



WHILTON NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1989

Ed's Notes

With the onset of the holiday season we will all be thinking about our unpredictable weather. Here are a couple of old sayings regarding this.

If St. Vitus Day (June 14th) be rainy weather,
It will rain for thirty days together.

To indicate that the weather will balance itself out.

Be it dry or be it wet,
The weather'll always pay its debt.

Let us hope June 14th is fine and warm.

Keep the articles rolling in!

Eds

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Parish Church

Sunday Services:	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays	at	6.00pm
	4th Sunday (Family Service)	at	9.30am
Sunday School:	1st & 3rd Sundays	at	10.30am.

It is something of a rarity - though also a pleasure - to have two Wedding Services scheduled at Whilton:-

June 24th Clare Jackson and Timothy Green
August 12th Tracey Eyton-Jones and David Lawson

We wish these young couples all joy as they prepare for the great occasion.

Churchyard Mr. Haynes will be pleased to receive offers of help with the churchyard as the few struggle through the season.

Brington Fete Saturday 1st July at The Old Rectory.

Elections/Appointments made at the annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting and meeting of the P.C.C. held on 25th March 1989.

Churchwardens: Mr. W. Adams
Mr. H. Haynes (also, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)

Deanery Synod: Mrs. J. Coles (also Secretary to P.C.C.)

Members of the Parochial Church Council (in addition to above ex officio members)

Mrs. J. Bowers (also Church Electoral Role officer)
Mr. C. Ellison
Mrs. G. Haynes
Mrs. S. Townley
Mrs. K. Wright.

Representative to Village Hall Committee	Mrs. K. Wright
Representative to Fete Committee	Mrs. A. Ellison & Mr. C. Ellison
Hon. Auditor	Mr. D. Heeley

Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 8th May in the Village Hall. As this meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting it was necessary to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. H. Haynes was elected Chairman and Mr. J. Gardner, Vice Chairman.

Items discussed included:-

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - The Parish Council agreed to provide two signs to be erected at either end of the village.

Parish Council Conference Mr. P. Bilsborough who attended this meeting on behalf of Whilton gave a report to the Council.

Parish Councils' Chairmen's Day Both Mr. H. Haynes and Mr. J. Gardner attended this meeting and gave a report to the Council.

Postal Service Following the representation made to the Post Office regarding erratic delivery times a response had been received from Royal Mail Letters saying that the service on Mondays and Thursdays would be improved.

Langton Rise Nameplate Mr. Haynes kindly volunteered to try and effect a local repair to this rather than the council get into drawn out correspondence with the District Council.

National Association of Local Councils It was agreed that the Council should renew its membership, at an annual fee of £30.

Planning Applications New proposal regarding development on land between "Kunda Cottage" and "The Old Manor House". As the original application for 4 houses has been refused, on the grounds of loss of "Valuable Open Space" a revised application had been received for 3 dwellings only with an open space being left at the side of Kunda Cottage.

The Parish Council observations were that:-

- a) One councillor felt the original comments should stand.
- b) Two councillors thought this application to be a reasonable compromise.
- c) Three councillors have no objection to the proposed development.

All agreed however that the delapidated stone boundary wall should be rebuilt and that the District Council should ensure that a legal agreement be entered into preventing development of the "open space" at the side of Kunda Cottage.

Road Improvements In view of the development at Home Farm and the proposed development on the land at the side of the Manor House, the Clerk was asked to write to the Council's Highways Dept. requesting sight of the proposals for improving the junction adjacent to Holly House. It was felt that the two developments now give an opportunity to improve the road situation in this area.

Bryants - Whilton Locks The Clerk was asked to obtain details from the District Council as to what could or could not be sold from this site as a result of the last planning approval.

Potholes The Clerk was asked to contact the County Highways Dept., to request infilling of the numerous potholes that have appeared in recent months.

Tidy Village Competition

a) Mr. Clements had kindly planted a Horse Chestnut tree on Glebe land by Whilton Hill, this being part of our prize from last years competition.

b) The Local Primary School was to be asked again to organise Tidy Village Competition Posters. Three prizes would be awarded.

SPECIAL NOTICE

At 7.30pm on the 3rd July 1989, in the Village Hall a member of Daventry District Council Treasurers Department will be giving a talk on all aspects of the Community Charge (Poll Tax). Please come along and learn all about this new form of local taxation which will affect us all from April 1990.

Jim Gardner

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PLEASE NOTE

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council would like it to be known that they are not empowered to make decisions regarding planning applications, but are merely asked to make observations which may or may not be taken into account when the Planning Committee of the District Council discusses the actual application. The Daventry District Council Planning Committee make the actual decisions.

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Best Kept Village and Churchyard Competitions

PLEASE NOTE: the first round judging takes place sometime during June.

Please make that special effort.

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The Village Hall Committee has examined closely all aspects which might be involved in building a new village hall for Whilton.

It much appreciated all the support from within the village and the offers of help that were forthcoming. However, the Committee has been unable to find a suitable site and is unlikely to proceed with the project unless a site becomes available which would be acceptable to the village.

Mary Kane
Secretary
Village Hall Committee

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Village Fete

It is with regret that the Fete Committee have to report that the Village Fete will not take place this year, due to the unavailability of Wadd Close field and the lack of another suitable site at this late time.

It has therefore been agreed to leave the monies in the deposit account to gain further interest, hopefully for a Fete next year.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

Whilton Gardener's Association

The Gardener's Association will be holding their annual vegetable, fruit and flower show on August 19th, 1989.

Details of the schedule will be circulated in the near future.

The W.I. will have a stall at this event.

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Brington Lawn Tennis Club

Whilton residents are most welcome to join the Tennis Club at Little Brington which is at "Hillcrest" on the main Whilton to Duston Road. Only five minutes drive from Whilton and well within cycling distance!

There are two grass courts and the club opens for the Summer Season on May 1st at 2.00pm and remains open (except for Sundays and Mondays) until the end of September.

The annual subscriptions are £7 for seniors and £3 for juniors aged between 12 and 16 years.

For further information please telephone Mrs. Dorothy Woodcock, Northampton 770361.

Mrs. Woodcock

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Collection of Milk tops etc and stamps

Two more sacks of milk tops and foil were taken to Lyncrest School a few weeks ago. One sack was from Whilton and the other from Mrs. Gwen Gardner and friends from Norton. We appreciate the kindness of our Norton Collectors in helping to increase our contribution.

At the moment the foil etc., is earning more cash than for some time.

I was shown the photograph of the latest puppy, the tenth, which has just been bought. It is a delightful golden labrador called Brandie. We also had a large bag of stamps which was gratefully received.

Many thanks and carry on saving.

Trudy Haynes

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I was recently given, by Mr. Adams, two parish newsletters of the 1950's, and thought that their contents might make interesting reading in this and future newsletters.

The cover shows the Church of St. Andrew complete with the four pinnacles on the tower. Nowhere, however, is a date shown for the production of the newsletter, it states that it is a monthly magazine. The date of the 1st magazine can be found in the annual meeting report of the Church Council. It is 1957. The layout is similar to our present day except that there is a junior section at the back, giving congratulations to those children who have had a birthday, and also a story told in serial form.

In the second magazine is a report on a village wedding with details of the bride's dress, attendants etc. (Maybe these ideas could be taken up again). The opening page of the first edition is as follows.

The Church and the Parish

"This is to be a Parish paper. In it are to be found recorded, as will be seen on the cover, the affairs of the Parish of St. Andrew Whilton. Now if you look on a map which shows the Parish boundaries, or if you look at the list of Parishes kept, say, by the Daventry Rural District Council or the County Council you will see only "Whilton" and not St. Andrew's Whilton. The Parish is in fact made separate from the Church.

This is wrong. It is because it is wrong that in the most important place in the paper, in the middle of the front page, there is a picture of our Church, the Church which as a building is the centre of Parish life and the Church which as an inspiration and a guide must be the centre of the life of each of us. It may be convenient to say "I live at Whilton", but our life in the Parish must be in the Parish of St. Andrew Whilton."

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From the Village Notice Board

New Motor-Road

"It will be seen from the notice issued by the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation which is now posted on the notice board that plans showing the proposals for alterations to existing roads and means of access affected by the new London, Yorkshire Motor-road" (The M1 as we know it today) "can be inspected at the County Council offices or the offices of the Daventry Rural District Council. The plans for the new road confirm what was disclosed some time ago in the newspapers, that Mr. Clements' property at the Locks is not now affected."

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The Village School

"So far as can be found out, the position is this - until a short while ago the School House, the School Building and the land at the back belonged to the Trustees of the School. Now, together with a large number of other Church School premises, they belong to the Peterborough Diocesan Authorities, and are to be sold.

If the School Building is not available as a Village Hall, there will be no place left for Village functions, but the Club Room, and the billiard table very much restricts the use to which this can be put. The Parish Council feels, therefore, that it is essential that the School Building be acquired as a Hall and, on behalf of the Village has made an offer to buy the Building together with the right to get to it across the playground. This offer has to be approved both by the Diocesan Authorities and the Minister of Education, and it may be some time before we know whether it is acceptable to them or not. If the answer is yes, application will be made for a Government grant towards the purchase price and the Village will then be asked at a Parish Meeting to decide whether the purchase shall be made or not.

In acquiring a hall, we take on raising the purchase price, and repairs, insurances, rates, heating and lighting, but we have lost our School and pub, and our Rector no longer lives here, matters about which we could do nothing. It is in our power to keep a hall, and support for the purchase would be a sign of our resolve to stop the down-hill slide."

The Club Room referred to in this article was situated at the far side of Mrs. Church's house, and has only gone in recent years. When I first came to Whilton in 1976, I remember the Sale of the Harvest gifts was held in it. We did not have a Harvest Supper then, like today with the sale of the produce immediately after. Also the School Room was used for W.I. meetings and Mrs. Wright has told me how members used to bring the chairs from the Club Room to the School Room and leave the room ready for school the next day. How lucky we are nowadays, with all we need in the hall ready for use.

Janet Bowers

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W.I. Garden Coffee Morning

As part of the national celebrations of British Food and Farming Year, Whilton W.I. will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 10th June, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon, in the garden of The Dove Close. There will be coffee, squash and home-made biscuits besides a general stall; a cake stall and a raffle. This will also be the first opportunity to buy the "Whilton W.I. Cookery Book" with 75 recipes to inspire everyone to hurry back to their kitchens!

We are sure the sun will shine on 10th June, but should the weather be wet, the coffee morning will be in the Village Hall.

All are welcome, whatever the weather!

Anthea Hiscock

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Car Boot Sale

The car boot sale held on May 6th at Whilton Locks, raised £58 for W.I. funds. Thanks to all involved.

W. I. Report

At the March meeting of the W.I., we had a visit from a group called "Knights of the Rose". They brought along five of their members who were dressed in 13th Century costume. Each person gave us a description of their own life, for example Michael of Basing who had worked in the kitchens and worked his way up to serve at table. He was taught to use a sword and at the age of 15 he was knighted. The ceremony for this involved being ritually cleansed, having spent all night in Church. He was then given his chain mail which weighed 26lbs, and the helmet weighing 8-12lbs.

Lady Anne had married at 16, making an alliance with another land owning family. Her husband went off to the Crusades and she was left to look after the Castle. Her time was spent cooking, growing herbs, praying, making clothes, weaving and embroidery. She had a new dress only every few years, but would change the sleeves quite regularly. Sleeves were given to admirers as favours. When her husband returned, large banquets were held and friends and all their servants came. The whole Castle was filled with people, the family having to sleep in the Great Hall. Often these people overstayed their welcome and then would be given cold shoulder of mutton to eat - this would see them beating a hasty retreat the next day! Hence the expression to give the "cold shoulder".

Leprosy was another feature of life in the 13th Century and most towns would have a few lepers who stayed on the outskirts and wore a bell round their necks to warn of their approach. It was incurable, but was an illness which lingered on for years getting steadily worse. There are in the world today 15 million lepers and only as recently as 1982 was a cure found for it.

We also heard of the life of the longbowman and musician. Times were very hard, injuries in battle could be horrific. Twelve arrows a minute could be shot and 54lbs of pressure was needed to release the bow. Every English man had to practise with a bow and arrow on Sunday mornings.

It was a fascinating talk which took us back in time, again some of the village children attended and we hope to see them at the next meeting also.

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Another open meeting was held in April and we were delighted to see so many children who had come to see birds from Holdenby Falconry Centre. The handlers brought 3 birds, Teasle the Barn Owl, Zed the Bengal Eagle, and Eddie the Tawny Eagle.

At Holdenby they breed birds for the wild which is just as well as in Northamptonshire there are only 50 - 60 pairs of Barn Owls and their future is not looking good. Similarly with other birds of prey such as the Merlin whose natural habitat of heathland is being used to grow conifers. There are now about 400 pairs - 60 years ago there were 4,000. Suprisingly the Peregrine Falcon is doing well with a total of 1,000 pairs in Britain.

Barn Owls can live up to 15 years in captivity but only about 2 years in the wild. Their eyesight is 300 times better than humans at night but they must have a faint light to see by, otherwise they are blind. In total blackness they rely on their hearing to hunt.

Everyone was very fond of "Eddie" the Eagle who had been rescued from an owner who had kept him chained. He was under nourished and had a broken leg which had not set properly and he had not been allowed to fly. We were amazed to find that anyone could buy a bird of prey and sometimes they are even sold in pet shops, to people who have not the space or expertise to care for them properly. It was nice to see that the people from Holdenby had a genuine love and affection and desire to get more birds into the wild.

The evening ended as usual with tea and biscuits - however it was noticed that it was the only meeting that the children had attended where biscuits were left on both plates - the reason, they were stroking of holding Teasle! An experience most of them will not forget in a hurry.

Our May meeting was a get together to vote on the resolutions which are to be taken to the Albert Hall next month. This year the 4 resolutions are concerned with

- a) The disposal of toxic waste
- b) D.N.A. Testing
- c) Osteoporosis
- d) Deforestation

The W.I. nationally is quite a voice to be heard and members take the proposal of resolutions quite seriously. We also held a Bring and Buy stall to help with funds.

A big thank you to all who helped at the Car Boot Sale. It was a great success and hopefully the first of many to come!

Angela Hall

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Whilton Playgroup

We have had an unexpectedly quiet start to the summer term as over half of the children have had chickenpox! Most have now returned with renewed energy and are cheerfully pursuing the subject of "Kings and Queens". We have made thrones and crowns, model kings, coaches, garlands for May queens and jewellery fit for a queen - and we have been very glad of your boxes and scraps to help with this.

June 10-17th will be a national "Playweek" organized by the Pre-school Playgroups Association of which Whilton Playgroup is a member. On Saturday 17th June we shall be holding an Open Morning in the Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. We shall have some of the children's work on display, there will be toys and occupations for the children, coffee and cakes and a chance for a chat. If you are interested in the Playgroup in any way, whether you want to know what happened to your toilet roll tubes or whether you think your baby might come to Playgroup one day, pay us a visit on 17th June. We shall be very pleased to see you.

Some of our children will be starting school in September, and we hope that once again these children will be helped by the Playgroup's regular visits to Brington School during the summer term. We already know that there will be a good number of children at Playgroup in the autumn. If you know of children from Whilton or the Bringtons who would like to come next year, could you please let me know as soon as possible, as these children should be given priority over those applying from other villages.

Anthea Hiscôck

The Langtons of Whilton

Langton House, Cottage and Rise are named after the Langton family. The first owner of the house, built in 1715, was probably Thomas Langton, whose son, another Thomas, was born in the same year. The Langtons were then already an old established Whilton Family. We know there was a Robert Langton of Whilton who died in 1599.

We have much to discover about the family and it is easier to begin at the end. We know that the male line ended, as far as Whilton was concerned, with the death of Perridge Langton in 1876. Perridge had four children but his two sons, William and Perridge, died in infancy, leaving Fanny and Julia as his heirs. Julia continued to live at Whilton all her life and preserved the surname 'Langton' by giving it to her children. This habit of using 'Langton' as a first or middle name had occurred as early as the 1700's when Langton Butlin and the well-known Revd. Langton Freeman lived.

Julia might have been an interesting person and I write this in the hope that I may jog a few memories about her, her husband or her eight children. Her twin daughters, Clara May and Anna Beatrice Gammage, were the last Langton descendants to live in the family home, quitting only to enter a nursing home shortly before their deaths on 30th December 1975 and 22nd March 1976. I have a cutting from the Mercury & Herald written to celebrate their 92nd birthday in the house where they were born. We have been told about their eccentricities, including donkey-cart racing, but would love to hear more about them.

Julia Langton Married Thomas Gammage, a shoe manufacturer, in 1874. They had eight children including twins: Robert (1875), John Langton (1876). Perridge (1877), Constance Louisa (1878), Rhoda Langton (1881), the twins (1883), Rose (1885) and Charles Victor (1898). She had had her share of human problems when she died in 1922, aged 73, fifteen years after her husband's death. Her father, Perridge Langton, had serious money problems if his will is anything to go by, leaving nearly £400 (what would be today's equivalent?) worth of debts, including large sums to various wine merchants and an overdraft of £400. Julia's two brothers had died at 10 months and 2 years 7 months. The importance of and pride in the family name is perhaps shown, not only in Julia's use of the name 'Langton' for some of her children, but also in that her elder sister Fanny, who married a labourer, Thomas Fletcher, had a son in 1866 whom she simply called 'Langton'. Unfortunately he died two years later. At the time of her father's death, Fanny was a widow, living in Birmingham with no other children.

Before her marriage Julia gave birth to a baby in 1869. The child was called Emery Thomas but he died at 8 months. The name may have been a significant tag in this small community but that remains a story unknown to the author! Four years later, Julia married Mr. Gammage and took over the family home in 1876. Although I have not found a record of it, it is possible that her son Robert died early and that is why John was given her family name. Certainly Rose was drowned at only a year old. As yet I have not found anything about Constance, Rhoda or Charles but it is clear that John Langton Gammage and Perridge Gammage inherited the house and sold it to the twins in 1941. I am told that two sons lived in the house with the twins at some point but I am unclear who these were. Perridge is the only one whose marriage is recorded at Whilton. He married Maria Rose and had two daughters, Barbara Rose (b.1904) and Delia Blanche (b.1909). At some point he lived at Whilton Mill and was buried

in Whilton churchyard in 1960. I believe one brother was landlord of a pub at Buckby Wharf and the newspaper article on the twins records their comment that another branch of the family went to farm between Blisworth and Gayton.

We hope to find more about the life of the Langtons in the village back over the centuries.

Keith Hiscock

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Whilton Gardeners' Association

The Association met in the village hall on 3rd April for their bi-monthly meeting. It was agreed that as there was not much likelihood of a fete taking place this year, the Association should go ahead and organise their horticultural show, at a suitable date, when a Judge could be found. As you see from the note earlier in this newsletter this date has now been fixed for August 19th. So get those exhibits growing!!

Various outings had been arranged for May and June and Mr. Haynes gave an enlightening report of the meeting he attended of the Allotment Association at Daventry.

Mr. Patrick came to speak to us on the subject of The Labour Saving Garden. He had a great many samples of shrubs and flowers out of his own garden, and this was only early April.

Here are a few of the hints and tips he passed on to us:

When planting your herbaceous border, put plants close together and plant 6 - 12 pieces of same plant in a large clump for effect. If pea sticks are put into the border at this time of year (April) the plants will grow through them and not blow down in the wind. No need for them to be tied either. Also planting things so close prevents weeds from taking hold.

The Winter Hellebore loves shady places. Cut off large leaves when flower buds appear, flowers will then grow large and tall and new leaf growth will follow.

On a difficult bank, plant golden dead nettle, gives good ground cover. Just clip over it once a year. Comfrey can also be grown for ground cover and makes very good compost. Spreading Ceanothus will provide ground cover. A mass of blue in May and June and it doesn't need pruning.

Dry areas in full sun, plant grey leafy plants (they need less moisture).

Perennial wallflowers are very good plants to have, they last for years.

Plant daffodils 7-8" deep, when they have finished flowering scrape away the soil and bury the leaves, thus tidying up very quickly. If you grow miniature daffodils they have very little foliage.

And the hints went on ... a very enjoyable and informative meeting.

Next meeting is on June 5th at 7.30pm in the village hall. Speaker Mr. Birkenshaw - Chrysanthemums and Fertiliser.

Anne Heeley

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Neighbourhood Watch

"Raising the horizon of care"

On Monday evening the Parish Council gave the go-ahead for the erection of two Neighbourhood Watch signs, one at either end of the village. Unfortunately, however, there is some delay in the manufacture of the signs, so we may have to wait a while.

There are two issues of which I have been notified by the police. The first involves household alarm systems. It seems that when the police arrive at the house where an alarm is ringing, they are rather frustrated by being unable to turn off the bells and thus avoid nuisance to neighbours. The way to avoid this is by leaving a key and information about your alarm system with a trusted friend or neighbour. If I can then be informed of the friend's name, a list of keyholders can be held, the police can then gain access to your property to turn off the bells and to further investigate the reason for their ringing. Please telephone 842088 as soon as possible.

The second issue was that of bogus pedlars, lads coming to the door, claiming to be on Youth Opportunity Programme, or even disabled people saying they are trying to make a living. They are, in fact, employed by a local man, to sell his wares. Anyone who comes to the door must have a Pedlars Certificate on which there have to be the Pedlars name, address, physical description, the name of the police force issuing the certificate and the issuing officer's signature. You MUST ask to see this certificate, it should state clearly that it is a Pedlars Certificate. If it does not have all the details listed above, ask them to leave - they are villains, probably already known to the police.

There have recently been some anonymous very nasty telephone calls to people in the village, if you receive any calls that worry you in any way please let me know, do not worry by yourself.

Once every six weeks or so there is a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Long Buckby, to which representatives from surrounding villages, are invited. I propose to attend these meetings on behalf of Whilton, and will report back any items of interest.

Angela Tilston 842088

Summary of Events

Mon. 5th June 7.30pm Gardeners' Association in Village Hall
Sat. 10th June 10.00-12 noon W.I. Coffee Morning at THE DOVE CLOSE
Wed. 14th June 7.00pm W.I. Village Hall - Note early start
Sat. 17th June 10.00-12 noon Open Morning - Playgroup in V. Hall
Wed. 28th June Last Date for articles in Newsletter
(Early because of summer holidays)
Mon. 3rd July 7.30pm Parish Council - Speaker on Community Charge
Village Hall

Advance Notice

Sat. 19th August Horticultural Show

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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 and the Editors are:

Mr. Harold Haynes
Mrs. Gertrude Haynes
Mr. Jim Gardner
Mrs. Joyce Coles
Mrs. Anne Heeley