



STONE HOUSE WHILTON
about 1900

E.W.C. a. r. n. e. s.

WHILTON NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1991

Ed's Notes

The cuckoo was heard in Brington on 28th April but not heard of since! Did it reach Whilton or did it hibernate for a few more weeks? Let's hope some warmer days are ahead.

No excuse though for forgetting those articles for our newsletter. What about the younger set in Whilton - what is happening in the sphere of football or athletics? Do try and write a few lines.

Remember to keep a good eye on the social calendar on the back page.

Ed's

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Parish Church

Sunday Services 1st Sunday of month BENEFICE EUCHARIST 10.00am
(June at Whilton; July at Norton; August at Brington)

Other Sundays 6.00pm

Fridays: Mothers and Toddlers at Brington 2.15pm.

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Whilton Village Hall

The winners of the grand draw for the 200 Club on 5th April were:-

Mr. & Mrs. Day (1st)
Mr. & Mrs. Hawkins (2nd)

The winners of the grand draw on 27th April were:-

Mr. & Mrs. Fallows (1st)
Mr. & Mrs. Treacy (2nd)

Mrs. Sally Jackson has kindly offered to hold a coffee morning at "Lower Farm House" on Wednesday 22nd May. The next grand draw for the 200 Club will take place on that morning. There will also be a 'bring and buy' and a raffle. Any contributions will be gratefully received. Traditionally, only ladies seem to have attended coffee mornings but gentlemen would be most welcome at this event!

The Barn Dance can now be confirmed for Saturday 22nd June. There will be a 200 Club draw at this event. Live music and a barbecue supper will be provided. Tickets available from me, at Fallowfield, £4.00 adults, £2.00 children.

We are still waiting to hear whether the County Council will approve our renovation plans for the village hall and whether the grant will be available. However, the committee is now drawing up a specification for the work to be done, with a view to going out to tender within the next few weeks so that the work can be carried out during the summer holiday months, July and August 1991.

Mary Kane, Secretary

Whilton W.I.

At the meeting on Wednesday 13th March, W.I. members enjoyed a most entertaining talk given by Ms. Bridget Brown, the Wardrobe Mistress of the Royal Theatre, Northampton, a talented lady in her field and obviously very interested in her work. She gave a good account of how a Wardrobe Department is run, finances, purchases and most important the many and varied garments they make themselves.

Using the play "Jane Eyre" as her main example, we were shown a Day dress and a Wedding dress, bonnets, boots and under-garments. Gill Houghton modelled the Wedding dress for us and looked very charming. Members were obviously very interested as many questions were asked, the whole evening was fun.

Kay Roberts

Members and guests at the W.I. meeting held on Wednesday 10th April were able to enjoy a very entertaining and informative talk by Mr. Cliff Christie on the subject of "A Bird Hospital". The hospital in question turned out to be in Mr. & Mrs. Christie's own house and gradually expanded into a variety of aviaries and pens in the garden. The speaker had a great fund of humorous anecdotes which ranged from how to change the bathroom into a wildlife pool and the shower to an arctic landscape to bringing up a heron in the drawing room. All these proceedings had evident problems but we were bound to believe these unlikely stories because Mr. Christie had the slides to prove their veracity and show how it was done. The speaker's obvious dedication to the care of birds and his enthusiasm were greatly appreciated by the audience. A vote of thanks was given by Miss Drake.

The business section of the meeting included thanks to Mrs. Waights for an enjoyable and successful coffee morning which raised £36. It was also decided to go further into the matter of "The Village Appraisal Scheme" which was being re-launched by the Rural Community Council, several members expressing an interest in participating. Possible arrangements for the annual dinner were discussed, details of prices, menus and numbers to be finalised - it was hoped that husbands would come. Refreshments were provided by Mrs. Waights and Miss Drake, Raffle was won by Miss Scott.

Frances Drake

Our meeting on Wednesday 8th May was of a more serious nature when the forthcoming Triennial General Meeting at the N.E.C. in Birmingham on 5th and 6th June 1991 was much discussed. It was attended by Mrs. Jackson, County Organiser, who came to explain the Resolutions to be put forward on our behalf - and indeed for the benefit of the general public. Apart from the three Resolutions concerning the Incorporation of County Federations the main items are:-

The Dangers of Paracetamol
The Provision of Child Care for Working Parents
Deductions of Pensions during Hospital stays, particularly the aged on D.H.S.S. Pensions and state benefit.

The voting of Members to support these Resolutions was unanimous and our wishes will be expressed by Miss Drake when she attends the meeting in Birmingham as our Representative.

Kay Roberts

Coach Trip to Oxford and Claydon House

What an interesting day this was! Thirty-three villagers and friends left Whilton by coach at 9.30am. The countryside was looking very fresh and Spring like and the lambs were gambolling in the fields.

We were taken on the fast route via the A5 and Towcester by-pass and came back through Buckingham and some very pretty villages.

Oxford is always a delight. As we arrived we saw men lopping the roadside trees and all the trash was being mulched on the spot in a shredder machine which devoured the lot. This would go straight to the compost heap, no doubt.

As others wandered into the town we started the day with a welcome cup of coffee at the Randolph Hotel. After some good advice from the waiter we made our way to the Botanical Gardens, passing the lovely old cathedral on our left and on our right the old meadows with cattle peacefully grazing. The sun shone and the cherry trees in full blossom looked wonderful against the grey stonework. This part of Oxford has not changed very much since the cathedral was built, in 1141.

After the beauty of the garden and the splendour of the cathedral and colleges we decided to have lunch in a well-known, half-timbered, old hostelry.

The plaster ceilings and wood carvings at Claydon House are spectacular - quite breath-taking. The staircase was a masterpiece of inlaid wood and wrought iron work. What master craftsmen the rich landowners employed! This house must have been one man's life's work. I hope they paid him well!

We concluded our visit by popping into the tea rooms, where tea and cakes were very welcome.

This was another of Diana's wonderful outings. Many thanks from us all.

F.M. Thomas

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Milk tops, Stamps etc

Thanks to our own villagers and our Norton friends we have donated another three sacks of tops and foil to Lyncrest.

There has been an upsurge in the stamp collection for the "Save the Children" fund. There is a great need for every effort, however small, to be made to help this charity. They are facing an immense task in dealing with famine in Africa.

Trudy Haynes

BARN DANCE

+

BAR-B-QUE

Saturday June 22nd

7.30pm - 1.00pm

Hilltop FARM

dancing to - "THIRSTY WORK"

tickets £4.00 + £2.00 from Mary Kane

Profits to Village Hall

Restoration Fund.

Country Sayings and Customs

One villager has contributed a piece of country lore stated by a Whilton farmer. He maintained that "We wouldn't have any warm weather until the blackthorn and daffodils were over. That seems to have applied this year, doesn't it?"

Now for two items about the bees:-

A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay.
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon.
A swarm of bees in July
Is scarcely worth a fly.

An old superstition about bees was that they expected to join in the joys and sorrows of the family who owned them. If they were not informed of these occasions they would pine away and die! If their keeper died a member of his family would inform the bees straight away.

Trudy Haynes

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Parish Appraisal Scheme

Whilton W.I. are interested in the project and would be grateful for volunteers willing to help.

Parish Appraisal is a scheme which traces the many aspects of the village life, both past and present, and includes ideas for the future.

The topics include social history, services, natural history - birds, butterflies, flowers, etc. - woodlands, country paths and several other subjects.

We shall need a group of people, not necessarily W.I. members, to work on this and would be pleased to have the help of any of our young villagers who may be interested and could work as a group if they wished.

Miss Frances Drake will be co-ordinating the project and a meeting of interested villagers will be held at Orchard House on Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm. If you are interested but not able to attend this meeting please let Miss Drake know.

This appraisal is a means whereby the villagers of the future will be made aware of the changes that have taken place. We must try to preserve the story of our village from the past to the present. How often do we say "Oh, if only I had written that down at the time!" Well this will be our opportunity!

Ideas for the future should make interesting reading!

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Parish Council Notes

The annual parish meeting was held on Monday 6th May in the village hall. No members of the public were present but among items discussed were the following;

Chairman and Vice-Chairman - Mr. H. Haynes was unanimously re-elected Chairman and Mr. J. Gardner Vice-Chairman.

Closed Village - Brington Parish Council is not prepared to support us in this matter as they feel that it could increase the traffic flow through Brington. The local police have, however, indicated that they would support the scheme. It was decided therefore that a meeting should be requested with the County Surveyor to further explore this idea to try to cut down on through traffic using the village.

Registration of village green - All the required paperwork was now with the County Council and they were "processing" the application.

Clean-up Campaign - Mr. Bilborough and several school children had completed a "clean-up" of the village and Mr. M. Lewis had done the same at Whilton Locks.

Allotment Vacancy - The clerk reported that the vacant plot had now been let.

Parish Council Clerk - Mrs. Houghton, the Council Clerk, has tendered her resignation. The Chairman said that the Parish Council deeply regretted this but thanked her for all her work over the last 5 years. The position would be advertised in the next edition of the newsletter in the hope that a parishioner would take this on.

Planning Matters

Clay Pigeon Shoot Appeal - The Inspector has granted the application for 1 year only - the following conditions to apply:

1. The use hereby permitted shall be discontinued and the land restored to its former condition on or before the expiration of one year from the date of this letter (25.3.91).
2. The use hereby permitted shall not commence until a car parking area has been laid out within the site in accordance with a scheme to be agreed with the local planning authority.
3. No shooting shall take place on the site before 1000 hours nor after 1800 hours on Mondays to Fridays, nor at any time on Saturdays, Sundays or bank holidays.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988 (or any order revoking and re-enacting the Order), shooting shall not take place on more than 50 days in total in any calendar year.
5. All cartridges fired on the site shall be of the low charge/low noise type.

6. The layout of the shoot shall be agreed with the local planning authority before the use hereby permitted is commenced.

A letter is to be sent to the District Council asking them how they intend to monitor and enforce these conditions.

Four Wheel Drive Use, Whilton Mill - In reply to our letter regarding the handling of the above application the District Council have apologised but said it was a mis-understanding not an attempt to exclude the Parish Council from the decision making process. The District Council had received satisfactory answers from the applicant to the questions raised in our original letter.

Jim Gardner

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Solitude

Laugh, and the world laughs with you,
Weep, and you weep alone,
For sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, it is lost on the air,
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice, and men will seek you;
Grieve, and they turn and go,
They want full measure of all your pleasure.
But they do not need your woe.
Be glad, and your friends are many,
Be sad, and you lose them all;
There are none to decline your nectared wine,
But alone you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded,
Fast, and the world goes by.
Succeed and give - and it helps you live,
But no man can help you die;
There is room in the halls of pleasure
For a large and Lordly train,
But one by one we must all file on
Through the narrow aisles of pain.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

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Clerk to the Parish Council

A vacancy has arisen for the post of Clerk to Whilton Parish Council.

The post entails the preparation of papers for meetings and the keeping of minutes of the meetings; dealing with the Council's correspondence and keeping copies thereof; obtaining any necessary information pertaining to the Council's business, keeping its financial records and preparing a financial statement for presentation at each Council meeting.

The Parish Council meetings take place on the first Monday of alternate months, beginning in January of each year. It is sometimes necessary, in addition, to call a special meeting.

The salary of the Clerk upon appointment will be £200 per annum, payable by four instalments of £50.

The appointment of the Clerk is subject to a probationary period.

Anyone interested in taking this post please apply in writing to the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. H. Haynes, The Old Plough, Whilton.

The present Clerk to the Council, Mrs. G. Houghton, Church Gate, Whilton, will be able to supply more details of the work involved to anyone interested in applying for the post.

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Whilton Gardeners' Association

The date of the meeting had to be changed not because April 1st was All Fools' Day but because it was the Easter Bank Holiday. There was a reasonable attendance at the meeting which was held on the following Monday, April 8th.

There was some question as to whether or not the Produce Show should be held again this year. Those who had organized it for a number of years, first at the Village Show in Wadd Close and more recently in the Village Hall, felt that a great deal of work was involved in something which few people now, other than those showing their flowers, fruit or vegetables, bothered to attend. It was, in any case they felt, time for some other people to assume responsibility for running it. There was a feeling that once dropped, the show might be difficult to resuscitate, but in spite of this there was no rush of volunteers to take on the job. Eventually, Mrs. Church and Mrs. Thomas said they would be prepared to do it.

There was then some discussion about having the show in September rather than in August. It was said that many people were on holiday during August. On the other hand, a September date might mean some re-scheduling of exhibits and the month was not a good one for getting a professional judge. The Chairman wondered whether a cookery section might be introduced and children's work included. Others doubted whether the hall could accommodate all this and refreshments as well. The Chairman suggested that the W.I. be asked to co-operate. The matter was thus left rather open-ended.

The main business was a talk with slides, given by Mrs. Swannell of the Northampton Alpine Society. His beautiful photographs, his enthusiasm for his subject and his wide and deep knowledge of the plants he spoke about made the time fly and we had to break for refreshments before we had heard all he had to tell us. A speaker to be invited again obviously. Mr. Swannell was thanked by Miss Drake.

The next meeting will be on Monday June 3rd when Mr. Gates will tell us about "Training and Pruning Hard Fruits".

Diana Scott

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Best Kept Village and Churchyard

Yes, Competition time is here once again! Judging of the first round takes place during the month of June.

We did very well again in last year's competition, though not quite well enough to get amongst the prizewinners. In the first round of the village competition we scored a total of 95 marks out of 100 and in the churchyard competition 97. We progressed to the semi-finals of the churchyard competition, when the judges tend to be much stricter and marks harder to come by. We achieved 85 marks, two less than West Haddon who were the eventual winners.

Here are details of the marks and judges' remarks in the village competition:-

Absence of litter and unofficial refuse dumps 33/35 (Mostly good - some litter in the main street).

Tidiness of public features, churchyards, village greens, roads, playing fields, village hall and surrounds, bus shelters, telephone kiosks 40/40

Tidiness of gardens, allotments, outhouses, sheds, hedges, fences, walls and trees 17/20 (Allotments and gardens very good. Some rough banks and hedges)

Best Kept Village Poster 2/2

Children's Poster 2/2

Tidiness of Notice Board 1/1

The Churchyard - If anyone is prepared to give a hand in keeping the churchyard tidy their help will be very welcome. At present we are managing to keep on top of the mowing but it would make a lot of difference to the overall appearance if the paths were kept free of weeds and the gravel regularly raked or brushed over.

May I make a plea to parents to please discourage children from playing in the churchyard? I had occasion to speak to a group recently, one of whom was jumping off the churchyard wall on to the Green. Some of the flowers in the border by the wall have also been broken down, as though they have been trodden on by someone climbing up or down the wall.

As I said last year, we do not want the expense of re-building parts of the wall, nor do we wish to see someone suffer an injury by having any of the wall fall on them.

Harold Haynes

Whilton in the Eighteen Seventies

As we filled in our census forms this year I wondered what picture of the community will be provided for our descendants in a hundred years time.

I have spent a little time looking at the 1871 and 1881 census returns for Whilton.

In 1871 there were 351 people, living in 85 houses in Whilton and Whilton Locks. There were 3 uninhabited houses. There was no great change ten years later, when the population was 354. Eighty houses were lived in and 2 uninhabited. Of course the census cannot reveal everything; but it shows a pattern of life which is very different from today for many of us. The community was more self sufficient and agriculture provided a living for many more than nowadays. In 1871 the farmers were Edward Tarry, Robert Emery, James Emery, Perridge Langton and John Townley, beside Elizabeth Emery, a widow, who was described as a "landowner". Thomas Henry Reynolds of Whilton Locks was described as a merchant and farmer, employing 2 labourers and a boy. (This increased to 9 men and 3 boys by 1881). In 1871 he was 32 and married to Tryphena. Local directories also record that he was a coal and corn merchant, doing business at Whilton Locks and Althorp Park Station. He was miller at Whilton Mill and also farmed at Borough Hill. These farmers must have been the major employers. There were over 50 farm labourers in the village in 1881.

At Whilton Lodge, lived John Craven, with his great household, including a cook and confectioner, a housekeeper, lady's maid, kitchen maid, 3 housemaids, 2 footmen and a sculleryman. The only one of these to have been born locally was the sculleryman, who was born in Northampton. There were also a groom, a gardener and 2 assistant gardeners.

The Rector was Rev. Randolph Skipwith. He and Mary, his wife, and daughter Constance, had 2 servants, Selina Sabin and Eliza Howard. In 1877 Whilton Church "underwent thorough restoration" at a cost of £3,000. Wright's Directory of 1884 recorded that "the chancel, vestry, organ chamber, and south porch were rebuilt, the roofs repaired, the galleries demolished and the tower arch opened to the nave, the stone work generally restored and the whole church refloored and reseated. "Mr. Craven and the rector were "liberal subscribers." Most of the villagers probably had little to spare. There were many children. In the 1881 census 86 children were described as "scholars". Others were under school age, and a few were not noted as scholars. Most of these children must have attended Whilton School. The schoolmaster was James Dyer, from Devon. His wife, Dora was schoolmistress, and their daughter, aged 30, was assistant schoolmistress. Their son, William Anstey Dyer was described as organist. Ten years before Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, (she was known as Dolly), had been master and mistress of the National School, but the infant schoolmistress had been Sarah Marks, aged 56, wife of Benjamin, who was a thatcher.

There were 2 pubs at the time. The Spotted Cow, at the Locks, was kept by Elizabeth Elliott, a widow, assisted by her unmarried children, William, Ellen and Caroline. They also had a lodger, Charles Heath, who was a shoemaker. William Carvell, who kept the Plough combined this with being a shoemaker and grazier.

Several men worked on the railway as platelayers, labourers and a signalman. The canal also provided work for a few, including the canal agent, the lock keeper and a boatman. In 1881 there were 5 blacksmiths, 4 carpenters, 3 laundresses, 3 saddlers, 3 carriers providing a service to Daventry and Northampton, 2 butchers, a grocer and draper, a tailoress, a hairdresser, a watch jobber and a baker who was also an insurance agent.

Here are some descriptions of a few Whilton households on census night in 1871:

George Headley, aged 57, was a blacksmith. His wife, Elizabeth, aged 49 was a dressmaker. They had 2 lodgers, Joseph Searle was 25 and a basket maker. The other lodger, aged 27, was Thomas Warwick a labourer.

Charlotte Gardner was a 53 year old widow. Her four children lived with her, and ranged in age from 27 to 10. William was a platelayer, Charles a miller, Thomas a stable boy and Anne was at school.

George Thompson was a blacksmith at Whilton Locks. He and his wife had two children aged 5 and 6. His apprentice, James Poole, aged 22, who had been born in Whilton, lived with the family. On census night they had a visitor, Emma Clinton, aged 10, who was born in Long Buckby.

John Townley, a widower who farmed 6 acres, lived with his 21 year old son, John Henry Townley, a saddler. They were being visited by John Townley senior's half sister, Millicent Newitt, aged 77.

Martha Jellis, a widow, aged 78 lived with her four unmarried sons. Thomas, aged 45 was "on the parish". The others, George, William and John, were labourers.

Perridge Langton, aged 55 a farmer, lived with his 22 year old daughter, Julia, and his unmarried sister, Ann Langton. Three servants lived in the household, all in their teens: Clara Johnson from Norton, Levie Jordan from Woodford and Henry Tredwell from Farndon.

Anthea Hiscock

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Death - Sally Hughes, of Yew Treet Cottage, Whilton Lodge, died on Thursday 9th May.

We extend our sympathy to relatives.

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BRINGTON COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children who are five years old during the next school year are eligible to start school in September 1991.

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before August 31st 1992, and not already on the admission list, please contact Mr P R Bilborough.

Summary of Events

Wed.	May	22nd	10.30am	Coffee Morning, Lower Farm House
Mon.	June	3rd	7.30pm	Whilton Gardeners' Association
	JUNE			1st round Best Kept Village
Wed.	June	12th	7.30pm	W.I. Meeting, village hall
Thur.	June	13th	7.30pm	Village Appraisal Meeting, Orchard House
Sat.	June	22nd	7.30pm	Barn Dance, Hilltop Farm
Thur.	July	4th		Last date for next newsletter
Wed.	July	10th	7.30pm	W.I. Meeting, village hall

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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
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Mr. Jim Gardner
Mrs. Joyce Coles
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