for their children. This should mean cheaper, easier and safer travel.

I believe, strongly, that the children of today will see a peaceful, united and prosperous Europe. It is not an impossible dream. The youngsters will shape tomorrow's Community and it is therefore vital that they feel part of Europe and are stimulated by it. As a positive contribution, I have run a European Quiz for Primary and Middle Schools in the county, and am also holding a series of conferences for Sixth Form students. The next is at the Derngate Theatre in Northampton in March entitled, "Europe - what's in it for you? - Work and Study Opportunities", to inform and assist youngsters who wish to work or study abroad.

How to contact Anthony Simpson:

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1040 Brussels, Belgium

Euro Agent: A.H. Bayman
Lloyds Bank Chambers,
North Street,
Daventry, Northants,
NN11 5PN
Tel: 0327 703192

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Local Government Commission began a review of the local government arrangements for Northamptonshire on 13th December, 1993. Other areas of England are also being reviewed at the same time.

The Commission is required to examine the area to see whether a unitary structure would better reflect the identities and interests of local communities and secure convenient and effective local government. Government has said that it does not wish to impose a national blueprint for reform or to require the wholesale abolition of either district or county councils. In some areas the commission may wish to recommend a continuation of the existing two tier structure. However, the Government expects that to be an exception and that there will be a substantial increase in the number of unitary authorities, i.e. one main level of local government in both urban and rural areas.

The Commission wishes to receive as many views as possible, particularly from those outside the local government sector, about whether there needs to be a change in the local government structure in Northamptonshire and, if so, the form that any change should take. The closing date for submissions is 25th March, 1994 and all submissions should be made, in writing, to
The Local Government Commission for England, Dolphyn Court, 10-11 Great Turnstile,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC1V 7JU.

THE REVIEW TIMETABLE

The timetable for the review of Northamptonshire is as follows :-

13th December 1993	Review commenced
25th March 1994	Latest date for submissions by individuals, organisations, local authorities etc. on future arrangements to the Commission.
c. May 9th 1994	Commission publishes its initial report and recommendations, to be followed by a 9 week public consultation period on the same.
c. July 11th 1994	End of public consultation period on initial recommendations
by end September 1994	Commission publishes final report. Minimum of 6 weeks after publication of the final report before the Secretary of State makes any order relating to the new arrangements.
April 1996 or 1997	Target starting date for new authorities.

Whilton Gardeners' Association - Seed Order Discounts. These were given out at the December meeting. Any members who were not present at that meeting may collect their discounts by calling at The Old Plough.

Harold & Trudy Haynes

BELLS 'N' BANGERS

When you hear church bells ringing, have you ever wondered how it's done? Have you wondered what the bells look like and how the ringers control them? Did you realise that when a bell is "rung" as opposed to being "chimed" it turns a complete revolution each time it strikes? Do you know what "change ringing" means? Do you know there is a Diocesan Guild to which the ringers belong?

To help answer these (and many more) questions, the Whilton bellringers are organising a 'Bells 'n' Bangers' event. It will take place at St. Andrew's Church on February 19th, starting at 4.00pm.

The ringers will explain how bells are made, how they are rung, what change ringing means, how ringers are trained and organised and why there is a major scheme in hand to restore our bells.

The afternoon will end with a sausage and mash supper in the Village Hall! Parishioners of Whilton (and Norton and Brington) are cordially invited. Tickets will cost £1.50 and these may be obtained from Sue Townley, Home Farm, Whilton or by contacting any of the bellringers (Janet Bowers, Harold Haynes, Bryan Williams).

Please come! - we hope the event will be interesting and fun!

Bryan Williams

Dates for your diary :

April 30th - Grand Auction - Home Farm, Whilton
June 25th & 26th - Flower Festival and Garden Open Day

Whilton Gardeners' Association

The Annual General meeting of the Association was held on 6th December, 1993, in the Village Hall.

Mrs. Beryl Williams was elected as the new chairman, Mrs. Janet Bowers retiring after her three years term of office. Mr. Dick Green was elected as the new treasurer, Mrs. Haynes retiring after her three years term of office. Mrs. Haynes and Mrs. Bowers were thanked most profusely by their fellow members for all the work that they had done for the Association.

Mr. Dick Green would like to remind members that subscriptions are now due for 1994.

After the business meeting a most interesting and comprehensive talk on House/Pot plants was given by Mr. Beckwith. I am sure members picked up many invaluable tips on keeping plants in the house in tip top condition.

The subject of the next meeting, on Monday, 7th February, is a talk, illustrated with slides, on "Butterflies and Orchids", by Mr. Ted Moon. Anyone who was present when Mr. Moon last visited us will know that this is a meeting not to be missed.

Eileen Finnemore

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Forget these dark days of winter, cold, wet and miserable - look ahead to summer, with blue skies, sunshine, colourful flowers and BRITAIN IN BLOOM. 1993 proved to be a most colourful one in Whilton and much praise was forthcoming, both from residents and from passers through. A Brington resident remarked on what a delight it was to drive through our village, with its colourful displays.

Whilton Gardeners' Association has decided to enter the village in the East Midlands section of the competition again and, however good our displays were in 1993, no doubt we can make them even better this year with that extra hanging basket, window box or flower tub!

A sub committee has been formed from the Garden Association to help with planning and with growing of plants (so we do not all grow the same things!). If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Janet Bowers - 842851 - your help and ideas will be greatly appreciated

ADVANCE NOTICE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 25th & 26th JUNE

Flower Festival in St. Andrew's Church - musical entertainment , gardens open, teas, stalls & plant sale. Evening service on Sunday at 6.00pm with the Bishop of Brixworth giving the address.

Gardeners - can you please help by growing a few extra plants for the plant sale? Pop that odd cutting, surplus seed, etc into a pot and grow on - it will all help to increase our sales! Save any unwanted items suitable for tombola, or perhaps you might even consider buying that bargain item in readiness!

This will be the first time Whilton has held a flower festival or planned a two-day event and more details will be given in the April newsletter. All profits will go to the Bell Restoration Fund. Any offers of help to the churchwardens, Harold Haynes and Janet Bowers, please.

Milk tops, foil, stamps, etc.

At present we have two sacks of foil, etc. ready for delivery to Lyncrest and lots of stamps. All contributions gratefully received and many thanks to all who take the trouble to save.

Chimney Sweep

The sweep will be coming to Whilton on the mornings of Wednesday and Thursday, 13th & 14th April. If you would like to be put on the list please contact Jean Waights, "Kunda Cottage" - 'phone 842431.

W.I. December 1993 : Members Night

It is never difficult to see how popular the Annual Members' Night meeting is; more people came to that than to any other meeting, and this is not surprising. It is an occasion which is friendly, entertaining, good value for money and with a good meal included. December 1993 was no exception.

Our hostesses, Mesdames Jelley, Davies and Spokes had made the hall and the dinner table look most attractive and they served us an excellent, three course meal. There were two quiz competitions - one before drinks had been served and one after, which may, or perhaps not, have affected results! The winners were Shirley Brown, Kay Roberts, Kath Wright, Anthea Hiscock, Brigid Fisher and Jane O'Riordan.

Two of the hostesses are now committee members and can look forward to a more relaxing evening next December, when two or three more volunteers organise yet another successful Members' Night evening.

We all say thank you.

Diana Scott

W.I. January Meeting

Fourteen members attended this meeting. During the business section the question of fund raising was discussed and it was decided to hold a coffee morning later in the year.

The main subject of the evening was a wonderful journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow by water. This was a holiday enjoyed by Miss Diana Scott and Miss Frances Drake who gave a talk, illustrated by slides, to escort us on their route.

We were shown many varied and unusual styles of architecture, both of municipal and religious buildings with "onion domes" in varied colours and gold leaf coverings. Most impressive were the icon-covered walls in the cathedrals and churches - They were quite amazing. In contrast, one area had buildings made entirely of wood - not a nail or screw to be seen.

We also enjoyed, of course, views of the beautiful birch woods.

A display of postcards was on view, together with the *pièce de résistance* - a nest of nine, brightly coloured Russian dolls.

A brief history of Russia's past helped us to appreciate the present generation's difficulty in adapting to democracy.

Mrs. Ros Gardner thanked our two travellers for a very enjoyable and interesting evening.

The next two meetings will be:- Wednesday, 9th February - "Patchwork" - Mrs. Irons
" 9th March - "Ewe to Me" - Mrs. R. Gardner

Trudy Haynes

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

The "Pub Night" (Saturday 11th December) was a tremendously successful evening. The tickets were sold out before the event and all those who came joined forces in various teams to play skittles. It came to light that we had some pretty keen-eyed skittlers in our midst in Whilton.

Our special thanks go to Jim Gardner for organising the entertainment. Numerous other people helped to make the evening so successful. Derek & Shirley Brown were on the go all evening serving behind the bar. Anthea Hiscock, Brigid Fisher, Ros Gardner and Kath Wright teamed up with me to provide a hearty ploughmans supper. Philip Waights ran a raffle. Tom Treacy's donation of a barrel of beer is very much appreciated and Jack Wright and Derek Brown built the bar.

The Village Hall Committee thanks all these people for their help and all who came for their support.

The evening raised £222.49 which will be put into village hall funds.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the November Draw and also to the winners of the Grand December Draw.

On 26th November the winners were:-

1st prize	-	No. 64	J. Spokes
2nd prize	-	No. 45	A. Kane
3rd prize	-	No. 196	F. Allen

On 11th December the winners were:-

1st prize	-	No. 167	D. Scott
2nd prize	-	No. 33	M. Clements
3rd prize	-	No. 115	W. Emery

Mary Kane

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# CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

## CYCLE CARE

Always lock your bike when you leave it, even if you are just popping into a shop for a minute. It is better to fit a steel D-shaped shackle lock recommended by your bicycle dealer rather than a padlock and chain. Solid bicycle locks are better than chains as chains can be cut with the right equipment.

Whenever possible, you should lock your bike to something solid like a lamp-post or railings. If your wheels come off easily, remove the front wheel and lock it to the frame and back wheel, using a second lock if necessary.

Even if your cycle is kept in a garden shed it should be secured as described.

A lot of bikes get stolen. Thieves like them because they are easy to sell.

You should consider marking the frame using the commercially based "Selectamark" system available from most cycle dealers. For further information consult your local crime prevention officer (CPD Mick Downing on Daventry 300300).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Referring to the message put out via the cascade system on 5th December - this was in respect of a vehicle the police were following relating to an alleged drink driving offence.

### Neighbourhood Watch Meetings

A meeting of co-ordinators from Long Buckby and surrounding villages including Whilton is held monthly. The local police also attend. This is a point of contact where information is exchanged.

Mrs. Brenda Walker of the Craft Shop is the co-ordinator for the new scheme which has been set up for Buckby Wharf and Whilton Locks.

### Child Abduction

Two incidents of attempted child abduction were reported in Long Buckby. These occurred before Christmas and are believed to have involved children as they left the school bus. Parents be warned and remind your children of the motto "STRANGER DANGER".

## Summary of Events

- Sun. 6th Feb. 10.00am Benefice Sung Eucharist - Brington
- Mon. 7th Feb. 7.30pm Whilton Gardeners' Association (Butterflies and Orchids)
- Wed. 9th Feb. 7.30pm W.I. Meeting - 'Patchwork'
- Sat. 19th Feb. 4.00pm 'Bells 'n' Bangers' (Church & Village Hall)
- Mon. 7th Mar. Last date for items for the April Newsletter (very early in order to get printing done before start of school holidays)
- Wed. 9th Mar. 7.30pm W.I. Meeting - 'Ewe to Me'
- Sun. 13th Mar. 6.00pm Mothering Sunday Service
- Sun. 20th Mar. 6.00pm Stainer's 'Crucifixion' - Whilton Church
- Sun. 27th Mar. 6.00pm Palm Sunday Service - Compline
- Sun. 3rd Apr. 6.00pm Easter Day - Festival Sung Eucharist

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The Whilton Newsletter is published bi-monthly and  
circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary.

The cost are met by the Parish Council.. The Editors are:

Mr. Harold Haynes  
Mrs. Trudy Haynes  
Mrs. Anne Heeley  
Mrs. Shirley Brown