



WHILTON NEWSLETTER

February 1995

WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

At the meeting held on 5th December 1994, members were pleased to welcome Mr. Dennis Timms of Leamington Spa - a world-wide traveller and photographer - who provided a superb audio-visual slide show entitled "Gardens of the World".

This wonderful collection of photographs was beautifully presented with voice-over descriptions and accompanied by appropriate orchestral music.

Slides of formal and informal gardens, natural gardens and working gardens in the Pacific Islands, Indian sub-continent, Far East and New Zealand were interspersed with slides of gardens of all types in Holland, Austria, Germany, Scotland and Wales, as well as several locations in England, including the well-known formal gardens in Mr. Timms' own town of Leamington Spa.

We saw the elaborate terracing of the paddy-fields in Bali, rose gardens in New Zealand, bulb fields in Holland, orchid gardens in Singapore, semi-tropical gardens in the Isle of Arran, alpine meadows in Austria, the terraces of Powis Castle in Wales and the beautiful settings of Warwick Castle and Packwood House. We saw water gardens, rock gardens, herbaceous borders, formal beds, bird gardens, miniature gardens of a model village, the florists' skill at Chelsea Flower Show and much, much more besides.

It really was a 'Grand Tour' of the gardens of the world.

C.B.W.

BLUE PETER WELL WATER APPEAL - BRING AND BUY

A grand Blue Peter Bring and Buy sale was held at the Village Hall on the 7th January by the Hiscock, Kane and Todd families. I'd like to say thank you to all who came to support us. We raised a big £113. Then I found a pound in the gutter which made it £114!

Thank you to all who made cakes and to anybody who brought anything and to those who came to buy. But did all of you know what all this chaos was about?

The Blue Peter Appeal this winter was for something we take for granted in this country. Water - pure, clean water. Many people in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India have to walk miles for water and often the water is dirty, which causes diseases like typhoid. These diseases are rulling villages without clean water and you have helped to stop it. The money is being used to sink wells and to build hygienic latrines.

I also thank the people who couldn't come and gave donations.

Abigail Hiscock

A YEAR FOR SAYING THANK YOU

If it's not too late to wish you a happy New Year, then I would like to do that. 1995 commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War: VE Sunday is 7th May, and VJ Sunday 20th August. Whereas last year's 'D' Day Commemoration was a time for quiet remembrance, now we can let go and party, giving grateful thanks that hostilities finally came to an end. No doubt our village is making plans to celebrate. Certainly there will be services marking the peace.

It was at the beginning of the War - in a Christmas broadcast in 1939 - that King George VI quoted from a poem written by M. Louise Haskins (who died only in 1957), which so inspired many then, and can do today, I believe.

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year : 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied : 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better than light and safer than a known way.'"

That is good advice and, in a secular world, often forgotten, leaving us wondering why so much goes badly wrong. Perhaps among the New Year Resolutions we may each have made (unless we have broken them all already!), we can add two more - especially in this very special fiftieth anniversary twelve months. First, that wherever we go we can leave things better than they were, and whomever we meet values the contact. Secondly that, remembering the King's words, we will take more seriously than we may have done previously, the spiritual opportunities our community offers through our parish church. It is there to serve and to be used. It has stood the test of time.

Times of the services at St. Andrew's are always posted in the church porch, and there is usually at least one each Sunday. If you enjoyed coming at Christmas - and our numbers in December were the best for years - then get into the habit and come again! You will always be made very welcome. We have something for everyone. I am particularly pleased that the Sunday morning FAMILY SERVICE is going so well. The next one at Whilton is 10.00am on 22nd January. In February we go to Brington for it (26th February), and back here in March (26th March - Mothering Sunday).

Another service I hope will especially appeal to you, will be held on Sunday, 12th February - Education Sunday. Our own Harold Haynes, formerly Deputy Headteacher at Campion School, will be giving the address that evening.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March, but I will be producing a Lent, Holy Week and Easter leaflet before then containing all the arrangements for Whilton and our partner parishes.

I started by emphasising 1995 as a year of thanksgiving. There is another heartfelt thanks I would like to extend - to the Parish Council. The church clock is a great public asset, but has not been working for several months. It is an old clock (have you noticed it has only four spaces marked for every five minutes on its face?), and needs attention. Now the new bells are installed in the tower, the mechanism needs to be self-winding. The PCC with the help of friends will raise the money needed for the repairs, but the Parish Council has given us enormous encouragement by offering to pay for the automatic winding system - and for the annual maintenance contract. Harold Haynes has an article elsewhere describing in more detail

what is to be done. But I want to add my own personal thanks - and that of the congregation - to the Council for the great generosity shown. The gift is marvellous news.

It will soon be Spring!

Blessings

Jim Richardson
(0604 770402)

WHILTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Whilton W.I. meets in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. The first part of our meeting deals with business, because we are part of a national organisation. Sometimes there are activities organised by the County Federation which we wish to join in and sometimes there are issues and local events which need discussing. The second part of the meeting begins at about 8.00pm, when we have a speaker or activity, and the evening is rounded off with refreshments.

In December we held our annual Members' Night. This continues a very old tradition in Whilton. On this night three "volunteers" prepare and serve a meal for the other members and provide an opportunity for light-hearted seasonal activities and conversation. This year a delicious, three course meal was prepared by Miss Drake, Miss Scott and Mrs. O'Riordan. Mrs. Jelley helped to serve it and Mrs. Thomas had provided a magnificent table decoration, complete with burning candles.

After a glass of hot punch, a delectable cold prawn starter and a hot pork and apple main course, served with a variety of vegetables, we then spoiled ourselves by sampling home made meringues, fruit salad and chocolate roulade. The competition to identify famous faces was won by Mrs. Wright and Kim's game by Miss Thorne. At the end of the evening we each took away a mystery present and felt we were ready for Christmas.

As a stark contrast, we began the new year with a talk by Mr. Roy Saunders from Brington. He described how he had joined the Army and after a gruelling, but apparently most enjoyable, training, became a member of the Bomb Disposal Squad. He spoke particularly of his experiences in Northern Ireland and showed slides which emphasized the devastation caused by bombs and terrorists. Members were amazed at the calm way in which he had faced danger and uncertainty. The vote of thanks was given by Miss Drake, who also managed to win the raffle!

If you think you might be interested in joining our Institute, there are only two qualifications: you must be a woman and you must be over school leaving age. Come along and see what we are like. Our next meeting, in February, will be a cheese tasting, followed, in March, by an open meeting about owls.

Anthea Hiscock (President)

WHILTON CHURCH CLOCK

At last it seems that we may soon be able to get started on the restoration of the church clock. It may not be generally realised that we are not allowed to carry out any works in the church without the approval of the Chancellor of the Diocese, this approval being given in the form of what is known as a Faculty. Before a Faculty may be applied for details of the works in question have to be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, who, after due consideration, and consultation with appropriate bodies, will recommend whether or not a Faculty should be issued.

The Parochial Church Council, some months ago, submitted to the DAC the report on, and quotations for, the work required to get the clock going again. The DAC then consulted their clocks adviser and have now recommended that a Faculty be issued, and have sent the necessary papers for an application for Faculty to be made. Because of the DAC's recommendation the issue of a Faculty should be merely a formality, but it will probably be four or five weeks before it is issued and, strictly speaking, work should not start before it is received by the PCC. An order may be placed, however, with the firm that is to do the work, so that they are ready to make a start as soon as possible.

The work involved is a full restoration of the mechanism of the clock, replacing all worn parts, etc, fitting and connecting up a new clock hammer to strike on the tenor bell and also to install automatic winding mechanism, so that the winding is done electrically rather than manually, it being very difficult now to reach the clock platform from which the manual winding used to be carried out. As Canon Jim has stated elsewhere, the Parish Council has agreed to pay for the automatic winding mechanism and its installation (£1,575), and for this the PCC is extremely grateful. There is still a large sum of money to raise but the task is not quite as formidable as it otherwise would have been! The total cost of the restoration, excluding the automatic winding, if it is done by the old established firm of John Smith & Sons of Derby, is £4,195.00, but this will be reduced to £3,395 if we are able to provide local assistance, as we did with the work to the bells. A donation of £500 has been promised by one local inhabitant so that is a good start, and if anyone else wishes to make a contribution it will obviously be very gratefully received! Let's hope it will not be too long now before the clock is showing the right time again and we hear it striking the hours once more.

HH

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CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

- Sunday, February 5th - 10.00am - United Benefice Sung Eucharist at NORTON
- " " 12th - 6.00pm - Sung Evensong
- " " 19th - 6.00pm - Sung Eucharist
- " " 26th - 6.00pm - The Night Office of Compline
- " March 5th - 10.00am - United Benefice Sung Eucharist at BRINGTON

Details of all the services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter will be published on the notice board in the church porch and in a leaflet to be produced prior to the start of Lent.

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TWO MEMORABLE CHURCH SERVICES

How marvellous it was to see so many people at the CAROL SERVICE on the Sunday before Christmas! The church was packed to the doors, a rare occurrence these days, with some people sitting in the ringing chamber as all the other seats were full. The decorations were superb and, with everywhere in candlelight apart from the spotlights on the 'flying angels', it was a wonderful atmosphere. Of course, we are so lucky at Whilton in that the church building is quite small and this gives a much more intimate feeling than one gets in the larger buildings. It has been lovely to hear so many complimentary remarks about the service and our thanks go to all those who helped to make it something special.

Another service that was thoroughly enjoyed by a number of villagers and friends, including a group from our sister parishes of Harlestone and East Haddon, was the WATCHNIGHT SERVICE on New Year's Eve. This was a new departure for Whilton but its popularity will almost certainly call for a repeat in future years. Candlelight again gave a cosy atmosphere and, after the short service, refreshments were enjoyed and toasts proclaimed before the New Year was welcomed by the ringing of the superb new peal of eight bells.

WHAT WOULD IT COST NOW?

The following is an extract from the report of a Vestry Meeting held at the Vestry Room, Whilton on December 7th, 1854.

"2ndly. It was proposed by Rev'd Henry Rose and agreed unanimously that the porch at the South door should be built directly, and the expense of such building shall be paid for by a Church Rate, and that the Rev'd H. Rose will give £1 as a voluntary subscription.

3rdly. It was proposed by Rev'd Henry Rose and agreed to unanimously that Mr. John Warren of the Town of Northampton, Builder, should be employed to build the same at a contract of nineteen pounds, and that the said porch shall be finished by the 23rd day of December, 1854."

MILK TOPS, FOIL ETC. AND STAMPS

Once again we have collected three sacks of foil, etc. and a sizeable bag of stamps. Three sacks in each of two consecutive two-monthly periods must surely be a record! Carry on saving!

Many thanks,

Trudy Haynes

ROAD SAFETY ARTICLES

The Area Road Safety Officer has offered us four articles for publication in the Newsletter so we are publishing the first two this month :

SPEED KILLS IN VILLAGES TOO

Next time you are driving to work, think about the villages you are driving through, they are probably very similar to your own. Full of families with young children who all attend the local school, older residents who have lived their whole life in the village and people just like you.

Imagine how you would feel if there was a speed related accident in your village, caused by a thoughtless driver who was in a hurry. Your whole community would be affected and would feel a sense of frustration that one driver just couldn't wait.

Then imagine if the driver was you, in a hurry to get to work, you've been held up behind a slow moving vehicle and finally it's turned off the road, you increase your speed as you're coming into a village trying to make up a few precious seconds.

The faster you are travelling the less time you have to react, the longer it takes to slow down and the more serious the injuries you cause will be.

Think carefully about your speed and the danger you create for other road users in villages just like your own.

DRINKING AND DRIVING - NO EXCUSES

Accidents don't just happen - they are caused. Most drivers think an accident will never happen to them and they will certainly never cause one. However, many normally careful drivers seem to forget just how alcohol can affect their ability to drive safely. There are no excuses if you cause an accident by drinking and driving, after all you chose to drink in the first place.

Your decision to have a drink didn't just happen - you could have said no.

Most adults at some time in their life will have driven after a drink or two. They don't think that the drink drive message applies to them - "safe" in the knowledge that they have only had a quick drink and they will be OK. But any amount of alcohol will affect your ability to drive. Even one drink affects your judgement and you have a tendency to take chances.

Nothing but time will sober you up - there are no short cuts. It may be difficult to say no to a drink but is saying yes really worth the risk?

Driving bans, fines of up to £5,000, higher insurance, losing your job, losing your liberty - is saying yes really worth the risk?

You could even kill someone - is saying yes really worth the risk?

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A quiet start to the New Year; there being no reported crime in Whilton during January. Hopefully we can keep crime down by remembering the importance of home security and being constantly vigilant during 1995.

Remember to report anything that looks strange or suspicious to the local police.

HOME SECURITY

Home security is vital in the fight against house burglary and the theft of property.

The County Crime Prevention Officer, Inspector Graham Rogers offers the following advice:-

"If a criminal can be convinced that someone is in the property or that they are likely to be seen, then they will probably look elsewhere.

Basic but good advice is to leave lights on, install an alarm, close all windows and fit window locks.

You should also make sure that you have good door locks and that the door and frame are sound enough to support them"

AUTOCRIME

The last reported crime in Whilton was the theft of a car from outside a cottage in Buckby Lane. Despite being double locked and security alarmed it was stolen during the early hours of 6th Nov, 1994. The car was later found badly damaged in a ditch at Rothersthorpe.

Unfortunately the theft of cars and of property left inside cars has become the most prevalent crime in the country.

It is vitally important that car doors and boots are kept locked at all times and that nothing of any value is left in a parked car.

Auto theft devices such as steering wheel locks and handbrake immobilisers may act as a deterrent to car thieves. Alarms are also useful as they give the earliest warning of an attack on a car. Some of the more sophisticated alarms also immobilise the vehicle.

Crime prevention advice and home security advice is available from the local Crime Prevention Officer.

DAVENTRY POLICE - RING 0327 300300

Christine Bilsborough

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

VILLAGE PUB NIGHT - 10TH DECEMBER 1994

The pub evening was, once again, a successful fun evening although not quite so many villagers were able to come this year. Congratulations to Richard Newborough and Janet Bowers on winning the gentlemen's and ladies darts championships. The village hall committee would like to give a big thank you to Tom Treacy who again generously donated the barrel of beer. Thanks also to Jack Wright who helped Derek Brown to build the "bar", to Derek and Shirley who served thirsty villagers all evening, to Phil Waights for organising the darts match and other games and finally to Brigid Fisher and Anthea Hiscock who, together with myself, prepared the supper. The evening raised £151.98 towards village hall funds.

The Grand Christmas 200 Club Draw also took place at this event and we congratulate the winners:-

1st Prize	-	No.183	F.Drake	£200
2nd Prize	-	No.175	P.Webster	£100
3rd Prize	-	No.107	N.Hill	£ 50

The November draw took place 25th November 1994 and the winners were:-

1st Prize	-	No.040	P Ilsley	£40
2nd Prize	-	No.064	J.Spokes	£25
3rd Prize	-	No.149	L.Treacy	£20

Our congratulations to these prizewinners too.

The monthly draw for the above takes place on the fourth Friday of every month unless the committee is organising an event in that month in which case the 200 Club draw takes place at the event.

Please note that these Friday evening draws will now start at 8-00pm not 7-30pm. You are all most welcome. Wine and soft drinks are available so why not come along, have a chat, a drink and who knows, perhaps you will see your 200 Club number come out of the bag!

Mary Kane
Secretary Village Hall Committee

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The above took place in St Andrews Church on 19th November, 1994. Many thanks to all who helped to make the Bazaar so successful. The money raised for the Bell Fund amounted to £505.00

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

The evening of Thursday, 22nd December was very bright and frosty being seasonal for the Village Carol Singing. A group of almost twenty people assembled at the village triangle who then were transported by Gordon Emery's "Rolls Royce" to Roughmoor where the first carols were sung. Joan and Griff Davies kindly provided liquid refreshment to sustain us through the first part of the evening. The party then returned to the village and on reaching "Little Rectory" Jane & Paddy O'Riordan provided further sustenance which was thankfully received.

After Langton Rise we were then transported to Buckby Wharf where we sang to a family of South Africans who were very interested in our customs. Our last carols were sung at Anna and Cliff Ellison's who very kindly gave us refreshments. We then returned to "Sira" and thank Beryl and Bryan Williams for providing coffee and mince pies. The collection raised £125-00 for the Church.

HOME FARM COFFEE AND CAROL PARTY

This event took place on 28th December 1994 - an excellent follow-on to the Christmas celebrations and once again proved a huge success. There was a full house and the evening was packed with many "turns" with audience participation in carols.

This year, in recognition of the removal of the old bells, an Ode was written and performed by its author (Frank Hedges) and a song was composed and sung by Gordon Hart in respect of the new bells. Both were enthusiastically received.

Coffee and delicious mince pies were served during the interval by a team of helpers.

The evening was concluded by the now customary "Twelve Days of Christmas" with the audience giving their all.

A super evening at a rather unique venue supported by 65 people.

Well done Sue John and family and all the entertainers not forgetting the helpers.

The evening raised £220-00 which included the raffle and sale of the "Ode" sheet. The proceeds to go to the Bell Fund.

Ode sheets are available at £1-00 each from Sue & John Townley.

Parish Council Report

The first Parish Council meeting of 1995 was held on the 9th January, in the Village Hall. Amongst items discussed were:

Mr. Harold Haynes spoke to the meeting regarding the situation surrounding the clock in the Church tower. It was later agreed by the Parish Council to fund the installation of automatic winding equipment for the clock to a maximum amount of £1575.00 and also to take responsibility for the annual maintenance of the clock and winding mechanism which will be £125.00 plus VAT every year.

DA/94/1026 renewal of outline planning permission DA/91/0958 for one detached bungalow and garage, land at Stone House, Whilton - this renewal has been permitted.

DA/94/1066 Part demolition, change of use and alterations to agricultural buildings to form dwelling, site adjacent to Home Farm, Whilton - this application has been withdrawn.

DA/94/1216 change of use of land to off-road vehicles including car parking, landscaping, earth mounding and karting track, Whilton Mill, Whilton Locks. After discussion the Parish Council decided to inform the District Planning authority that they had no strong objections to the development, but asked that conditions be placed on any permission. That silencers be used on the vehicles to eliminate unnecessary noise and that time restrictions be imposed on the operations of between 10 am and 10 pm.

The Clerk was asked to investigate with the local authority and Anglian Water the problems of running water at the lower end of the village.

A letter had been received from the County Council regretting to inform the Parishioners of Whilton, that the bus service to and from Daventry had had to be withdrawn. This was due to the fact that only 2 passengers per week from Brington, one per week from Welton and none at all from Whilton were using the service.

A half allotment has become vacant in the village, anyone interested should contact the Clerk as soon as possible. See below for details.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on March 6th. Members of the public are welcome.

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Allotment Vacancy

There will be a half plot allotment vacant in the village, as of 1st April 1995

The annual fee for the half plot is £6.00

Anyone interested in the allotment - growing some fresh flowers/vegetables and keeping fit into the bargain - don't delay -

contact Anne Heeley (Clerk) - 843270

Summary of Events

Mon.	6th February	7.30 pm	Whilton Gardeners' Association meeting
Wed.	8th February	7.30 pm	W. I. Meeting - 'Cheese tasting'
Mon.	6th March	8.00 pm	Parish Council meeting
Wed.	8th March	7.30 pm	W.I. Meeting - 'Owls'
Fri.	17th March		Deadline for items for April Newsletter

See page 4 for details of Church services throughout February and March

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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:

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

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