

WHILTON NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2010



All are welcome to the next
VILLAGE SOCIAL LUNCH



This Fair Trade Lunch will be on
Thursday 25th February 2010
in the Village Hall
at 12.30 for 1 p.m.
£4 per head

Please book your place by
Saturday 20th February

Contacts:

Shirley Brown: 842968 and Ros Gardner: 842324

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The next Tuesday Chat will be on **23rd March**
at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

All welcome to join us for this friendly occasion
with refreshments.

Please bring 1.50 to cover costs.

We apologise for the late printing of this newsletter due to unforeseen circumstances
DEADLINE FOR APRIL / MAY NEWSLETTER

The date for the above is **Thursday, 25th March, 2010**. Any time before that date
would be even better to allow us time to plan the layout.

The deadline date is always printed in the diary at the back .

Parish Matters

The last Parish Council was held on Monday 4 January 2010 when 5 Parish Councillors and 2 parishioners were present.

It was agreed that from May 2010, the Parish Council meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of alternate months, this change is to be made so all the councillors can attend.

Mike Lewis attended the Parish & Town Councils' Meeting in December. In this meeting it was reported that, among other matters, there is no road resurfacing programme planned for Whilton.

The Northampton County Council gully emptying schedule for Whilton is January 2010 so it should have been done by now or about to be.

A letter has been sent to Northamptonshire County Council to addressing the ongoing problems with the following – the water at Whilton Locks by the railway bridge, the pothole by Whilton Locks Cottages, the handrail and fence by South View, the benching by the building adjacent to the Green and finally, and by no means least, the blocked drain in Brington Lane.

Finance – the meeting agreed the payments for the printing of the newsletter, the annual subscription of the Open Space Society, the Clerk's salary, street lighting maintenance and the water for the allotment, the purchase of wood preservative for the seats etc. and the purchase of 2 new mowers (the old ones are now unrepairable). The mowers will be purchased from the 'replacement of equipment' funds already set aside for this purpose.

The proposed budget for 2010/11 was agreed as follows-

	Proposed Budget 2010/11
	£
Administration	1850
Clerks salary	2000
Training	500
Newsletter	380
Churchyard maintenance	50
Trees maintenance	100
Parish Competitions	100
Allotments	160
Street Lighting & Fund towards new street light	1200
Maintenance of street furniture	20
Village sign	300
Roughmoor Spinney Grant	500
Total payments	7160

It was decided that the Precept required for 2010/11 would be £6600 and the remainder would be used from the reserves.

The national Stop the Drop Campaign (litter picking) is to be held between 9-18 April. The date for Whilton's litter pick is to be decided at the March meeting – all help would be welcome.

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Monday 1st March at 7.30pm in the village hall.

A future date for your diary -

The annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Monday 26 April 2010 at 7.30pm

Alison Nicoll
Parish Clerk

Neighbourhood Watch

Since our last newsletter report the parish unfortunately has seen two crimes committed. Before Christmas a vehicle parked in the main street had a window broken and property stolen and then more recently a garage at Whilton Locks was broken into and a mountain bike was stolen.

If you should see or hear anything suspicious call Northamptonshire Police Switchboard Tel: **03000 111 222** or the dedicated Neighbourhood watch **01604 432436** or **999** in an emergency. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously **0800 555 111**.

Ros Gardner, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

I have today received the following email.

Dear All,

Daventry Rural South Safer Community Team will shortly be undergoing some changes, we will be increasing our staff numbers by two. The change that directly affects the 'Crick Beat' is a change of PCSO. As you all know I have been the PCSO for your area for quite a number of years now. I have recently been offered the role of Sponsored PCSO for the Crick, Kilsby and Dirft area, which I have accepted.

I am of course very sad to be leaving the villages I have patrolled for many years. I am also very pleased to be offered this opportunity as sponsored PSCO and look forward to the new challenge.

I will continue to update all of the villages as before on news/crimes etc, but will be handing over the main part of my current role to PCSO Sarah Gray.

Sarah is a lovely lady and an excellent PCSO, she already knows many of the villages well, as we all cover each others villages when there is a requirement. She is very excited about working on this beat and I know you will be able to rely on her to do her best.

I would like to thank all of NHW and Parish Councils for the support you have given me over the years, I will do my best to get around in person in the near future to say thank you.

The changes will take effect from Feb 1st, but there will be a short period of handover between officers, before and after this date.

Please do continue to keep in touch as Sarah and I work on the same team and our beats do cover some of the same area.

*Warmest Regards
Lorraine*

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

VISITS WHILTON EVERY THIRD TUESDAY AND STOPS OUTSIDE THE OLD PLOUGH, MAIN STREET AT 9.15 AM UNTIL 9.30 AM.

THE DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2010 ARE 2ND & 23RD & THE MARCH DATE IS 16TH

Tales of the Locks—5

by Tom Price

Confessions of a reluctant organist

When he opened the Bannaventa pub, David Steele hoped it would become a magnet for discriminating diners. He equipped the upstairs banquet hall with a good stage and a sound system, and purchased an expensive Japanese-made piano.

This acquisition was the first of a chain of events that led to me, a confirmed atheist, attending church without fail every Sunday morning for the next 17 years.

It was the best piano I had ever played – and I had been playing for many years, entirely by ear, for pub sing-songs and amateur jazz groups. There I sat, banging out some boogie-woogie, a cigarette hanging from the side of my mouth, when I became aware of a very interested listener, a small rosy-cheeked little woman.

She was Jessie Allibone, who lived at the Laundry Cottage down the slip road leading from the Locks to the A5. The only reason she would ever have ventured into any pub was that she was the local distributor of poppies and collecting boxes for the British Legion, and she had come to persuade the licensee to support the forthcoming poppy day appeal.

“Can you play any hymns?” she asked.

I confessed that I had often played Bread of Heaven and other well known golden oldies to football and rigger fans in sundry drinking holes. I demonstrated my skill by thumping out a slow-rock version of Amazing Grace.

“Just what we’re looking for,” exclaimed Jessie. She revealed that the parish church at Norton would soon be desperate for an organist, as the current holder of the office, young Philip Shepherd, was giving it up.

She thought I would be ideal for the job, in spite of my protests that I could barely read a note of music, had never played a church organ, and was a militant opponent of religion.

Her remarkable persuasive power was so great that after a brief inspection I fell completely in love with the pure baroque sound of the Norton organ. In spite of being advised “don’t do it!” by Whilton church’s organist Betty Pride, who taught piano and held regular “Sings” for church folk in the deanery, I soon became Norton’s official village organist – and was launched into the steepest learning curve of my life.

From start to finish of my new career I struggled to master the dots of the written music. And I never overcame the nervous sweats that assailed me high up in the organ loft at the back of the church. Miss Pride gave a smug grin when I told her of my terror of coping with an impossible jump up the keyboard in Mendelssohn’s wedding march. She said it served me right, and that the only answer was practice and more practice. “Rubbing your hands in olive oil will make the fingers more supple.” she added.

I gave up trying to play the ancient tunes for the psalms; they seemed to originate from a mysterious foreign culture. But after weeks of practice under Father Knibbs’s guidance I managed to get through the complex (to me) sung service by Rutter, used for Holy Communion. A four-day course at the Royal School of Church Music in Croydon helped. There I met other so-called “reluctant” organists who were in much the same boat. One of our main tutors was Janet Cooper, from Roedean Girls’ College, who later gave a memorable recital on my little organ at Norton.

When playing a hymn I had to concentrate on reading the notes to such an extent that I invariably forgot how many verses I had played. The only way out of this was to have someone sitting by me to give me a nudge and to whisper “one more verse” at the right moment. My wife and daughters and young Valerie Luck from the village very kindly took on this role, and also pumped the organ with a lever during the odd times when the electric motor providing air to the pipes conked out.

I never really got to grips with the foot pedals of the organ, in spite of much practice. One winter I developed an excruciating pain in the sole of one of my feet, where a small red spot appeared. I had to pay a visit to Doctor How, who delightedly announced: "This is the first actual case I have ever encountered of trench foot." He diagnosed its cause to be a cold spell, exacerbated by my nervousness and the sharp edge of the wooden seat restricting the blood supply to the legs.

At that time I was a heavy smoker, and often lit up during Father Knibbs's sermon. One morning for some reason the normal draughtiness of the venerable old building did not function, and I was unaware that the smoke was wreathing around the organ pipes like a rising ghostly mist.

The vicar suddenly paused in his discourse and looked up at my eyrie in alarm – but for only a second or two, until he realised what was going on. He told me afterward, with a dry smile: "I almost ordered an evacuation and the fire brigade."

Over the years I got to play the organs at other local villages, and heard some excellent local organists including John Townley senior, who still plays at Brington. I performed for weddings, funerals and baptisms and grew to love the old church and its organ, the wonderful old hymns and other sacred music – and especially the vicar and his wife (Betty, who now lives in Long Buckby) and his small regular congregation of mostly women. They were all good sorts and a credit to the community. I am sure I learnt other lessons as well as those of the job in hand.

Sometimes, I would let myself into the empty church for a practice session that would most likely end with a blast of a good old jazz favourite...perhaps a chorus or two of my own transcription of Fats Waller's "Aint Misbehavin'."

Next issue: The Locks joker who made world headlines



POSTAGE STAMPS

Used postage stamps are still being collected in the village by Trudy Haynes (please leave on the window sill by the back door of the Old Plough. The charity supported is the Leprosy Mission

Teresa Leadbetter, Wood View, also collects stamps for charity



WHILTON CAROL SINGERS would like to thank everyone for supporting them and giving so generously on Monday 21st December 2009.

£225 was donated to the Cynthia Spencer Hospice Trust fund.



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



What a cold start to the year but now we have dug ourselves out of the snow the Gardens should be bug free.

An excellent attendance to our Xmas Supper on 2nd December made it a very enjoyable evening. Congratulations to the Committee members and all who helped to make it go with a swing. Thanks also go to Christine and Neil Phillips for their interesting slide show which we were able to view during the meal also Kathleen Wright for the very pretty table centre piece. The success of the evening has ensured that it will be a annual event.

As membership secretary I would like to point out some of the many benefits of joining the Gardening Club;

- 1, 10% Discount at Whilton Garden Centre
- 2, Free visit to R.H.S Garden
- 3, 4 Speakers in Village Hall
- 4, up to 50% discount on Seed orders
- 5, Free Christmas Supper
- 6, Social events; Garden Parties, film shows, quiz's etc

Even if you only attend just one of these events your £10.00 Subscription will cover that outlay.

So what are you waiting for JOIN NOW

For further information contact;

Olive (General Dogsbody) Tel; 07921429228 or 01327 843169

Please check noticeboard for future dates and events. Thank you.

The AGM was held on February 3rd at 7.30pm in the village hall. (Too late for this newsletter). Information available from above telephone numbers.

Back to Front

The flowers are singing sweetly
The birds are in full bloom
I went down in the cellar
To sweep the upstairs room

I saw a house not far away
It was just out of sight
It stood alone, between two more
And was black washed white

ANON

ST ANDREWS CHURCH SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2010

7 th	10.00 am	Benefice Sung Eucharist At Brington
14 th	11.00 am	Family Service
17 th	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion At Brampton
21 st	9.15 am	Holy Communion
28 th	11.00 am	Family Service

MARCH

7 th	10.00 am	Benefice Sung Eucharist at Harlestone
14 th	11.00 am	Family Service
21 st	9.15 am	Holy Communion
28 th	10.00 am	Benefice Family Service for Palm Sunday

Winter Visitors

The last few weeks of snow have brought annoyances but also hopefully, pleasures for lots of us and I'm sure one of the latter, has been seeing different birds in the garden. I thought maybe some people might be interested to know that Richard and I have seen one or two strangers in the fields too.

On the weekend when snow finally turned to water, on one of the large 'temporary' lakes in the fields, we spotted four pretty little Common Teal ducks – the first time we've ever seen them here, away from the local reservoirs.

We've also had some great sightings of Common Snipe – a wader with a fairly long straightish beak. Over the years and in various seasons when walking in the fields around occasionally been birds flying up very habit to wait until the then rise up with a furiously. However, feeding places were have regularly seen three or even four, taking off from the ditches and streams around the boundaries of our fields, where no doubt they were still able to probe down to find a supply of their chosen foods.



Whilton, we've startled by one of these close to us; it is their very last moment and squawk, flapping recently, when other presumably frozen, we

I think it's great that we have such a wide variety of birds visiting us on our doorstep.

Ann Gilbert

Harold mentioned **Windmill Close, Dairy Ground and Donkey Field** as having obvious meanings, the Donkey Field being where the Rector kept the donkey which pulled the mowing machine over the Rectory lawns. The Donkey Field was next to a much larger old enclosure, known as the **Dove House Close**. The medieval dove house may well have stood in this field.

Harold wondered who was the Tarry of **Tarry's Orchard**. Edward Tarry was born in about 1832 in Chapel Brampton. His mother, Ann, had come from Whilton. When his father died, Edward came to live in The Old Cottage, Whilton, with his uncle John Dunkley, a bachelor. The records suggest he may have had an unhappy childhood, and this may be what prompted him to leave for Australia. When John Dunkley died in 1866, leaving his house and land to his nephew, Edward Tarry came back from Melbourne. He lived the rest of his life in the Old Cottage, being a grazier here. Presumably Tarry's Orchard was used for grazing and apple growing. Edward Tarry died a widower with no children in 1907.

Collins Orchard was remembered by Harold as a place for scrumping pears. There were Collins families in Whilton throughout the 19th century. In 1841 Thomas Collins and his family were living in a cottage next to the Wheatsheaf pub in Brington Lane; almost certainly it was they who gave the name to the field beyond their cottage. Thomas was an agricultural labourer.

Harold believed the three fields called **Butlins** to the north of the road going down Whilton Hill, may have once been farmed by William Langton Wright Butlin. In fact they were allotments to John Butlin at the enclosure in 1778. John Butlin must have been a relative of William Langton Wright Butlin and both were living in Whilton at this time. Later John Butlin seems to have moved to Duston, and let his farmland to Thomas Humphrey.

The Humphrey family were butchers and some were millers. Harold guessed that the two fields off the Brington Road known as **John Humphreys** were allotted to John Humphrey the butcher in 1778. This is probably correct. It is interesting that some of the original names of people who gained land at the enclosure have been preserved in these field names after two and a quarter centuries. **Lang's Hill Meadow** and **Langs Hill** were allotments to Perridge Langton and **Joe Langs** was allotted to Joseph Langton at the enclosure.

Harold noted that one of the fields in the glebeland has the intriguing name, "**Anglends**". This is in fact a very old name. The first record of it is in 1501, when it was part of the open **Fen Field**, and was known as Hanging Lands or Hanglands, that is "land on a slope".

Our next Local History Society meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd March 2010. The subject will be "**Worn in Whilton**": **records of wearing apparel over the centuries**.

All are welcome. Please bring £1-50 to cover expenses.

Anthea Hiscock



Parish and Town Plans Grant **BITESIZE**

Do you need money for a community consultation project?

Are you looking for funding for actions from your Parish Plan?

How does £500 with NO match funding sound?!

Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF), with whom we are working in partnership to deliver the Grassroots Grants Funding Programme, supports this extension of the current Parish Plan Grant Pot.

Through our work with parishes across the county, we have recognised a need for focused community consultations, which are on a smaller scale to Parish Plans, dealing with just one topic that a complete Parish Plan might cover. For example, many parishes are concerned about youth provision and would be interested in consulting with their young people and devising an action plan to take the results of their consultation forward, all of which could be accomplished within just a few months.

Also, many Parish Plan Steering Groups or Action Groups are struggling to move their completed Parish Plans forward because they are finding it difficult to get funding for their actions, which more often than not, are for relatively small amounts of money.

So, we have decided to respond to this need and extend the parameters of the Parish Plan Grant Pot to include applications for "Parish Plan Tasters" (with the encouragement and support to move towards a full Parish Plan following the successful completion of a 'taster' section) and also for actions that are directly born from previously completed Parish Plans.

Grants of up to £500 are now available with no requirement for match funding. The next **deadline** for applications is **Friday 26th March 2010**.

Application forms are available on Northamptonshire ACRE's website (www.northantsacre.org.uk) or direct from your Rural Officer:

Carolyn Howe – East Northamptonshire, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby
Beth Milne – Northampton, Daventry District and South Northamptonshire.

We look forward to hearing from you!

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Tues	23 rd	Feb	9.15 am	Library van in village outside the Old Plough
Thurs	25 th	Feb	12.30 pm	Village Social Lunch in Village Hall
Mon	1 st	March	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting in Village Hall
Sun	14 th	March	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday Service in St Andrew's Church
Tues	16 th	March	9.15 am	Library van in village outside the Old Plough
Tues	23 rd	March	2.30 pm	Tuesday Chat in the Village Hall
			7.30 pm	Whilton Local History Society—'Worn in Whilton' –V/Hall
Thurs	25 th	March		DEADLINE FOR FEB/MARCH NEWSLETTER Please hand in your contribution before this date or otherwise we cannot guarantee it will be included in the next edition.
Fri	26 th			Deadline for Grassroots Grant
Sun	28 th	March	10.00 am	Benefice Family Palm Sunday Service in St Andrew's Church

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.

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Please supply a disk or memory card with your distribution if not emailed so that we can manipulate the text to fit as necessary. If you do not have a PC or typewriter the editors will type the articles as they have always done in the past.

Articles of local interest, poems, recipes puzzles or drawings will always be considered for inclusion in the Newsletter.