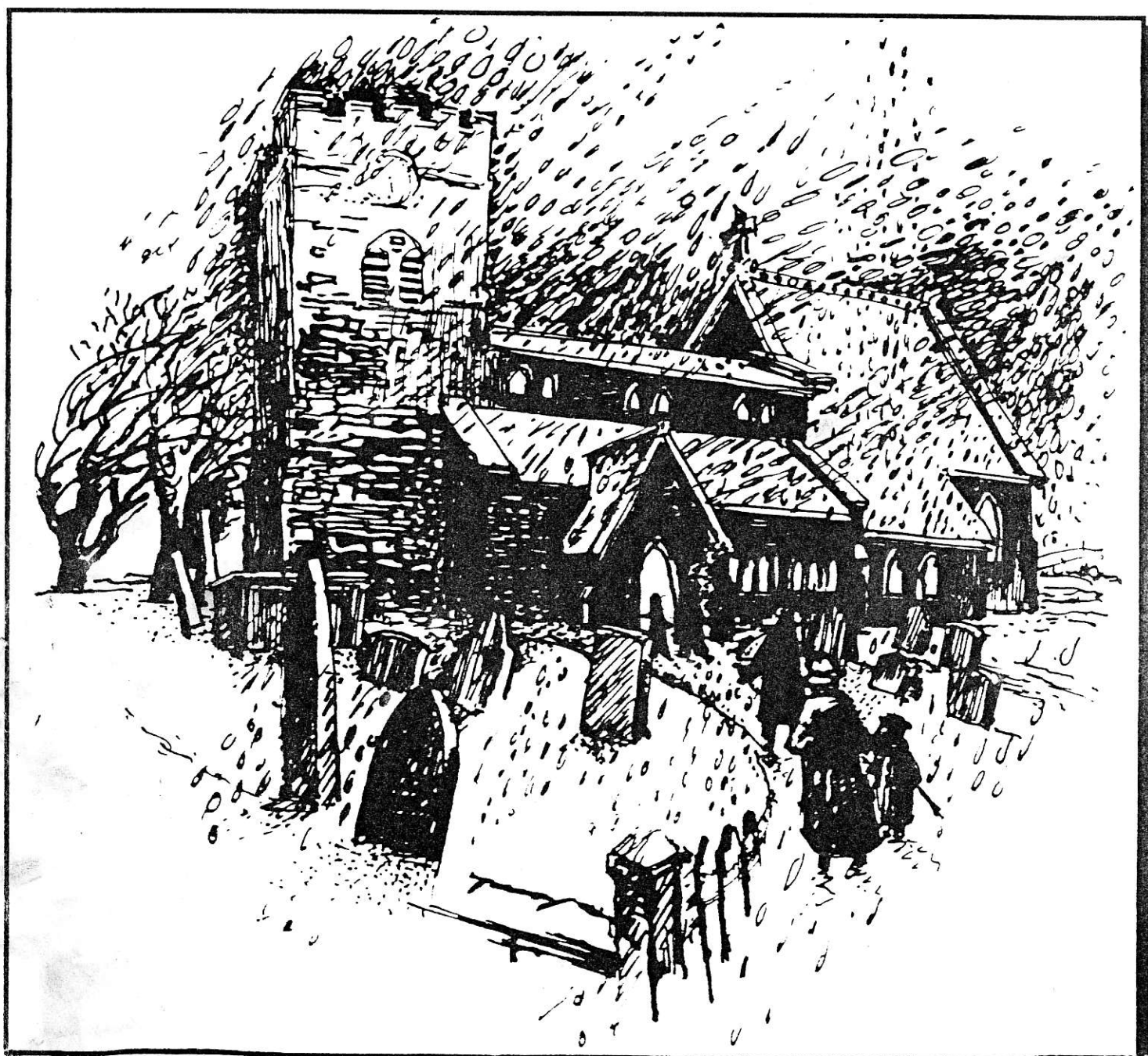


# Whilton Newsletter

February 1996



# Whilton Parish Council Report

The first Parish Council meeting of the year took place on 8th January 1996. The meeting was attended by Parish Councillors and by two members of the parish.

**Planning** DA/95/0977 single storey extension and new pedestrian access, Canal Cottage, Whilton Locks. The Parish Council had discussed this application previously, however, amended plans had been submitted. The Parish Council would be pleased to see the cottage renovated, which would help to tidy the area. Similar concerns were discussed relating to the potential dangers involved with vehicles parking on or near the road in the proximity of the canal bridge.

DA/95/1114 Change of use from communal meeting room to office Whilton Lodge, Whilton Locks. An application had been received during December and no objections had been made to the change of use. However, comments were made querying the reason for this change of use, which is not known.

**Allotment Lease** - The Parish Council has secured the use of the Whilton allotment land for the next ten years. A new lease has been agreed between the Parish and District Councils for the land used for allotments in the village. The lease is for a period of ten years with a review of the rent payable after five years. There is currently one half plot allotment available at a modest annual rent from 1st April this year.

**Local Government Review** A notice had been received indicating that Northampton Borough had not been recommended for unitary status. The commission has recommended to the Secretary of State that the current two tier system should remain. The Secretaries decision is now awaited.

**General items of correspondence** A number of general letters relating to District/Parish annual meetings - County waste plans and a notification about the

County Council budget had been received and were discussed.

**Flooding** There have been floods, which occurred during heavy rain, on the right hand bend beyond the water pumping station on the Brington Road. The Clerk would advise the County Council and ask them to pump out the blocked drain to allow water to flow away more easily.

**Home Farm Road** Concern was expressed regarding the damaged verges and apparent lack of road improvements. These improvements had been promised by the developer connected with the site down this road and it is anticipated they would be carried out very soon. When these improvements have been carried out, the Highways Dept. will be putting kerb stones around the small grass triangle.

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## *Allotment Vacancy*

There is a half allotment plot which will be vacant from 1st April 1996. If you are interested in renting the allotment (£6 per annum) please ring me as soon as possible.

Anne Heeley Parish Clerk  
Springbank Tel. 843270

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## **HORSE MANURE**

Don't forget we have a never  
ending supply of horse manure

free for collection

environmentally friendly!

Ring 01327 843221

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETINGS

MEMBERS' NIGHT  
13th DECEMBER, 1995

Sixteen members attended the December meeting which was Members' Night. The only person missing was Freda Thomas, who was unable to attend due to illness but who had nevertheless provided some beautiful floral decorations for the evening.

Upon arrival the members were met with a choice of sherry or fruit punch and immediately started on the quiz. This was a montage of famous faces (and one not so famous rear end!) and was won by Kath Wright, who correctly named 37 of the 60 people.

The formal business was convened and quickly concluded by Chris Messinger. Subjects covered were the W.I. Epiphany Service, donations for an Aqua Box and Romanian orphanage and the County Quiz (for which we fielded a team comprising Anne Kilgour, Diana Scott, Frances Drake and Ros Gardner). Everyone then settled down for the meal which was prepared and served by Chris Messinger, Jane O'Riordan and Teresa Leadbetter. We tucked into a starter of prawn cocktail followed by Chicken a la Surprise and rounded off the meal with apple tart, hot fruit salad and cheese and biscuits. After coffee and chocolates we took a little exercise in the form of charades. The acting must have been pretty good because all of the charades (which were based on songs, books, television programmes and films) were quickly guessed.

Ros Gardner proposed a vote of thanks after which everyone began to make their way home.

Teresa Leadbetter

MEETING held on  
JANUARY 10th, 1996

A mixed audience of members and visitors enjoyed a very interesting talk on Prague and its environs, given by Mrs. Julia Lee. Mrs. Lee had organised the tour on which our member, Mrs. Freda Thomas, had been one of the party.

The speaker gave a short history of "Bohemia", concentrating on the national figures, such as the religious reformer, Huss, and of course King Wenceslas, who was in fact a Duke. The slides that accompanied the talk made us aware of the wealth of artistic treasures, not only in Prague itself but in the nearby small towns and villages.

The main business side of the meeting was concerned with members' gifts to Romania and their collection and also with the plans for the Epiphany Carol service to be held in Whilton Church on January 17th. The arrangements and the help required were explained and finalised. The 'Aquabox' and its contents would be presented, the three Wise Men would attend and refreshments would be served afterwards in the Village Hall. Support and contributions would be needed from all members.

At the end of the meeting the raffle, won by Frances Drake, was arranged by Sue Green, who also gave the vote of thanks to the speaker.

Refreshments were provided and served by Shirley Brown and Trudy Haynes.

F.M. Drake

(A report of the Carol Service appears on another page. Ed.)

## A FIRST IN THE COUNTRY!

Quote - "The first BA Honours degree in Local Policy, created and designed by Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher education has been awarded to Anne Heeley, a student based in Northamptonshire. Anne was awarded her BA (Hons.) Upper Second degree at the College awards ceremony held in Cheltenham Town Hall on November 17th. The Local Policy course has only recently been validated as a qualification and is particularly appropriate training for Town and Parish Clerks and those involved in local authority administration."

The above is part of a full page article in "Village Viewpoint", the magazine of Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and of the Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils.

The article is headed "Minute book leads to degree" and goes on to tell how Anne, who is Clerk to Whilton Parish Council, having first taken the certificate course in Local Council Administration, then went on to take the diploma, along with over thirty other students.

Not being satisfied with this, Anne decided to continue to degree level as a full time student. This entailed travelling regularly to Cheltenham to embark on some modules with Countryside Planning students at the College, as well as continuing to study the distance learning modules from home.

The outcome is that Anne has obtained the first degree in Local Policy, not only for Northamptonshire but for the whole country!

WELL DONE ANNE!

(This had to be a case of the right hand not knowing what the left was doing. Anne is one of our editorial team but she didn't know this was being included in the *Newsletter*!)

### MILK TOPS, FOIL & STAMPS

Many thanks to all who let me have the stamps saved from their Christmas mail and for the foil, etc. that you continue to bring along. Three sacks of foil, etc. were delivered to Lyncrest last week, together with lots of stamps.

Trudy Haynes

WOMENS INSTITUTE EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Over 100 people attended St Andrew's Church Whilton for the above Service on Wednesday evening, 17th January 1996. These included representatives of the W.I from Daventry, Welton, Ravensthorpe, Crick, Kilsby, Badby, Barby, Yelvertoft, Long Buckby, Brington, Braunston and Whilton. The Church was beautifully decorated and looked wonderful in the candlelight.

Prior to the Service the church bells were rung in a quarter peal by The Northampton & District Ladies Guild of Bellringers which included local member Janet Bowers.

The Carol Service began at 7.30 pm with the arrival of the Three Kings to the strains of "We Three Kings of Orient are" with the verses beautifully sung by John Townley.

Canon Jim Richardson led the Service and members of the W.I. of various villages read the lessons and led the prayers.

The Townley family of Whilton performed two medleys on the handbells which was very much enjoyed by all.

Bob Hutcheson (Rotary Club) explained to the congregation about the Aquabox project as the W.I had been collecting specified items to fill at least one box. Each of these plastic boxes would contain various personal items of clothing and personal toiletries for a family (father, mother 2 children and a baby in disaster areas (Uganda, Ethiopia, Bosnia etc.). The important item to be included would be some water purifying tablets which should last the family for about four months as many thousands of people died from drinking polluted water or dehydration. When empty the box would become a water tank.

During the next carol, "God is love", members of the W.I. carried their large attractively wrapped gifts for the Aquabox to the altar.

The Service ended with "The wise may bring their learning" followed by the Blessing.

The collection taken was to be divided between the St Jude's Development Project for mothers and children in Uganda and St Andrew's Church.

Afterwards most of the congregation went to the village hall where a great variety of refreshments, supplied by all the Whilton W.I. members, was being served.

Jane O'Riordan and her small team of helpers did a wonderful job setting up the hall and having a hot cup of tea or coffee ready for us after our enthusiastic singing in church.

The next day the committee of Whilton W.I. had the task of sorting out all the items collected resulting in one complete Aquabox which left a good contribution towards filling another.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this special event.

S. BROWN

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## CANON JIM WRITES ..

### A GOOD MAN

**ST. Valentine's Day** falls on a Wednesday this year, and appropriately enough we have a wedding at St. Andrew's that very day - Adrian Brown and Helen Bevins from the Garden Centre at Whilton Locks.

Unfortunately, we know very little about Valentine himself, not even when he lived. Certainly there was a church dedicated to him in Rome in the middle of the fourth century, which makes Valentine a very early Christian saint indeed. Tradition says he was Persian, and a martyred bishop - but otherwise that is about it as far as information goes. Sadly there is nothing in his story to connect him to the custom of sending a card to a loved one on 14th February, and apparently it arose from the old idea that birds begin to pair on that date. What a let down!

About a month after St. Valentine, March 19th in fact, we have St. Joseph's Day. Surprisingly, considering who he was, we know very little about him either. The Gospels tell us that he received God's clear message to marry Mary, then pregnant, though he wasn't the father, and did as directed, but we can only guess at the pain he had to carry, and the fears that must have confronted him, as he faced the future with incomprehension. Pain and love must have merged with faith to carry him through those first difficult, early months.

When he brought his family back from exile in Egypt, after the death of King Herod, Joseph set up home in Nazareth, where Jesus could grow up in safety, and where a carpenter could make a decent living. That is as much as we know really. The rest is supposition. No doubt he lived fairly comfortably; the estates and small farms that covered most of Galilee always needed farm implements, new or to be repaired; furniture of various sorts for better-off homes. No doubt Joseph worked from time to time for the army of occupation - axles, wheels, cages for prisoners, perhaps sometimes crosses.

No doubt Joseph was helped by another set of hands, beginning with half-play, half-work in the carpenter's shop, the pieces of wood so handy for bricks to play with or build; the twists of strips from the plane; the tools and nails (overlooked by Joseph's sharp eye, to avoid scratches and cuts). A carpenter in those days needed skill and patience. He does so today, but in the past the limited number of tools available made special demands. Often people reproduce the special qualities of their trade or profession in the other activities of their lives. Joseph would be a calm man, a careful worker, ready to listen to the demands and ideas of his customers, always concerned with the quality and strength of the materials available. Jesus no doubt took note of all these things, and many of his parables and stories reflect the days in the carpenter's shop and the meetings with stewards, farmers, local nobilities and others. Above all, perhaps, it was from Joseph that Jesus learnt what it means to call God 'father'.

The Gospels do not tell us the full story; Joseph drops quietly out of the picture. Tradition has it that he was an older man when he married, and that he died peacefully at home in Nazareth some time before the final events of Jesus' life. He had been a good man.

St. Valentine and St. Joseph in their different ways represent love. Love between partners, love of parents for their children, and the love that exists in a happy and good home. We pray for Adrian and Helen as they prepare for their wedding day. We pray for ourselves, and each other, asking that God will dwell in our own homes as the unseen but welcome guest, and that we may be thankfully aware of his presence.

JIM

Brington Rectory

01604 770402

## CHURCH SERVICES

Apart from the first Sunday of the month (and the fifth when there is one), the services at St. Andrew's church are usually at 6 o'clock in the evening.

On the second Sunday there is Evensong, followed by a shortened Communion Service. (Anyone wishing to leave after Evensong is quite at liberty to do so).

On the third Sunday the service is Sung Eucharist and on the fourth Sunday the night office of Compline.

The first and fifth Sundays of the month are devoted to Benefice Services, at 10.00am, and these are held at each of the six churches in turn. For further details please consult the notice board in the church porch or obtain the booklet from the church giving three-monthly details.

## CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

The Parochial Church Council set a charge of £5 for anyone who wished to have the lights switched on to mark a special occasion.

This idea has proved quite popular and the lights have been on quite frequently, to mark both happy and sad occasions :-

9th and 10th of September - Susan Thorne's wedding.

7th October - Agnes Townley's birthday.

21st October - to celebrate the birth, on 4th October, of a grand-daughter to Clifford and Anna Ellison.

28th October - Trudy & Harold Haynes' wedding anniversary.

9th December - John Townley's 18th birthday.

15th & 16th January - in memory of Richard Clements on the anniversary of his death.

They are due to be put on on 6th February for the first birthday of Georgina Kilgour.

In addition, of course, the lights are put on for Sunday evenings and for Church Festivals.

## WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The A.G.M of the Whilton Gardeners' Association was held on Monday 4th December at 7.30 pm at the village hall.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for her sterling work during the last three years (she now has to retire) and the other officers and members who have helped to make the Association successful.

The Secretary in her report reminded members not only of the six meetings but also of the visits to some beautiful gardens in East Haddon and West Haddon.

The Treasurer reminded us of the increase in subscription to £4 per member to help cover the running costs of the Association.

The Purchasing Officer reported that the seed order amounted to £478.26 and had merited a 45 per cent discount; ten per cent of which is retained by the Association. Members were thanked for promptly returning catalogue and orders.

Mrs Janet Bowers was re-elected as Chairperson, Mrs Mary Burwell (Norton) was elected Secretary, Mr Derek Brown as Treasurer, Mrs Beryl Williams as Purchasing Officer, Mrs Kath Wright, Mrs Jane O'Riordan, and Mr Clive Blackburn (Gt Brington) as Committee Members and Mrs Gwen White (Little Brington) as Programme Co-ordinator.

Following the meeting an interesting talk and slideshow was given by Mrs Pearson on the subject of "Gardening Through the Ages".

The raffle was won by Mrs Beryl Williams and the proceeds from this together with those from the sale of composter donated by Susan Thorne (now Mrs Brenton) will help boost the Association funds.

Janet Bowers

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## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 1995

A planned reunion took place during the weekend 13th/14th January 1996 hosted by Sue and John Townley at Home Farm Whilton. All Pilgrims, with the exception of two, many travelling from afar, attended. We were delighted that our leader Canon Ron accompanied by his wife Frankie also made the journey up to Northamptonshire.

The Saturday afternoon viewing John Townley's video and looking at each others still photographs was a huge success. A team of ladies provided refreshments and the afternoon was rounded off by an amusing song composed and sung by Ray Walton "A Happy Band of Pilgrims" and the Townley Family of Whilton on their handbells.

On Sunday the Pilgrims together with members of previous Groups joined St Botolph's Church congregation for Sung Eucharist with guest preacher the Rev. Canon Ron Brownrigg. We then assembled at the Saracens Head, Little Brington for lunch there being approximately 40 in the party. This was a fitting climax to a very successful and enjoyable weekend.

We now await with great interest details of a further pilgrimage that Canon Jim and Canon Ron are putting together in the autumn of this year to Lebanon and Syria.

DFB

## WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The following items of interest were discussed at the P.C.C meeting which took place on 23rd November 1995:-

HEATING PIPES Work now completed in re-siting pipes at a total cost of £40.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE There does not appear to be any advantage in obtaining a suitable mower through the Church Purchasing Scheme. Brampton Church offered for sale a secondhand mower but this is a rather heavy machine which would make it difficult to mow around the gravestones. Further prices to be obtained for a suitable new mower. Whilton Parish Council made a donation of £40 to cover this year's costs (petrol, oil etc.).

CHURCH LIGHTING Work to be carried out to install two spotlights to shine on altar and reredos also a light for the organ pedal board. Quotation for the work £89.

CHRISTMAS CARDS A specimen Christmas card to be delivered to all homes was viewed by the committee. Mr Ellison agreed to explore the possibility of obtaining a supply of good quality black and white prints for next Christmas.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE REPORT All six churches in the Benefice had been requested to identify three recommendations that would be of benefit to their own parish or the Benefice as a whole. After a detailed discussion the voting was in favour of the following:-

- a) The encouragement of young people to participate in the life of the Church.
- b) The provision of a monthly United Service for all six parishes.
- c) The appointment of a non-stipendiary minister to share the Incumbent's workload,

PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT In view of the long discussion on the October Conference Report Canon Richardson restricted his report to a request for photographs of individual people of the village to be used as part of a visual aid display for St Andrew's Day Family Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT The treasurer reported that most of the income to the Fabric Fund had been for the Church clock. To cover the cost of the recent restoration £524 was still needed. Concern was expressed that the balance in the General Fund is some fifty per cent down since the beginning of the financial year, and predicted there would be a shortfall of at least £300 income to meet the year's expenditure.

UNBLINC REPORT The successful village walks are to be repeated next year. Provisional date for Whilton is Sunday 7th July 1996. Tea towels have sold well (Whilton 70) and for next year Christmas cards/notelets are being considered for sale. Whilton P.P.C. agreed to an idea of holding a Benefice cricket match with side stalls next summer.

FUND RAISING REPORTS The Clay Pigeon Shoot raised £150 towards the Church Clock Fund.  
The Flower Festival / Open Gardens weekend would be June 22nd/23rd 1996.

CHARITABLE GIVING It was agreed that donations be made to a number of charities.

CARE OF CHURCH LINEN Mrs Trudy Haynes wished to be relieved of this duty and Canon Richardson thanked her for her many years of caring work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 25th February 1996.

D.F.B.

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VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The village hall committee has its AGM in January and will be looking at the administration and maintenance of the hall for 1996 and at any social/fund raising events it plans to organise. It is also good to look back on 1995 and note that use of the hall increased during that year. Playgroup used it for five sessions per week in the summer term, First Aid courses have been introduced by Anne Kilgour and more people in the village have used either the hall or the hall equipment (tables, crockery, cutlery etc.) for private functions than in previous years. We hope this will continue through 1996. Should anyone wish to use the hall or borrow any equipment (very reasonable charges) please contact me on 842618

The "Christmas do" on Saturday 9th December went very well. We did not sell as many tickets as we would have liked but then as everyone is so busy at Christmas it is perhaps understandable. Anthea Hiscock, Brigid Fisher, Shirley Brown and myself cooked a hot sit down supper and desserts were gratefully received from other villagers (thanks Janet and Jean). Derek Brown ran a good bar with plenty of beer and wine. The November 200 Club Draw and the Christmas Grand Draw were taken (see below for winners) and then the evening was wonderfully rounded off by Derek Coates who sang to us all. He has a vast collection of folk songs and a phenomenal memory for the words. Thank you very much Derek.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of the Village Hall.

Mary Kane  
Secretary

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200 CLUB WINNERS

|     |           |   |        |             |
|-----|-----------|---|--------|-------------|
| Nov | 1st Prize | - | No.012 | R & S Green |
|     | 2nd Prize | - | No.036 | B.Rogers    |
|     | 3rd Prize | - | No.024 | C.Battison  |
| Dec | 1st Prize | - | No.155 | D.Scott     |
|     | 2nd Prize | - | No.079 | S.Thorne    |
|     | 3rd Prize | - | No.068 | T.Price     |

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Yearly Review of Crime in Whilton

1995 saw a decrease in reported crime in the Daventry area and this trend has been reflected in Whilton.

During the year there were no reported crimes of violence, no break-ins to property, no theft of household goods and no vandalism. Criminal acts were limited to theft and/or damage to vehicles.

### Summary of Reported Crime in 1995

April - theft of horse box (later returned)  
July - two cars entered and damaged in Langton Rise  
August - theft of boy's mountain bike  
September - four cars entered at different times. One car was vandalised and property stolen.

There was also a complaint to the police during July concerning young people drinking and throwing stones in the early hours of the morning.

During the year several calls were made to Daventry Police regarding pedlars and door-to-door salesmen etc. in the village. These calls were answered and investigated.

Advice remains not to buy from these people and never to allow them into your home for any reason whatsoever.

### Cascade Telephone System

This system has been in operation since October 1993 (to help protection of our village) and was used twice during 1995. Each occasion warned householders against employing "tradespeople" who were in the area offering "building services" for example, roofing, gardening, Tarmacing etc.

It has proved to be a speedy and generally efficient way of spreading information but it does rely on the goodwill of each recipient in making sure that the message given is passed on.

Please note that if the next person on your list is unavailable you pass on down the list ringing each number until a contact is made. For the system to work you must ensure that anyone missed is notified at a later time either by phone or by a note through the door. If you experience any problems please ring your Co-ordinator.

Crime Prevention

Crime can be prevented and in this the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have an important part to play. Neighbourhood Watch in Whilton works well and we have two Co-ordinators namely Christine Bilsborough (842860) and Derek Brown (842968) who regularly attend N.W Community Meetings at Long Buckby. At these meetings co-ordinators from villages in the area meet members of the local police force to discuss local crime. Relevant information is passed on and advice given where necessary. In this way a partnership between the community and Daventry Police is established and it has proved to be an important part in the fight against crime.

Continued concern for our security, an awareness of our neighbourhood and care for our neighbours are three of the best methods of crime prevention.

If you see or hear anything suspicious (even if it appears insignificant) ring Daventry Police immediately.

DAVENTRY POLICE - 01327 300300

Christine Bilsborough

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PLAYGROUP

The Spring term for the playgroup started again on Monday 8th January with twelve children on the register and vacant places for another six until Easter when we have a new intake of four children.

The sessions are continuing to run three times each week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in Whilton Village Hall from 9.30 am - 12 noon.

This term is very busy for the children usually with an outing to a local farm to see the new spring lambs.

A fund raising event is being planned for 31st March when a sponsored walk will take place by the mums around the Brington countryside of approximately eight miles.

For any enquiries please contact:-

Elaine Aldham (Supervisor)  
01327 341422

Sue Green (Whilton)  
01327 843883

## Summary of Events

Mon	5th	Feb.	7.30	Whilton Gardeners' Association Successful Vegetable Growing
Wed	14th	Feb	7.30	W.I. Meeting
Thurs	25th	Feb		Parochial Church Council Meeting
Mon	4th	Mar	8.00	Parish Council Meeting
Wed	13th	Mar'	7.30	W.I. Meeting
Wed	13th	Mar		April Newsletter Deadline

Why not tell us what events are planned during April and May - and beyond - so that we can inform everyone in the parish about local activities!

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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