

# Whilton Newsletter

February 1997



STONE HOUSE WHILTON  
about 1900

## Job Vacancy

### Parish Clerk

The post of Clerk to the Council is vacant and the Parish Council is urgently looking for someone to fill that role. It is an interesting position and particularly worthwhile for both the post holder and the community. It would take up only a few hours of your time a week. The Parish needs your help. Please call Anne Heeley for an informal chat.

843270

## **Whilton Parish Council Report**

The first meeting of 1997 was held in the village hall on Monday 6 January. Amongst the issues discussed were:

### **Street Lights**

A number of problems have occurred recently regarding street lights not lit in the dark. This problem has caused pedestrians difficulty and is currently being drawn to the attention of East Midlands Electricity. If you find a particular street light is not lit at night please make a note of the number displayed on the column and inform Mrs. Beryl Williams. Beryl is the person authorised to report faults to East Midlands Electricity, they will not act upon instructions from anyone else.

## **Winter Gritting**

As you know the road through Whilton village is not designated as a priority for gritting, we are however, provided with grit/sand in the yellow roadside bins. This is for spreading on the highway. Mrs. Janet Bowers has again kindly agreed to act as the Parish Council snow representative and undertakes amongst other things the task of checking that the grit bins are topped up by the County Council. Thanks to those who helped by gritting the road during the recent snow, especially the people with the spreader/tractor, it made passage through the village safer.

## **Planning**

Permission has been granted by Daventry District Council for the use of the existing farm track and extension thereto to provide a special stage circuit at Whilton Mill. The permission will remain in operation until October 1998.

### Allotment Vacancies

There will be two half allotments vacant as from 1 April, they are situated together and could be tended as one whole plot - £12 whole, £6 half - for the year.

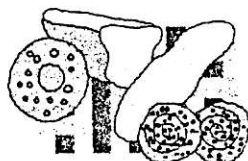
Contact the Clerk as soon as possible to register your interest.

Anne Heeley  
Clerk to the Council  
01327 843270

## WHILTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### JANUARY 1997 MEETING

The first meeting of 1997 was a break from the traditional speaker with two members providing us with "Bread Sampling" from around the world.



The evening was organised by Teresa Leadbetter & Josie Jelley. It provided us with an opportunity to try to recognise, taste and sample bread from as far as Russia, Spain, Italy, France and of course England.

Thanks were extended to Teresa Leadbetter for giving us such an enjoyable evening. It was fitting that she won the raffle.

The question of **self defence classes** was finalised and arranged for **eight** sessions to commence on **14th February at 6.30 pm**: the session will be for **one hour**. The cost will be **£15 per person plus the shared cost of hiring the hall**. The **minimum** number of participants is **eight** and the **maximum** is **twelve**. It will be on a first come first served basis at the first class and the total money for the eight sessions will need to be paid then.

The course will be run by Mr Phillip Clarke and if you need any further information you can contact me on **01327 843221**.

**Christine Messinger**

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### VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 1996

In the December issue of Whilton Newsletter mention was made of a cheque for £40 received as winner of the Class 1 Category in the Village of the Year section. In addition to this we are also holding an amount of £20 which we were awarded in 1993.

The thinking behind the making of these monetary awards is that it should be used to improve in some way the environment within the village and also for the benefit of the community. Whilst this is not a vast sum of money we feel it would be appropriate to try to put it to the use for which it was intended.

**We are seeking suggestions from residents of the village. Can you please help? Any ideas to the undersigned.**

**Derek Brown (842968)**  
Whilton Parish Council

## \* NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH \*

There has been no reported crime in Whilton so far this year.

However Daventry Police have warned of a considerable increase in the number of daylight burglaries committed recently in the area. Several nearby villages have been targeted so it is vitally important that we remain vigilant. Keeping eyes and ears open to anything or anybody of a suspicious nature in the village. Anything unusual should be reported to Daventry Police immediately who will investigate further.

### THINK SECURITY BEFORE LEAVING HOME

A reminder of basic crime prevention advice, always follow it when going out even if only for a short time:-

- 1) Check all windows are closed.
- 2) Lock all house doors
- 3) Lock garage and shed doors.
- 4) Shut front gates (very important and sometimes forgotten)
- 5) If possible set burglar alarm.
- 6) Finally - always tell a neighbour if you are going away and remember to cancel milk, papers etc.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MAGAZINE

A new magazine for Northamptonshire, sponsored by Premium Search, has just been published. It is hoped to continue this publication twice each year and every home in Whilton will be supplied with a copy.

Northamptonshire Police Force support all Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and emphasise how the public can act in partnership with the police to effectively prevent and detect crime.

Daventry Police, together with our local policeman PC Gary Wright, work closely with local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to reduce the level of crime in our own village.

DAVENTRY POLICE 300300

Christine Bilborough

**SOMEONE IS RE-CYCLING OUR BOXES -** Regrettably we have to report yet another loss of one of our resident's blue and red re-cycle boxes.

**It is strongly recommended that you remove the boxes as soon as possible after being emptied TO A POSITION OUT OF SIGHT.**

### WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A meeting was held on Thursday, 28th November, 1996 and the following is an extract of items discussed which it is hoped will be of interest.

- A) The old mower belonging to the church has been passed to the care of the allotment holders to help them to keep the grass area mowed.
- B) Mr Clifford Ellison designed and had printed 1500 Christmas cards which were all sold.
- C) The Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches sent a letter to the P.C.C. complimenting them in the warmest terms on the way the church has been maintained. (as shown by the recent Quinquennial Inspection).
- D) It was announced that the Revd. Maurice Walton would be starting his Non-Stipendiary Ministry in January and will eventually move into Church Brampton Rectory.
- E) UNBLINC - Arrangements are being made for a Benefice outing in 1997 (probably to Hereford Cathedral)
- F) Hymn Books - It was agreed that 60 copies of "Hymns Old and New" be purchased and John Townley Snr. kindly offered to provide a copy for the organ (words and music).
- G) Pew runners - Samples obtained from a firm which specialises in the fitting of carpet pew runners were considered. The Secretary was asked to obtain another estimate.
- H) Concert by "Mixed Spice" - Mr Ellison reported that tickets were selling reasonably well.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY, 1997

D.F.B.  
Parochial Church Council.



## Whilton W.I.

One of the pleasures of belonging to Whilton W.I. is the annual event which we know as "Members' Night". Our tradition is that on the last meeting of the year, in December, three members volunteer to provide a meal for the others, with a little gentle entertainment in the Christmas spirit. The preparation for this event involves a fair amount of work for three people but we always have those who really do "volunteer". Of course, this means they can sit back next year and enjoy someone else's preparations.

Each year is different, because every trio of members has slightly different ideas and talents, and this year was no exception. Kath Wright, Janet Bowers and Anne Kilgour made the Village Hall look warm and festive with Christmas decorations and candles and crackers on the table. After a delicious soup we helped ourselves to a colourful and varied cold buffet with jacket potatoes, and were then tempted with far too many delectable sweets, before finishing up with coffee and mints. The hard part of the evening for most of us was answering the two quizzes. One involved identifying berries, birds and butterflies and the other, which proved extremely difficult, was to identify photographs of each other as we were as children.

Besides all this activity, each member brought a small, gift-wrapped present, Ros Gardner's, wrapped as an angel, being voted the best. We also had a raffle and the proceeds of this were donated to a Children's Hospice. We left the hall at the end of the evening clutching our Christmas presents, feeling replete and knowing that Christmas 1996 had begun. We also had that comfortable feeling that someone else was washing up and putting everything away.

Thank you Kath, Janet and Anne. It was a lovely evening.

Anthea Hiscock

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## WHILTON MILLENNIUM MAP PROJECT

As the year 2000 approaches we are hearing more and more about celebrations being planned. We have begun to think about Whilton's plans and have now had two meetings about the map, which we hope to make and hang in Whilton Village Hall in that year.

We have formed a "committee", in order to be able to apply for grants and so that there is a point of contact for people. We have two officers, myself and Teresa Leadbetter, who is treasurer. This does not mean that **you** are not invited to meetings. Please come and have your say if you are interested.

We are intending to spend the next few months in discussion and designing, so that everyone has a chance to make suggestions. We already have too many to use but we need to come to some consensus! It may be that something not yet suggested may link other ideas.

The next meeting to which **you** are invited will be in the Village Hall on Friday, 21 February. We hope that the committee members will come to this with their own rough sketches or written ideas. If anyone has ideas please bring them, or just come and join in.

There is another way in which you may like to help. At Christmas you received a "Whilton Alphabet", on which you could fill in your thoughts about the parish in alphabetical order. If you have not managed to do this yet, it is not too late to let me have it, as these alphabets may open up new ways of creating a map or impression of Whilton.

Anthea Hiscock

## Whilton Gardeners' Association

### Annual General Meeting - 2nd December, 1996

Before the meeting commenced a new secretary had to be appointed and Gill Noden from Welton was happy to accept the position. The reports mentioned that the village had been awarded an East Midlands in Bloom certificate and that, in spite of the wide selection of speakers who had attended during the previous year, membership had dropped to 38 members. Following the election of officers (with the exception of the Purchasing Officer for which a volunteer is sought) the reports were adopted.

The subject for the evening should have been "Encouraging Birds to the Garden" but the speaker was unable to attend and Dewi Morris of the Daventry Country Park stepped in at short notice with slides and a talk on the country park. At the time he had only been at the park for three weeks and cited his objectives as being to encourage participation in and an understanding of the countryside. To assist in this education the keeper's cottage has been converted into a visitor centre and has been adopted by a local school and hides have been erected for bird watching.

Dewi was born in Shropshire and interestingly, though he had been forced to garden as a youngster, he now loves it. He has worked in similar jobs in a variety of locations: Slapton Lee Nature Reserve in Devon, at Basildon and in Stockport, where the old cotton mill sites have been converted and landscaped. His responsibilities now extend to Borough Hill, which has recently been opened and where English Heritage are behind a hedgerow initiative.

There are many schemes in progress at the country park, including nesting boxes - hints were given on where to site such boxes (not facing north or south) and there is also a recording scheme. It is recommended, if you have a nesting box, not to clean it out for about six weeks after the birds have left as some fledglings may return for shelter. Hints were also given on feeding birds: once you start feeding birds in your own garden be sure to keep it up whilst they need it, birds are wary of predators and appreciate a place from which to survey a feeding area such as a washing line or bush. If you have a feeding table move it occasionally as waste builds up which can carry salmonella. Peanuts fed to birds must be untreated and the feeding of bread to ducks is not encouraged as they tend to fill up on it at the expense of more nutritious food.

Besides the birds the habitat is also of great importance - Dewi stressed the importance of planning and passing on plans to successors to ensure the management continues. Wild flowers are an important nectar source for insects and invertebrates which in turn attract bats and birds. The meadows were planted when the bypass road was put in and wild areas have been established which encourage white grass snakes.

This was a very enjoyable, relaxed evening with a speaker who obviously loved his work and was only too happy to talk about it. Frances Drake gave a vote of thanks.

Teresa Leadbetter

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### Milk tops, foil etc. & stamps

Grateful thanks to all who saved the stamps from their Christmas mail and let us have them, and to the regular savers of foil, etc. It has meant that we were able to deliver a bumper pack of stamps to Lyncrest this week, together with three sacks of foil, etc.

Well done. Keep up the good work!

Trudy Haynes

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## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

We are now in a position to announce the level of prizes for 1997 which are as follows:

1st - £40      2nd - £20      3rd - £10

These are the monthly prizes January - December inclusive. However, if the renewal membership is greater than that used for accessing the above prizes, the payments in December will be enhanced.

Congratulations to the prizewinners for November and December draws:-

November	1st Prize	No.134	C.Messinger
	2nd Prize	No.030	K. & J. Davies
	3rd Prize	No.024	C.T.Battison
December	1st Prize	No.191	G.Haynes
	2nd Prize	No.074	D,Scott
	3rd Prize	No.117	C.Fisher

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### **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST**

At the beginning of this century, a decision was made to produce a comprehensive County History of Northamptonshire.

Progress has been very slow. Volumes 1 and 2 were published in 1902 and 1906, volumes 3 and 4 in the 1930's. There have been no further volumes and the history is far from complete. The Parish of Whilton, (with 166 other parishes), was not covered, neither was the history of agriculture, nor has there been an update on industry. Reprints (1970) of these first four volumes are available as reference books in the Daventry Library.

The Northamptonshire Victoria County History Trust has been established to ensure that this history is completed as a project for the millennium and it is expected that there will be a further six volumes. The Trust is raising funds and has already appointed two professional researchers (on 5-year contracts) who will be examining documents held locally, and at other places throughout the country. Attention will also be given to village 'memories' as the Trust is encouraging co-operative research, and there are opportunities for local people to attend courses and make a contribution to the research. Where it is not possible to include all information gathered in the published volumes, full foot-notes will direct searchers to other sources of information.

A few years ago, the people of Whilton produced a superb Village Appraisal, a co-operative venture which created a lot of interest in the history of the village. Anyone interested in further serious research on Whilton, or any aspects of the county, may be able to contribute to the work of the Victoria County History Trust.

I have more information describing the project and progress so far which is available to anyone who wishes to see it.

Beryl Williams, Sira, Main Street. tel. 01327 842091



## St. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Once again St Andrew's Church was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. The angels, designed and produced by Mr. Clifford Ellison, moved gently in the air flow of the chancel, the candles glowed, the holly and floral decorations looked superb and it was lovely to see large congregations for this special season.

It was also very rewarding to see so many new readers taking part, both in the Christmas services and those since, a result of the Pass-it-on Campaign.

On the 19th January we welcomed our new N.S.M. (non-stipendiary minister) for the Benefice, the Revd. Maurice Walton, who officiated at the Sung Eucharist service. He and his wife had hoped to move into the Brampton Rectory in mid January but unfortunately this has been delayed until Easter time.

As we enter 1997 perhaps we can reflect on the past year. What have we done for St. Andrew's and what has the church done for the community? Firstly, perhaps we have attended services, assisted with them, read lessons, provided flowers and cleaned the brasses, been part of the cleaning team (more names would be welcome on this rota), or in some other way worked for the good of our church.

Secondly - what has the church done for the community? Members have visited the sick, both at home and in hospitals. Two members are carers for the elderly. A reasonable portion of our income has been donated to charity, the collection from the carol singing was sent to the Macmillan Nurses (see separate entry) and donations of food have regularly been taken to the Northampton Soup Kitchen throughout most of 1996.

It is surprising how much is done quietly and efficiently, without publicity, and unless you are part of the church community you would probably not know.

Before this year has passed, hopefully, a new priest will be appointed and be with us to guide us to an even greater and more caring church community.

Janet Bowers

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### Services at St. Andrew's

For details of church services please refer to the list on the village notice board. A copy of the list of services from January to March throughout the whole of the Benefice is available in the church.

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**Whilton Church Carol Singers** would like to thank everyone for supporting them and giving generously to the collection for the Macmillan Nurses' funds. A total of £120.56 was sent to them via the Cynthia Spencer Hospice and a very appreciative letter of thanks has been received.

Sue Townley

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## Freda Pride

Whilton lost one of its oldest residents in December 1996, with the death of Miss Freda Pride, who had reached her 90th birthday last February. She had spent the last twelve months or so in the Wheatsheaf Court Nursing Home at Daventry, but apart from this her home had always been in Whilton and Roughmoor.

Freda and her younger sister, Betty, were the daughters of Mr and Mrs George Pride who farmed at Roughmoor. They were a farming family and both girls helped. When the parents were ill during the war they were cared for by the two daughters and, when their father died, Freda took over responsibility for the farm.

After the death of Mrs Pride the farm was sold and Freda and Betty moved down to the village. They lived for a short time in one of the new council houses in South View, but they soon acquired Dormer Cottage, which remained their home until last year.

Freda and Betty had many talents and some of these were used to enrich village life over many years. Although it was Betty who played the church organ and taught many local children to play the piano, Freda was musical too, and for a time was part of the WI Recorder Group, who met at their home for a year or two.

Freda was also a painter and could sometimes be seen at work with her easel out in the village. Some time after they moved into Dormer Cottage, Mrs Sanderson's cottage next door became available and Freda and Betty bought this. They used the building to develop their own creative talents and to help others. Betty had a piano downstairs, where she taught and held church choir practices, and Freda used the upstairs as her painting studio and sewing room.

Her paintings mainly depicted the garden, the church and local views. Perhaps these reflected some of her special interests. She loved gardening and, even in recent years, would go out to help weed the flower bed by the church, besides keeping Dormer Cottage garden beautiful. She was a lifelong member of St. Andrew's Church, only a few steps from the cottage and, although a retiring person, she was concerned for the environment around her, often picking up litter left by careless passers by, even in her old age. She also enjoyed going on village outings to visit great houses and their gardens.

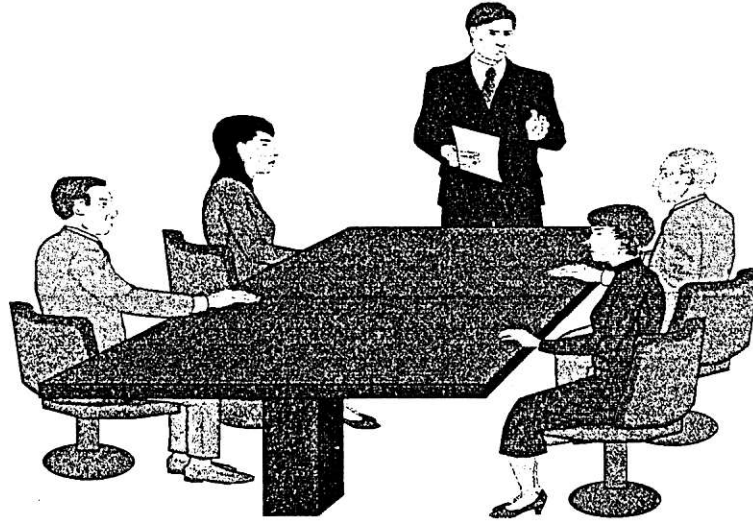
Freda will also be remembered as a good cook, always willing to provide refreshments for village events or marmalade and preserves for a stall. She believed in good, pure ingredients and would never exchange butter for margarine. Perhaps that is why people enjoyed her baking so much!

In 1949, when Whilton W I was first formed, Freda and Betty were founder members, and later Freda became president for a time. Both sisters remained active members for years, and other WI members have happy memories, especially of inventive hats they made for Christmas events. In 1965 the Queen held a garden party at Buckingham Palace, on the fiftieth birthday of the WI, and Freda won the ballot to represent Whilton. Older members remember that it was felt particularly appropriate, as she was so much a part of the local institute.

Freda has left a quiet, but positive stamp on village life, and will be remembered with affection by all who knew her.

Anthea Hiscock

# WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL.



## WANTED

The council has a vacancy for a Clerk from the end of January. There are normally 6 meetings a year with occasional short meetings to discuss urgent business, like planning applications. Salary is based on national guidelines and is reviewed annually. Training courses are available which could lead to a recognised qualification. This position is open to anybody aged 16+ who would like to help the community and be paid to do it. For an informal chat please contact the present Clerk, Anne Heeley on 843270 or the Chairman, Mike Lewis on 842404.

## Summary of Events

- Sun 2 Feb 10.00am United Benefice Sung Eucharist - **Church Brampton**
- Mon 3 Feb 7.30pm Whilton Gardeners Association **CANCELLED**
- Wed 12 Feb 7.30 pm Whilton Women's Institute - "The Paramedic Service"
- Fri 14 Feb 6.30 pm Self Defence Classes commence - Village Hall
- Fri 21 Feb Millennium meeting - Village Hall
- Mon 24 Feb 2.30pm PCC meeting - Old Plough
- Sun 2 Mar 10.00am United Benefice Sung Eucharist - **Whilton**
- Mon 3 Mar 8.00pm Parish Council meeting
- Sun 9 Mar 10.00am Mothering Sunday - Family Eucharist - 10.00am
- Wed 12 Mar 7.30pm Women's Institute - Open Meeting - "Hopping around Oz"
- Thur 13 Mar **Newsletter Deadline (N.B. early due to Easter)**
- Sun 23 Mar 10.00am Palm Sunday - Benefice Sung Eucharist - **East Haddon**
- Tue 25 Mar 7.30pm Night Office of Compline - Whilton Church
- Sun 30 Mar British Summer Time begins
- Sun 30 Mar 6.00pm Sung Eucharist for Easter Day

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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 - The Old Plough, Main Street  
Mrs. Trudy Haynes - The Old Plough, Main Street  
Mrs. Shirley Brown - Cherry Orton, Main Street  
Mrs. Anne Heeley - Springbank, Brington Lane

Contributions to the newsletter to any of the above by the deadline date, please

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