

WHILTON NEWSLETTER

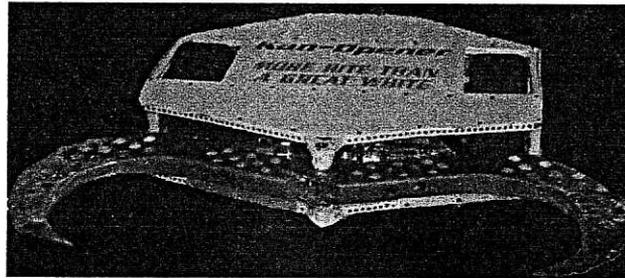
JUNE 2006

ROBOT WARS

It is known to some people in the village that the Kanes have a fighting robot or two. They are called Kan-opener with a catchy phrase "more bite than a great white" What is not known is how successful they have become.

With four Robot Wars series completed, the Kan-opener team is one with only three robots that have received the accolade of being a multiple trophy winner, having won the annihilator competition twice in 2002 & 2003.

2004 & 2005 were relatively lean years for the team but with the highlights of being runners-up in the European Championships for both years. In 2006, with five major championships Tom & Andy Kane, have already won the two that have been held so far.



Despite all the work needed to prepare the machine, Andy is also the President of The fighting Robot Association. The body that looks after all robot building regulations.

To follow the progress of the Kan-opener team just visit:

www.kan-opener.com

The team are due to compete in the next event which is the UK Championships in August Bank Holiday week at a fairly local venue—Wicksteed Park. Kettering.

After the UK finals the team will be preparing to go to Holland for the Europeans.

WITH A TOP 20 PLACE IN THE WORLD RANKINGS, IT IS AMAZING WHAT GOES ON IN OUR OWN VILLAGE!!

Robot Wars Annihilator Champion 2002

Robot Wars Annihilator Champion 2003

European Championship 2nd 2004

European Championship 2nd 2005

Robots Live Champion 2006

Robot Rumble Champion 2006

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NEWS FROM ALL AROUND THE PARISH

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHURCHYARD DRYSTONE BOUNDARY WALL

Recently damage to the drystone wall has come to light and presently three large pieces of stone have fallen and are lying on the grass. It has come to our notice that the wall is being climbed over to retrieve the football when a game is in progress.

This is very dangerous and could result in personal injury apart from the damage being caused to the wall.

Please take note and any parents who are aware of their children playing on the village green should ensure they are not involved in this dangerous practice.

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council

Whilton Village Hall

The Committee is short of members and to bring it up to strength is seeking two additional persons to assist in the running of this very important asset to the village. There are generally no more than four meetings each year so that the commitment would not be too onerous. We are also seeking a Secretary. If you are interested in the above, please contact the Chairman Mike Lewis on 01327 842404.

We are again without a person to take care of the cleaning of the Village Hall. This is not a difficult task and would involve less than an hour on a weekly basis throughout the school terms and less during the summer months. For further details please contact Shirley or Derek Brown on 01327 842968

Whilton Village Hall 200 Club Draw

MARCH 2006

1st Prize	163	J Brierley	£40
2nd Prize	080	T Price	£20
3rd Prize	183	F Drake	£10

APRIL 2006

1st Prize	184	G Haynes	£40
2nd Prize	129	J & S Hanslip	£20
3rd Prize	075	A Heeley	£10

MAY 2006

1st Prize	046	S Fitzhugh	£40
2nd Prize	007	S Spicer	£20
3rd Prize	079	A Roskill	£10

Congratulations to all

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: MAY 2006

Since 1894 the parishioners of Whilton have held an annual meeting, except during the four years of the First World War. The Parish Meeting this year was held in the Village Hall on 8th May and was attended by 11 parishioners, with the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Clerk acting as chair and secretary.

Over the last quarter century Whilton has developed this meeting as an occasion when various local organizations report to the parish on their activities. It has in fact become a more interesting meeting than it was when it first began. Early meetings were used for the election of Parish Councillors and very little besides, and when that was not done, meetings were very limited in their interest. In 1900, for example the minutes listed the 5 people present and then the following:

Mr Reynolds was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

There was no other business transacted.

Attendances were not always recorded. In 1908 there were only 3, 9 attended in 1935 and 5 in 1963. All this should encourage us that 11 were there in 2006, with our District and County Councillors attending for part of the meeting too.

We should note, however, that when there are matters particularly affecting the parish and its people, an additional Parish Meeting may be called usually with a larger attendance. In 1947 a special meeting resolved that "a stone be erected in the church to the memory of the fallen" and another in 1950 founded a "Village Hall Committee". In 1974 a special meeting was called to consider the sharp increase in the rates. "*The attendance was good, the hall being comfortably full.*"

In more recent years there have been special meetings, considering among other things, alternatives to the Village Hall and the possibility of a children's playground.

The Parish Meeting does not have great powers, but it is an occasion for a public forum where parishioners express concerns, which may sometimes be taken up later by the Parish Council. At the meeting on 8th May we noted that the chairman, Mike Lewis was signing the last Minutes in the old Minute Book dating from 1894. I have read through the whole book, and to be truthful, much of it is not very inspiring. By 1930 the Clerk to the Parish Council was presenting the Council's audited accounts to the Parish Meeting and from 1938 the Charities Account was added too. It was not until the 1970s that other bodies, such as the Village Hall began to report to this meeting and to add to its interest.

This year's reports for 2005-6 were presented under three sections and are summarized as follows:

REPORTS TO THE PARISH MEETING

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Richard Amos reported on the low increase in Council Tax, and the criticism of proposed cuts, including residential and youth services, which are still under review. Many roads have been resurfaced, although he is aware of some problems, including drainage at Whilton Green. Mr Amos emphasized his concern over increased dangers on the Duston to Daventry road and his opposition to the formation of the Regional East Midlands Police Force.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT : THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Wendy Amos reported that the new system of rotation of the Head of Paid Service was working well. The system of bus passes giving free travel within the DDC and for £1 in the rest of the county is now working, although with a few hiccups. The DDC continues to be in the forefront for recycling.

The West Northamptonshire development Corporation will have considerable impact locally and consultation is taking place by two proposed developers, Croudace and Danetre Village. It is hoped that the WNDC will provide some of the necessary infrastructure monies before development. It is their intention to charge a roof tax for this purpose, although there is no guarantee that this money will be used locally.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Lewis, the Chairman, reported using a SWOTT framework:

S: the **Strength** of the Parish Council is its small size, good local knowledge, good relations with the parishioners and its non-political nature.

W: its **Weaknesses** include our costs, our complacency in seeing ourselves as surviving by isolation not expansion, our lack of interest in local issues, e.g. the LDF, Issues and Options and a failure to have a deep understanding of planning issues. He identified our viewing of the Locks and the Village as separate entities as a weakness.

O: Opportunities await us, including working on the Parish Plan to shape our future, to deal with village confine issues and to appoint a "Whilton Planning Warden."

T: Threats to our community include Daventry's expansion to the NE leading to an increase in traffic with road safety issues, demand for housing in villages as well as in Daventry, the need to update Whilton sewage farm, and our own complacency in believing that none of this will affect us.

T: Thanks are due to the Parish Clerk, the County and District Councillors who support us, to our parish wardens and all who contribute to the well being of the parish.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WHILTON HIGHWAY LIAISON OFFICER

Philip Waights reported that he has attended two area meetings and the AGM, and the co-operation of Parish Councils is valued.

In the autumn the Parish Council carried out a detailed assessment of road conditions in time for the annual highway inspection. The village roads have now been resurfaced, but probably mainly due to the initiative of County Councillor Amos in getting the Chairman of the Highways Committee, Councillor Seary, to inspect for himself. He deserves our thanks. This work has met most, but not all, of the points raised in the village, but did not resolve problems at the Locks. The next inspection is this month.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE FOOTPATH WARDEN

Maurice Clements reported that all six footpaths in the parish are in a reasonable state. There have been three upgrades: there is a new bridge on the path down from the church and rectory, the top of the path from Buckby lane has been re-aligned and upgraded and there is a new gate from the footpath into the churchyard. There is still some room for improvement on the path to Buckby on our side where it meets Long Buckby parish.

Maurice thanked Gordon and Martin Emery and Jim and Rupert Gardner, and the NCC for all the help they provide in maintaining the footpath system.

6. PARISH ACTIVITIES: THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Mike Lewis and Derek Brown reported that the Hall remains in a healthy financial state despite the improvements which have been provided. More improvements, such as the ramp, have yet to be completed. The 200 Club remains vital for money raising and Derek and Shirley Brown and their band of helpers were thanked.

With the closure of the WI and yoga group there has been a reduction in use, but it is hoped there will be new activities, which are essential to keep the Hall financially sound.

7. PARISH ACTIVITIES: THE ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY MANAGEMENT GROUP

Derek Brown reported that as the Spinney has become more established there has only been need for two working parties, one of which was particularly well attended. Two bulldog Irish slashers were purchased and issued to group members to use in keeping paths, the picnic area and the pond clear, and the mower is used for keeping grass under control.

Two young parishioners, Chris Green and Jamie Ashby, are currently working in the Spinney as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. More planting of native trees will be part of next winter's programme and the grant from the Parish Council will be a tremendous help in operating the Spinney.

8. PARISH ACTIVITIES: THE PARISH PLAN TEAM

Philip Waights reported that the team consists of seven members at present. Grant aid has been applied for from ACRE, but this would only be available if planning and community aspects are separated and might also have to be returned if the projects lasts more than a year. A condition of the grant required holding a public meeting, which will, of course, slow down the process: it may be that the Parish Council will have to bear the whole cost. At present the Team is preparing a questionnaire to establish basic information and public options.

9. PARISH CONCERNS: NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The co-ordinator, Philip Waights, reported that there have been three incidents this year: the ramming of a flower box at the top of the village, cars burnt out on the Moors Road and the theft of tools from a building site. The cascade system has been used and reports of criminal activity are published in the Newsletter and on the notice board.

10. PARISH CONCERNS: WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Keith Hiscock's report was read out. The value of the Charities' assets has increased by £697.91, despite one payment of £300, because of share price rises. The total value of the Charities Trust assets is currently £5676.76.

The one application was from a young person to help with the cost of insurance for vital transport. There are permanent notices on the boards explaining the wide eligibility for claims from the Charities and there are enhanced safeguards for confidentiality for applicants.

The three charity trustees, any of whom may be approached, are: Rev Chris Goble, Brington Rectory, Ann Gilbert, Langton Cottage, and Keith Hiscock, Langton House.

11. PARISH CONCERNS: BRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL TRUSTEES

The Clerk reported that Paul Mitchell is now Chairman of the Governors. There are 69 children, with the teaching staff levels remaining the same. A Swiss student and a student from University College, Northampton, have spent time working with the children this year. Children's activities include, among others, music, sports, raising money for charity, drama and visits outside the school.

The mobile classroom has been removed and the new classroom is a great success. Academic achievement is high and a recent questionnaire asked parents to rank aspects of the school in importance, the highest being the happiness of the children. The results of this survey are to be used to help identify areas for the school improvement initiative plan.

Paul was enthusiastic in his praise of the school and its staff, working under the head teacher, Miss Lomas, and sees it going from strength to strength. He would encourage people from Whilton to support special events and school activities.

PARISH MATTERS

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council took place following the Parish Meeting on Monday 8th May. Apologies were received from Penny Price, but all other Councillors attended.

Mike Lewis was again elected as Chairman for the coming year and the Clerk was confirmed in the post of Responsible Financial Officer. Details of the Code of Conduct and the Whilton Register of Interests were brought to the meeting and Councillors were given the opportunity to amend any details in the Register. No changes were made. The minutes of the last three meetings on 6th March, 10th April and 3rd May were approved.

FINANCE

Income and expenditure

The Clerk reported that the current account stands at £2800.47 and the reserve account at £3903.27. £88 of allotment rent has been received so far and the first half of the precept, £2250 has been paid into the bank.

Expenditure included cheques to NALC for our subscription and internal audit fees for the coming year, to Powergen for electricity, to Allianz Cornhill for insurance and a grant of £450 to the Roughmoor Spinney Management Group. The cheques totalled £1123.87.

The annual accounts and audit arrangements

The annual accounts were presented. These had been distributed to Councillors and the Chairman reported that he had examined the books. The receipts and payments summary shows that the total reserves at the end of March 2006 were £4485 as compared with £4901 in 2005. The total receipts this year were £3158 and the payments £3575.

It was agreed that the annual accounts be approved and the annual return for the external audit in July should be signed. The Clerk reported that the internal audit by the NALC auditor will be carried out this week .

PARISH TREES

Quotations for felling the two diseased horse chestnuts on the Green and removing the stumps and debris were considered from Cutting Edge Tree Services and Rupert Gardner. It was agreed that the quote from Cutting Edge for £295 plus VAT should be accepted. The Clerk was asked request that the work be undertaken as soon as possible.

This work has now been completed and the damage within the trunks revealed at felling, proving how essential it was to remove these trees. Councillors have agreed to consider the species of trees to be planted in their place at a later meeting.

THE GREEN

The Clerk reported that since the March meeting, she had checked that it was 18 months since the Parish Council applied to register the Green. As a result she wrote a letter of complaint and has received a response and an apology from the County Council. However, the matter has still not been resolved, as the County Council is taking legal advice concerning another village. It was agreed that if nothing is heard the Clerk should write again toward the end of June to request information on progress.

THE ALLOTMENTS

The new lease

The Clerk reported that the first draft lease from the DDC's solicitors had had so many clauses and statements which were incorrect, referring to a building and to another parish, that she had sent it back for correction before it could be passed to Mr Mike Wheeler, who has agreed to check it for the Parish Council. A second draft lease is now being considered.

Allotment holders

At the time of the meeting one half allotment was still unworked, but since then this has been rented and all allotment holders have paid for the coming year. Allotment holders are reminded that their rent is paid for the year April 2006 to March 2007, and that if an allotment holder wishes to give up an allotment, six months' notice should be given to the Parish Council.

ROADS, SAFETY AND TRANSPORT

Weight control and speed limits

The Clerk reported that although there is a county programme for introducing weight limits, the man responsible has recently retired, and the whole programme is being reviewed. Whilton, however, is on the list of villages to be considered for weight control limits, but there is no time scale set for this yet.

The Clerk reported that it is the Casualty Reduction Unit which considers the need for more 30 m.p.h. limits and that it would be hoped to raise this matter when another meeting is arranged.

Road safety in this area in the light of expected expansion in Daventry and Northampton

Some Councillors had attended a very helpful meeting in Brington concerning the Duston to Whilton Locks road. It was agreed that it would be helpful to develop closer ties with Brington over this issue. The Chairman suggested we might consider a joint open meeting. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Valerie Cocks from Brington, once the County Council has published its traffic survey document concerning the infrastructure and expected development.

NCC Local Transport Plan for 2006/7 to 2010/11

Whilton's copy of this has arrived and may be borrowed from the Clerk.

PLANNING

Although there were no planning applications brought to the meeting on 9th May, there had been two special meetings to consider planning matters.

On 10th April the Parish Council considered the following applications:

DA/2006/0288: **Woodview and Foxhill**, Brington Lane : replace flat roof with pitched roof on adjoining garages.

The Parish Council had no comment to make on this and the application has since been approved by the DDC.

Two applications had been put in by **Whilton Locks Garden Centre**:

DA/2006/0328: two new units for storage and display and DA/2006/0329: erection of four log cabins.

The Parish Council decided to support these applications on condition that the buildings be used as ancillary to the existing usage as a garden centre.

On 3rd May there were three other planning matters:

Application DA/2006/0444 was for a conservatory at the rear of **7 Langton Rise**. The Parish Councillors made no comment on this.

Application DA/2006/0458 was for the erection of a wooden home office building at **Field View, Wadd Close Lane**.

Councillors had no objection to the building of an office there, but considered that the particular building proposed is not sympathetic enough to blend in with the listed building and would be detrimental to its setting.

The third matter was the planning appeal by Mr R Messinger against the District Council's refusal of outline planning permission for **two dwellings, access road and garages on land off Brington Lane**.

After some consideration of the reasons for the appeal, the Parish Council resolved to re-iterate its original objections to the planning application, adding one or two points of clarification for the Planning Inspectorate.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 3rd July. Members of the public are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and also any extra meetings which may have to be called and which are advertised on the notice board.

Anthea Hiscock
Clerk to the Parish Council

Brington & Nobottle Cricket Club

(B&NCC) is almost 10 years old. Playing on the field behind the Fox & Hounds Pub in Great Brington, we aim to enjoy our cricket and play in a competitive but not too serious way. We are not in a league, and play Sunday afternoons and the odd weekday evening against clubs from across the county. We have even played at Althorp!

Please don't be deceived into thinking the club is restricted to residents of Brington or Nobottle. A core of the club comes from Whilton. We are always welcoming to new members, and age range from 13 to 60!



2006 will be another busy season. To broaden the fixture list as well as the squad of players, there are a number of Sunday fixtures where B&NCC and East Haddon CC will field a joint team.

if you are interested in playing contact the **Club Captain, Steve Droy on 07966 556662, or Jeremy James, Vice Captain on 07702 043862**. Alternatively, please feel free to come along and support the team. The boundary has plenty of space for kids to run around.

ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY

Unfortunately, due to the wet weather, the Working Party scheduled for Sunday 21st May 2006 had to be cancelled. The new date will be Sunday 4th June 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Chris Green and Jamie Ashby have continued to do work in the spinney as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and have assisted in constructing three bench seats



It was very annoying to find that within seven days of the completion of the first bench seat (in the photo of Chris & Jamie), it had been taken apart and the board that formed the actual seat had been thrown some distance away in the undergrowth. Another seat which was made two years ago and located in the

picnic/play area had been removed also and taken some distance and thrown in the undergrowth. Also a sponsored tree over six feet tall and doing well had had the top half snapped off.

Perhaps whoever was responsible for this pointless action should volunteer to help in improving the facilities in the spinney and find out the effort that goes into this work. There is

a small dedicated team who are involved in providing this amenity for the benefit of parishioners and are not prepared to see their hard work destroyed.

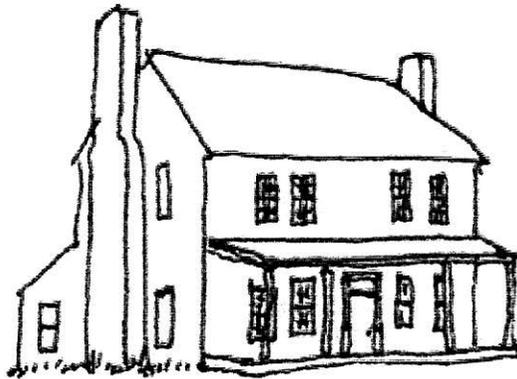
Spinney Management Committee

THE HOUSES OF WHILTON

A Whilton Workshop

**7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
Wednesday 7th June 2006.**

**What do we know about the houses we live in?
Who lived here in the past?
What were our homes used for?**



**Come and share your knowledge
and learn from each other's memories.
If you have photos or other information
which you would like to show,
please bring them to the meeting.**

**Please bring a contribution towards
hire of the Hall and refreshments.
For further details,
please contact Anthea Hiscock : 843319**



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Review:

Coton Lodge

Typical! Just when you want a nice dry day to wander about in a beautiful English garden, what do you get; yes rain! So as we set off for Coton Lodge we didn't hold out much hope for a pleasant afternoon. However, as is the norm with British weather, just as we arrived the rain stopped and we set off down a long farm track not knowing what to expect.

It has to be said that none of the club members had even heard of the garden before, so it was with some trepidation that we entered the garden. Luckily, we had made an excellent choice. Coton Lodge (not Coton Manor) is on the road between West Haddon and Guilsborough and features excellent planting and landscaping. The gardens overlook a large expanse of open countryside and surround a red brick farmhouse. We found plenty to interest us during our visit and I am sure that a visit later in the year would be equally well worthwhile.

Coton Lodge is open from 20th April to 1st October from 12 noon to 5pm; entrance fee is £3.00.

Future Meetings:

June 5th – Doing Time

We said this year's programme was different, so how about prison gardening. Yes you read that correctly! We will learn about the joys of gardening on the inside.

August 7th – Pick of the Best

Yet again, we will be taking a stroll around three of the best gardens in Whilton to see how our very own gardening experts have made a garden to be proud of.

October 2nd – Grow your Own

If you are fed up with paying a fortune for plants at the local garden centres, this talk will show you how to grow your own plants from seeds or cuttings. What's more, October is a great time for propagation, so come along and learn the tricks of the trade.

Garden Visit

Sunday 2nd July – The gardens of Market Bosworth – depart from Whilton Village Green at 1.00pm.

Sunday 4th June – Open Garden Day at Creaton – depart from Whilton Village Green at 1.30pm.

Social Events

Saturday 24th June – WGA Barbeque

August/September - WGA Village Market - Proceeds to go to the church and village hall)

Why not come along and see for yourself why the WGA is so well supported by people in Whilton. Even if you don't want to become a full member, you can still come to one of our meetings, join us on a garden visit, or just enjoy one of our social events.

Neil Phillips, Secretary, WGA

For more details contact me on: neiljphillips@hotmail.com or 01327 844182



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL COMPETITION



The WGA will be awarding prizes again this for the best **Hanging Basket, Window Box and Tub.**

These will be judged by an EMIB Judge on 12th July 2006

WHILTON PARISH PLAN TEAM

You may recall that in the last newsletter it was reported that the Parish Council had set up a team to prepare a plan for Whilton with the intention that it would be adopted by the Daventry District Council and used as a basis of deciding planning applications and also an assessment of the community needs of the parish.

In pursuance of these objectives grant aid and advice has been sought from ACRE (a rural support agency) and from the Planning Department of the DDC. These departments laid out the procedures to be followed to secure their approval. ACRE expressed doubt that a plan covering both community needs and a Visual Design Scheme within the period of 1 year (which is a requirement) was practical. Further ACRE would not grant aid the planning aspect of the work. It is hard to believe but there are even EU and Government regulations covering procedures to be followed in drafting a document with statutory effect, in particular a Scoping and Sustainability Appraisal.

The team reviewed the situation and the work involved and decided in the background of the forthcoming changes in policy on the control of development and the major developments proposed in the vicinity of Daventry and Northampton that the planning aspects should have priority. They will therefore be concentrating on the preparation of a Visual Design Scheme. Grant aid will be sort from the "grants for all" scheme and Councillor Mrs. Amos has been asked to investigate the possibility of a grant from the DDC.

Despite reducing the scope of the report the work load will be considerable in particular insuring that all residents and groups have an opportunity to express their options. The first stage is a public meeting to explore the proposal and its implications which has provisionally been fixed for **5th. July 2006 in the Village Hall.** A letter of invitation will be circulated nearer the time.

Since the last letter the team has been joined by Miss Frances Drake and Mr Peter Wingrave but more assistance will be required.

Philip Waights
Chairman Whilton Parish Plan Team

Whilton Photographic Club



Going strong!

The new Whilton Photographic Club is now well under way with over 20 keen members whose experience ranges from beginners to very keen amateurs. So far the club has covered some of the basics of photography, including learning about aperture, shutter speed and composition.

The club offers a range of activities, including: tuition in photography, outings to practice and improve your photographic skills and competitions. We are arranging further photographic outings in the near future to Holdenby Falconry Centre, Stoke Bruerne and Towcester Races.

We are keen to welcome new members, so if you are interested, contact Neil Phillips or Richard Patching for more information, or check out our website at www.patchingimages.com/WPC/index.htm.

Calendar

Meetings (to be held in Whilton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm):

- 20th June 2006** - Image Manipulation 1
- 11th July 2006** - Image Manipulation 2
- 12th September 2006** - Image Manipulation 3

Photographic Outings (all outings will start from Whilton Village Green at 7.30pm, unless indicated).

- 16th May 2006** – Whilton Locks – Photographing the canal and marina.
- 28th May 2006** – Whilton Mill - Karting (9.30am start)
- 13th June 2006** – To be confirmed
- 27th June 2006** – To be confirmed
- 18th July 2006** – To be confirmed

Neil Phillips

01327 844182
neil@patchingimages.com

Richard Patching

01327 842570
Richard@patchingimages.com

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM

Whilton Gardeners' Association has again entered Whilton in this annual competitive event which covers six counties and is organised by EMIB Regional Committee. The aim of the competition is to encourage the improvement of our surroundings by cleanliness, floral displays, well kept gardens and conservation. Whilton enters in the Category A – small village with a population of 300 or under.

Judging will take place on Wednesday 12th July 2006 at 2.30 pm when three judges will walk round the village and allotments.

Can we make an extra effort? It would be a great achievement to win gold this year

Janet Bowers



Our Rector - Rev Chris Goble works from Brington Rectory and can be contacted on 01604 774042 or E-mail chris@spencerbenefice.freeserve.co.uk

In my school days - not *that* long ago - I redefined sporting prowess and achievement. In cross country running, for me, 'winning' was quite simply not coming last. Rugby was defined as staying well away from the ball, if you got hold of it people bounced on your head! Tennis was not about winning a rally, but hitting a ball, and football was about being in a team - my school used to choose two boys to be captains and they would choose their team - I was usually last and the 'losing' captain would whinge 'no sir, it's not fair, he was on my team last week sir'. As you can guess sport and I were never destined to

be close buddies. In the 2 months this edition covers there is a fair amount of sport, even to the extent that I think we have less weddings in June in the benefice when the World Cup is on! The Bible speaks about the Christian Faith as being a race, not a short sprint, but a marathon, for it's about perseverance, not giving up when the going gets tough, but continuing on in faith and trust each day. It is clear that Jesus calls us on with him, and persistence and perseverance are key to sport and to Christian faith.

2nd July

This is the Safari Day.- various things are going on, feel free to come to us much as you'd like. For more information please call Chris Goble on 01604 770402

9.15am Traditional Communion Service at Norton

10.30am Celebration of Baptism at Whilton - for anyone who has been baptised or is thinking of it for themselves or others, what baptism means, and to celebrate our baptism. - followed by coffee

12noon Bring and Share Lunch at Brington - with something to keep children happy!

2.30pm Prayer and Praise Family Service at Harlestone, interactive celebration

4.00pm Meditation at Church Brampton - not a service, with start and end, but various points to aid reflection, using words, icons, images and music - with tea!

6.00pm Closing Act of Worship at East Haddon, followed by 'Any Questions', a chance to lob at Chris and Derek any questions you like!

***SERVICES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WHILTON
JUNE 2006***

4th	6.00 pm	Compline
11th	6.00 pm	Family Festival Service
18th	9.15 am	Sung Eucharist
25th	11.00 am	Family Service

JULY 2006

2nd	9.15 am	Benefice Safari – Everywhere (see above)
9th	11.00 am	Family Service
16th	9.15 am	Sung Eucharist
23rd	11.00am	Family Service
30th	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist

MORE CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday 2nd April 2006 we were pleased to host the Benefice Sung Eucharist and on this occasion we were pleased to welcome the Archdeacon, Christine Allsop on her first visit to the Spencer Benefice. With an interesting talk and superb singing by the Benefice Choir, this was a memorable service. Afterwards there was the opportunity to talk to the Archdeacon whilst enjoying refreshments.

At St Andrew's PCC Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th April 2006 we

were pleased to welcome Jon Brierley and Teresa Leadbetter on to the Committee. We were sad to receive a letter of retirement from Eileen Finnemore due to ill health not allowing her to attend meetings. We recorded our thanks for Eileen's commitment and help over the past years.

In the election of officers, Janet Bowers was elected Churchwarden / Secretary, Derek Brown -Treasurer and Philip Waights - Church Electoral Roll Officer.

Harvest Festival Service will be held on Sunday 24th September 2006 at 9.15 am.

Pet Blessing Service will be on Sunday 1st October 2006 at 2.00pm.

Concert in church – "Night of Miracles" by Cantari Singers – Friday 24th November 2006

St Andrew's Church Flower Festival & Village Open Gardens – Sunday 11th June 2006, 1.00 5.00 pm

This year's flower arrangements in church will be based on the theme of children's books. Outside, on The Green, there will be stalls selling homemade cakes, plants, crafts and jewellery, greeting cards, books and white elephant items. Other attractions include tombola, raffle and balloons.

Several village gardens will be open to view (including a 'first').

There will be refreshments available in the village.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the church at 6.00 pm.

GRAND AUCTIONS- Saturday July 8th 2006

Not one but two; one of promises and the other of mystery parcels - to be held at Woodview, Brington Lane by kind permission of Ian & Teresa. Refreshment will be available. This should be a fun evening so do come along and join in and also, if possible, bring a wrapped gift (any size and value) for the mystery parcels. OFFERS OF PROMISES, in advance please to Teresa 843988 or Janet 842851

The Car Boot Sale held on Sunday 23rd April 2006 was again a successful event despite finishing early due to rain. This raised £354.05 for the church funds and we are still awaiting amount raised by Whilton Gardeners' Association stall.

A sincere thank you to the Emery family for the use of Wadd Close and to Linda & Tom Treacy for organising the event.

Janet Bowers



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



I regret to say that since the last newsletter builder's equipment worth a substantial amount of money has been stolen.

Two days before, men were seen climbing over back gardens in the middle of the night. The police were informed and a warning issued via the cascade system. This seemed to work reasonably well and did reach the victims of the offence but although the thieves were seen and followed, I have not heard of any arrest.

Regrettably the message did not penetrate the whole of the north side of Main Road. **The success of the cascade system is dependant on everyone co-operating and ringing their neighbours. If you have lost your list of numbers please let me know.**

New residents will be arriving shortly requiring the updating of some parts of the list in any case.

Your co-operation will assist all your fellow villagers.

Subsequent visits by suspicious characters have been seen and reported.

Philip Waights
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

The Open Road



Where is everybody? Here I am, a lonely little, (well actually, not that little), copper mile and just when I'm heading for the final bend before the finishing line comes into sight, what do I see? Well, apart from green fields and a few sheep, not a lot!!

Where are all my friends and supporters?

After a rousing and impressive turnout at the start of my mile you continued to support and donate on my route through the village. Each and every contribution spurred me on towards my next marker. I've been on the road a long while now and I really need you to cheer me on to my final Copper Mile goal. Talking of which, if you find a few spare moments during the ad breaks whilst watching the world cup with your friends and family, get them to search their pockets, empty their wallets for spare coppers, or donate the change from the take-away pizzas, I'm really not fussy if the coins are a bit fluffy or cheesy, they all count, so please, **PLEASE, PLEASE**, keep donating and saving so that this copper mile can pass the finish line before it hobbles off to collect its old age pension!!!!

A **BIG thank you** to all who have collected and donated so far, please don't stop.

Your Copper Mile Needs You!

Gill Denbigh

FORTY YEARS AGO IN WHILTON - CONTINUED

THE MAKING OF A GARDEN

Holly House was said in the Estate Agent's brochure to have "a pleasure garden" – an orchard – paddock. We found that the "pleasure garden" consisted of a steeply sloping patch of unmown grass with a broken down plum tree and a second steeply sloping area mainly of grass with a pool and a pump to create a fountain. The pump was connected to a socket in the garage otherwise lying unprotected on the gravel with no insulation and the pump did not work.

The orchard had about fourteen very old cooking apple trees, some of these were dead and the rest had not been pruned for many years, if ever. The orchard also contained a vast amount of rubbish of all kind including old beds, broken bicycles, kitchen equipment and broken tools. These were hidden in weeds and grasses up to four feet high. It was obviously impossible for us to deal with all this, so we sought professional help.

In those days there were very few firms who carried out garden construction – we were only aware of two or three. Today in contrast there are 46 offering some kind of garden work who are advertising in "Village Help".

We asked the firm we chose to carry out the following work **1)** to level the sloping patch with the plum tree removed and plant a rose garden **2)** to clear the orchard of trees, retaining one or two of the best and **3)** to plough the ground, harrow, rake and sow a lawn.

A man came, looked at it, and made some measurements and said that the "expert" came the next evening, we gave him a glass of sherry and sat him by the fire to discuss details. When we suggested names of different roses and their needs, it became obvious that he knew nothing about roses. He said they could send red or white whichever we liked. We found that he knew nothing about apples either.

He then suggested a price which was about four times as high as we thought reasonable. It then dawned on us that his expertise lay in salesmanship not horticulture. We told him that the price was rather higher than we had hoped for and could naturally not instruct him then but would have to give it thought and let him know. When he had gone we knew we should not be employing that firm and after some pondering, sent a letter saying that we had decided to carry out the work by "direct labour," which could mean anything but sounded quite good.

In the next few days we approached builders and farmers to see if they could help but only one said that he could clear the orchard but would have to plough it on different levels. At that time I had a Land Rover so we were able to clear the rubbish from the orchard. One day, driving to the office, I spotted a large truck and crane and this vehicle was advertising machine hire. I thought this was worth following up and at lunch I sought out the firm's depot. On my visit to the depot it became apparent that the vehicles were enormous machines and used for major road works.

As I was getting back into my Land Rover a man came out of the foreman's office and asked me what I wanted. I told him that I didn't think he could help and explained my problem. To my amazement he said he didn't live far from Whilton and he would come and look at our garden.

A day or two later, the ladies who lived opposite and had welcomed us when we moved in, telephoned and said a strange man was peering into our orchard from the road and was now going to lean over our gate. I went out to see what this man was doing – how different from today's reaction – and lo and behold it was the machine foreman. He went round the land and then spent a long time drinking coffee and talking about his life and hard times. However he notes of what we said we needed to be done. He felt that probably it would need three visits and that part of the cost would be in getting the machines to the site. Finally he said that he couldn't possibly do it for less than £50 and would not be able to start for three weeks

When he had gone and still in a state of pleasurable shock we wrote down what he said he would do, namely 1) take out the apple trees, saw them up and stack 2) plough up the orchard, go over it with a cultivator, roll it, rake it and leave it level, and the cost £50. We immediately sent this as a letter to him – there was no reply. A week later we sent a reminder – no reply. We began to think it wasn't going to happen. Three weeks later on the Friday evening he came and said could he bring his tools to see if they would do the job and start first thing on the Saturday morning at 7.30 am., we naturally agreed.

After laying a protective cover over the lawn, he drove a tractor into the orchard and knocked down a tree "fine" he said and brought out some more tools which he put in the garage. The next morning two of them knocked down the trees leaving one or two. They were sawn up into logs and stacked. They then ploughed the field leaving troughs three feet deep they then ate their lunch and left. Diana and I walked along the three foot troughs and wondered "what now." The next Saturday they ploughed the ground with a large cultivator and then got it level and rolled it .

During the week they came one evening and hand raked it. We had a final long session talking to them and when they eventually left, he foreman said " We have done what you asked us to do because we promised to do it but please don't recommend us to your friends."

Frances Drake

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE:

From May 2006 there will be a change in the above service. It will come to the village very third week instead of every two weeks.

The next visit is scheduled for 30th May and will stop outside the Old Plough in Main Street as usual from 9.15 am to 9.30 am.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Sun	4 th	June	1.30 pm	WGA – Open Gardens Creaton. Depart Village Green
			2.00 pm	Working Party in Spinney
Mon	5 th	June	7.30 pm	WGA in village hall “Doing Time” – Prison Gardening
Wed	7 th	June	7.30 pm	Whilton Local History in village hall
Sun	11 th	June	1.00pm	Whilton Open Gardens & Flower Festival
Tues	20 th	June	9.15 am	Library Van in village outside The Old Plough
			7.30 pm	Whilton Photographic Club, Village Hall
Sat	24 th	June	p.m.	WGA Barbeque
Sun	2 nd	July	1.00pm	WGA – Gardens – Market Bosworth – Depart Village Green
Mon	3 rd	July	pm	Parish Council Meeting in Village Hall
Sat	8 th	July	p.m.	Auctions at Woodview
Tues	11 th	July	9.15 am	Library Van in village outside The Old Plough
			7.30 pm	Whilton Photographic Club, Village Hall
Wed	12 th	July		East Midlands in Bloom Judging
Fri	21 st	July		<u>Newsletter Deadline for August</u> – Please hand in your contribution well before this date or otherwise we cannot guarantee it will be included in the next edition

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We are always pleased to receive additional contributions from people who do not normally have an input, especially children

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

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