

# WHILTON SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Neeta Naker: New Dawn



Gill Denbigh: At the edge of the wood

**JUNE - AUGUST 2021**

Summer 2021



## Letter from the Editors

*It is interesting to see how Covid has changed the Newsletter!*

*We would normally have large sections with reports on what the various Village Groups have been arranging and what they have planned. Although there is some hope that activities will resume later in the year, at present the forward diary of events is virtually empty.*

*This does not deter you and it is great to see so many of you making contributions and telling us about your activities. It is good to know what our neighbours are doing and helps to maintain a village community - even if we are not able to meet up in our larger groups in the way that we would all like.*

*We have also unearthed a creative streak among you! There are some very interesting articles and images which show the artistic side of a number of our residents. Lets hope that this might encourage others to share their hobbies and pastimes with us in future.*

*As always we are very grateful for all the people who have contributed articles, paintings and images to make this a very interesting read.*

*There is some light on the horizon and hopefully the Summer will bring us closer to normality. In the meanwhile and to borrow a phrase from our cover artwork - let's hope for A New Dawn.*

*The Editors*



## **A NEW DAWN**

Prior to the first Covid-19 lockdown I had pursued different types of art through individual workshops and short courses in sugar paste crafting, glass fusion, multi-media and ultimately a 14-week Introduction to Art which I thoroughly enjoyed - although we had to break halfway due to the lockdown! It made me appreciate just how big the subject was and prompted me to further investigate my next steps. I set my heart on doing an Art Foundation course for which I required a portfolio of work which led me to the online BTEC Art Course. This course starts with Art GCSE and culminates in a project, together this would provide me with a body of work which was acceptable for entry to the Foundation course.

I started the BTEC course in Oct 2020 and it has definitely kept me gainfully occupied during the latest period of lockdown with lots to learn practically and much online research. The course covered the usual art media including animation and photography. It is a good thing that photography was one of my hobbies beforehand, as with the course being online, everything needed to be photographed and uploaded into online documents. It has been challenging but great fun. I must admit though, I am looking forward to enjoying some free time now until September when I hope to start the Foundation course.

The painting is the outcome from my course project. It is an amalgamation of images from our last amazing trip to Chile, Feb 2020, where we saw some beautiful sunrises and sunsets at Torres Del Paine and views that you get in the New Forest during summer when the heather is in full blossom. The painting style has been inspired by Monet and Hockney, artists whose work I like for completely different reasons.

Hopefully, things will get better over the next few weeks so we can all be free to do whatever we want and enjoy the summer! Look forward to seeing you around.

Neeta

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## **ON THE EDGE OF THE WOOD**

Gill Denbigh's foxgloves on the front cover are a reminder of the early summer.

We hope to share more of her paintings, reflecting other seasons, in future editions.



## **Roughmoor Spinney**

We have had two working parties in April and another planned for the end of May. We have cleared the stream and pond, levelled the walkways and replaced two supports which were 20 years old.

About 6 -9 volunteers have been helping and more are welcome to join us, working in groups of 6 or less on differentiated tasks.

For more information, please contact Keith Hiscock: 843319, [councillorhiscock@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:councillorhiscock@whiltonpc.co.uk)

## Parish Council News

As we are seeing the Covid vaccination scheme rolling out through the age groups, we are at last hopefully seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. Meetings indoors of 2 households can now occur and the Rule of 6 has now been dropped from outdoors. With the warmer weather on the horizon, and life slowly getting back to some form of normality, there will be better days to come.

So what has your Parish Council been up to?

- **New Unitary Authority Formations.** On 1 April 2021, two new unitary authorities were formed in Northamptonshire, replacing the former Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), and the District Councils (in our area, the Daventry District Council (DDC)). These new authorities are the West Northamptonshire Council (covering Daventry District, Northampton and South Northants), and the North Northamptonshire Council (covering Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants). This formation was the biggest change to local government in over 40 years, where the new Councils will now be responsible for the provision of all public services in their areas, replacing the previous District and County Councils. Councillors and area responsibilities are still being formed, and no doubt, we will probably see various correspondences dropping through our letter boxes soon to give further details.
- **Parish Council Membership.** In the recent elections, all the members of the Whilton Parish Council were re-elected for another term in office to serve the Whilton Parish again.
- **Irresponsible Dog Owners Around Whilton Village – Again!!** Unfortunately, we are still hearing of a number of dog fouling incidents around Whilton village, and even incidents where dog fouling has been found in people's front gardens, despite them not having a dog.

See the message below from Orchard House:



**Please find picture of the third deposit I have found in my garden in the last week/ ten days.**

**I would like to find out whose dog is visiting my garden obviously at nights and return said deposits to its owner.....**

It appears that some of these incidents are being caused by dogs that are being allowed to roam free around the village, particularly around the church area, and this matter has been reported to the Daventry Dog Warden to address, who now visits the area on regular occasions.

Of note : a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place across the district, which states that people in charge of a dog **must**:

- **Pick up after the dog.**
- **Carry the means to pick up after the dog.**
- Prevent the dog from entering a fenced-off children's play area.
- Put the dog on a lead when requested by an authorised officer.
- Keep the dog on a lead around the cafe area at Daventry Country Park.
- **Put their dog on a lead in graveyards, cemeteries and memorial gardens.**
- Put their dog on a lead near schools (when the school is open).
- Walk no more than six dogs at one time (six dogs per adult).

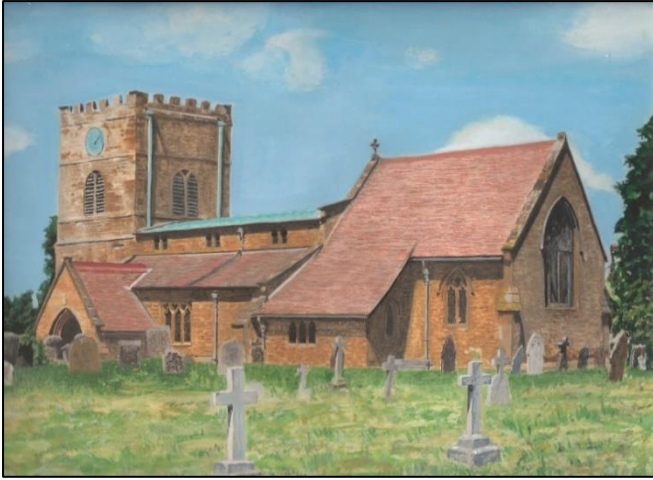
Anyone failing to comply with this PSPO faces a £100 fixed penalty notice if caught, with a potential £1000 fine if the matter is taken to court.

If anyone sees evidence of a dog fouling, please report it to the Daventry Dog Warden on 01327 871100. The more cases that are notified, the more likely the Dog Warden is to impose the PSPO terms and start to issue fines to irresponsible dog owners.

- **Village Litter Pick 2021.** Now that we can start to get larger groups together outside again, the village will be holding a Village Litter Pick event, commencing at 10:00 on Saturday 12 June 2021 to coincide with the 2021 Great British Clean Up event running from 28 May to 13 June. Any volunteers to help would be greatly appreciated and we will be meeting at the phone box on the village green, with all equipment being provided. Having not managed to hold a Litter Pick event for some months due to the Covid restrictions, this will be a great way to get out again to meet people and to help to clear up the village. The event should only take a couple of hours to clean up litter from the grass verges around the village. So any help is greatly appreciated.
- **Church Clock.** Despite reporting that the Church Clock was now fully working again in the last Newsletter following some extensive repairs being carried out, it once again recently stopped for another issue. This has now been repaired again under warranty and should hopefully see the clock running correctly now for many years to come.
- **Gigaclear.** Superfast broadband is here in the Parish, and there is a growing number of residents connecting to the network. Generally the feedback that I receive from people who have connected is that the connection and the service for many has been great with no problems, and everyone appreciates the greater speed offered.
- **Connecting to the Gigaclear Network – Hints and Tips.** It's probably worthwhile reiterating the following for those who have yet to connect to the network.
  - **Packages.** The packages that Gigaclear offer can be found at [www.Gigaclear.com](http://www.Gigaclear.com), and they now seem to have recently added a new cheaper 200 Mbps package alongside their current 300 and 900 Mbps packages.

- **Discounts.** Through social media, there have been various discount offers from Gigaclear seen. So always worth checking what the latest offers may be on Facebook etc.
  
- **Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) Service.** The Parish Council worked jointly with the Brington Parish Council early last year to successfully establish a DACT bus service for residents to provide regular trips to Daventry and Northampton. However, with the current health crisis, the decision was taken to cancel the service until further notice. Further updates will be notified on the village notice board and through the Parish e-mail distribution list.
  
- **Defibrillators.** There are 2 defibrillators located within the Parish - in Whilton (by the Village Hall) and Whilton Locks (next to the BT phone box on the canal bridge). Each cabinet is locked with a code, which can be obtained from the emergency services when you dial 999 should they be required.
  
- **Whilton Parish E-Mail Distribution List.** The Parish e-mail distribution list is a closed list to keep people informed of the latest issues and information concerning the Parish. If you are interested in being added to the list to find out what is going on in your Parish, please send your e-mail address to [clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk).
  
- **Parish Council Website.** The Whilton Parish Council also do have a website at [www.parish-council.com/whilton/](http://www.parish-council.com/whilton/) which details all the work that they are doing for the community, together with any notices of interest for the Parish. There are also details of who your councillors are, and how to contact them about any matters relating to the Parish. Of note, the e-mail address is [councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk).
  
- **Parish Council Meetings.** The Parish Council hold a regular meeting in the Whilton Village Hall every 2 months, which is open to the public to attend and raise any issues.
  
- **The Spinney.** Some of you may be aware that that we have a special place towards the bottom of Whilton village known as The Spinney, comprising of 2.25 acres of mainly wet woodland, with several walkways throughout the area. It was gifted to the people of Whilton as a millennium gift and is free for anyone to visit. The management of the area now comes under the Parish Council, where a separate work party of volunteers are responsible for the general maintenance of the area and the completion of safety checks on a monthly basis. However, following periods of inclement weather, there can be occasions where trees or branches may have fallen and have yet to be cleared away. Hence, I would urge you all to visit and enjoy the Spinney, but also to be vigilant of any hazards that may be in the area. If you do notice anything that may be a danger, please report it to the Parish Council clerk at [clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk).

Randal Smith  
 Rose Briar  
 Chair of the Whilton Parish Council



*St Andrew's Church  
painted by Alison James*

### **NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS**

*Our activities continue to be restricted so unfortunately there is little to report and little planned for future months. We hope that this will change but we will need your support and some new ideas in order to define how we will be able to operate in the future.*

*The Church Clock provides an interesting metaphor for the current position – no one notices it when it is working but as soon as it stops, people miss it!*

*Jon Brierley*

*Linda Treacy*

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### **HOT SAUCE FOR ICE CREAM**

In 1989 members of Whilton WI contributed to a Whilton Cookery Book and this recipe was provided by Angela Hall, who lived in Shaftsbury, Brington Lane.

As we write the weather is cool and very wet, but this mixture of cold and warmth may be suitable whatever this summer brings, although the ingredients suggest it is not for children!



- 1 eating apple
- 1 banana
- 2 oz/ 55 g butter
- 2 level tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1oz / 30 g sultanas
- 6 tablespoons rum
- 4 oz/ 110 g white grapes

#### **Method**

1. Peel, core and chop apple and banana and place all ingredients except rum in a pan.
2. Simmer for 15 minutes.
3. Add rum and simmer for further 10 minutes.
4. Pour over ice cream.

### **Daventry Area Community Transport**

There are DACT plans for a return to more normal services and for outdoor day trips from Daventry as lockdown eases. Call 01327 701665 to book.

DACT is always looking for more kind-hearted individuals who want to help their local community. If you can spare any time to help support DACT as a volunteer car driver, Minibus driver or in our mobility and repair shop, we would love to hear from you – please do get in touch – 01327 701665. [info@dact.uk.com](mailto:info@dact.uk.com)

### **WHILTON VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall Management Group are hoping that the Hall will be able to re-open in late June, but this is contingent on whatever regulations the Government decides to introduce.

Meanwhile almost all the subscriptions to the **Village Hall 200 Club** have been received, and it is hoped to hold the next draw early in June.

### **WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our society has not met since January 2020, but we hope we shall be able to gather again for a short walk in June. The theme will be:

#### **WOAD IN WHILTON.**

We shall meet on the Green at 2 p.m. on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**. We will have a short introductory talk and then walk for about an hour with stops, returning to the same place. There will be no charge and non-members are welcome.

For practical spacing and safety purposes, please book to let us know you are coming.

If the group is too big, we will add another walk in the morning and/or evening so that all can hear and see and keep their distance. The walk will be weather-dependent.

**Please book by Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> June** with:

Marian Seal: 844835, [marian.seal70@gmail.com](mailto:marian.seal70@gmail.com)

or

Anthea Hiscock: 843319, [anthea@hiscockfamily.co.uk](mailto:anthea@hiscockfamily.co.uk)



## **THE GRANTHAM FAMILY AT WHILTON LOCKS**

### **2021 marks 80 years since the sale of the Granthams' canal boats.**

Henry Grantham and his wife were Number Ones - they owned their boat and were not employees of a Canal company. Jack Wright, whose parents kept the Spotted Cow in the 1930s, remembered Henry Grantham as very tall and good looking, while his wife wore the traditional bonnet. They had a Black Country accent. They regularly passed through Whilton Locks and eventually settled in a cottage there, so that they could spend Christmas and holidays in Whilton. They had one son, also named Henry, who lived and worked on the boat with them. Behind them was towed the butty.

Henry, senior, had a new boat built about every two years, and as he also had a house at Whilton, this suggests he was part of the elite among boat people. Jack Wright described the Granthams' boats as spotless, a considerable feat for a coal vessel. Will Adams had the same memory that these boats were always kept very clean and neat, while many others were rather grubby. Henry Grantham's boats were always named *Forget-me-not* and the butty was *Sarah Jane*. As he ran two boats at once, each craft stayed in his ownership about four years. The family's last *Forget-me-Not* was built at Polesworth in Warwickshire in 1927.

*Forget-me-not* was one of the first boats to be motorised in 1929. She was fitted with a 9 horsepower Bolinder engine. The cabin was extended to house the engine and cavitation plates were fitted to prevent air being drawn in by the propellor. This arrangement was not ideal for towing a butty.

There is evidence that *Sarah Jane* was also motorised, so perhaps both boats ran as single motors for a while. In 1931 *Forget-me-not* was fitted with a counter stern and a 20 horsepower Bolinder for towing a butty. A new *Sarah Jane* was built about 1933. This was Henry's last boat.

The two boats were kept busy for some years carrying coal from the Coventry area to Apsley Paper Mill near Hemel Hempstead. This was an old mill which had been making paper since 1778. By 1933 it was producing, among other items, 100 million envelopes per week. Henry Grantham's deliveries were important. But gradually the large companies, especially the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company, were undercutting and taking over the small Number Ones.

When Henry Grantham retired in 1941 he sold his boats to the Samuel Barlow Canal Company. Henry's son, another Henry, was expected to join the Samuel Barlow Company. Instead he tried to join the Navy, but was sent back as canal work was a reserved occupation. He went to work for the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company. When the canal network was nationalised in 1948 he became an employee of British Waterways Transport. From about 1943 and for the next 40 years he was lock keeper at the Whilton and Buckby flight. His sturdy tall frame with his pipe and his dog, Rocky, were easily recognised popular figures by the canal. Many boat people were barely literate, as schooling was difficult with their nomadic life. Henry Grantham was no exception, but his mind was clear and active.

Friends and passing strangers supplied Henry with drinks at the Spotted Cow until it closed and then at the New Inn and the White Horse at Norton, enjoying his home-spun stories and sense of humour. On one occasion he hung his mother's old bloomers on the washing line to create gossip that he had a woman staying with him. He was willing to rise to whatever the occasion demanded. In the freezing winter of 1947 the sheep behind the Spotted Cow pub were in danger of being smothered in the snow. Henry had no work, as the canal was

frozen, so he went out with a mate and together they lassoed all the sheep and brought them to safety.

Even after a few drinks at the New Inn, he would still manage to cycle along the towpath without a lamp to arrive safely at his cottage. Only once was he known to tip over into the canal, but immediately carried on as if nothing had happened. If beer was not forthcoming he had his own supplies, as his main hobby was making home-made wine from the fruit and vegetables he grew.



*Lock keeper Henry Grantham*

He lived alone in the middle of the three Locks Cottages, and took over the ground behind the derelict cottage by the bridge as his vegetable garden. (This cottage has now been restored, as Canal Cottage) Here he built a greenhouse from old bits of plastic and car windows. He took great pride in the appearance of the Locks, and often won the “Best Kept Locks” award. He cared for the grass and hedges along the whole flight of locks, which he patrolled on his bicycle.

He added his own unique touches to the local area, keeping a variety of fish in the side pond at Whilton and adding water lilies. He fed the fish each evening and they rose to the surface at his call. He also provided a duck house with windows, chimney and television aerial for the entertainment of passers by.

After the Granthams’ boats were sold to the Samuel Barlow Canal Company in 1941, their names were changed. *Forget-me-not* became *Sarah* and *Sarah Jane* became *Jane*. They continued to carry coal throughout the war. In the mid 1940s *Sarah* was used in the Ealing Studios film “Painted Boats”, but as the coal trade on canals declined there was less to do and the boats were getting old. In 1960 *Sarah* was converted for residential use on the Kennet and Avon Canal, but after her owner died in 1971 she disappeared for a while until she turned up in a Chester boatyard in 1976 “for disposal”. The old boat was eventually saved when the Wooden Canal Craft Trust was created to restore her. After lying derelict and sunk, she was slowly rebuilt to her original state ready for relaunching in 1994.

One of the restorers was Tony Forward, who moored his boat *Moolalooba* at Whilton Locks for much of the year. When Henry Grantham the son, died in 1989, it was discovered that the wooden boat under restoration was in fact the same vessel on which Henry had grown up and worked. Tony made a bench seat from timbers rescued from *Forget-me-not*, with the traditional bright colours of canal artists and ropework and side pieces in the form of narrow boat tillers. After display at the British Waterways Braunston headquarters and then at Braunston Boat Show, it was moved to its present site by the bottom lock at Whilton as a memorial to Henry Grantham.

The colourful seat is still in place and was restored about five years ago. Its decoration is a reminder of another form of art in Whilton.

Anthea Hiscock





## IN MEMORIAM

**Kathleen Wright**, died on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and her funeral was held here on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Born in Crick 99 years ago, she grew up with three brothers and married Jack Wright from Whilton Locks. They lived first in Underhill Lodge, since demolished, on the road to Norton from the A5.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 1948 Kathleen, Jack and baby Geoffrey moved into 2 South View. Jack borrowed a pony and a little cart to transport their few belongings. They were the first tenants and Jack had helped to build their house. Kathleen's family was very important and significant to her. She looked after them creatively and with love, keeping up with their interests, especially rugby.

She was trained as a caterer and had worked superintending meals at the Abbey School in Daventry. She was acknowledged as a good cook with very high standards, partly as result of her training and partly because she always aimed at perfection. Her fridge was probably the most hygienic in Whilton, as it was thoroughly cleaned out regularly. She also had craft skills, including sewing and knitting with an eye for detail.

Although these home-making abilities were concentrated on the family, she also used her expertise within the community. She was a regular involved member of the church. In Crick she had belonged to the WI, and as a young mother, she became a founder member of the Whilton WI in 1949. She loved to reminisce about preparing the schoolroom (now the Hall) for WI meetings. Chairs were carried in on prams, the desks were moved out, and the next morning the women returned to sweep the floor, clean out and relight the open fire, and replace the furniture, all before 8.30 a.m. Kathleen was part of this team. However, in the church, the WI and other village groups, she was best remembered for her talents in flower growing and arranging, and in cookery.

She and Jack were organisers and competitors in the Whilton produce shows. Kathleen's flower arrangements were displayed in the church for services, harvest festivals and occasional events, in the village hall and sometimes in county WI competitions. She had the know-how to set out an item or arrangement to best effect, being aware of colour, position and delicacy. Rector, Bishop Otter-Barry, told her she "had a good eye for colour." She created arrangements for special occasions, including the wedding of her granddaughter, Melanie at Whilton in 1990. She was willing to support any village events, especially where catering was required. Janet Bowers remembers how they worked together with fund raising meals and church decorating. In later years she opened her beautiful garden on Open Garden days. She grew her plants arranged in colour shades, usually preferring pastel tones, especially pinks and soft purples, but she understood how to plan and care for them too.

Kathleen remained at 2 South View after Jack died in 1997, continuing to join in village activities and to go shopping weekly with Janet Bowers. In 2014 she moved to live with her son and daughter-in-law in Creaton. She remained with them until the last few months, spent in Brampton Nursing Home. We express our condolences to the family and remember the important place Kathleen held in the life of Whilton for 66 years.



We also send our condolences to the family of **Janet Essen** of Spratton, who was laid to rest in Whilton Churchyard on 18<sup>th</sup> May. She was the widow of fireman Anthony Michael Essen, who was born and brought up in Whilton and who died in 2007.



## Calling all Photographers



Help raise funds for Brington and Whilton Preschool and be in for a chance of having your photo published in a 2022 preschool calendar.



Send in the best shots of your favourite local views.

£2 entry for up to 5 photographs

If your photograph is selected in the final 12, it will be printed in the calendar along with your name - all finalists will get a free copy of the calendar as a keepsake.

Send entries to [Bringtonandwhiltoncompetition@gmail.com](mailto:Bringtonandwhiltoncompetition@gmail.com) to by

### Just a few Terms & Conditions

- No age restrictions – if you're under the age of 18, please include your age in the entry and make sure it's sent in from an adult.
- £2 entry- up to 5 photographs per household. Pay via- PayPal.me/bwschool (friends and family)
- All winning photos will be published in the Brington and Whilton Preschool calendar, and all entrants agree for their entries to be used by Brington and Whilton Preschool in social media.
- By submitting an entry to the competition, Brington and Whilton preschool will have non-exclusive royalty-free use, and entrants ensure that the photographs are theirs to submit



## Brington and Whilton Pre-School

The children of Brington and Whilton pre-school have had a fantastic term learning all about different lifecycles- human, Bees, Butterflies, birds, plants and frogs. The children enjoyed an amazing visit from Tricia and Roy, the

village beekeepers, who came in to visit with their observation hive and the children got to see the different types of bees in their hive including the queen bee and enjoyed tasting the delicious honey they made.

The children have also been observing our tadpoles in their tank and our caterpillars in our pot which have grown so big and we are waiting excitedly for the next stages of their lifecycles. The pre-school also borrowed an incubator for our fertilised chickens eggs and we waited 21 days until they hatched. The children came up with some fantastic names for them too.



The children learnt more about earth day, finding ways we can all help our planet and we all carried out a village litter pick together.

The children have enjoyed lots of great outdoor activities including planting our beans and sunflowers in the allotment and making our own bee bombs for our wildflower patch to encourage more bees into our allotment, finding natural resources to make some nests for our pre-school birds and we have been bee and butterfly spotting on our field walks.





The children have enjoyed expressing themselves with lots of indoor and outdoor art sessions, making blossom pictures and painting pigs (as on the back cover) and using some different types of easels at the Spinney.

*Painting in the Spinney*

Our pre-school website has been updated so please take a look-  
[www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk)

If you have a child between 2-5 years old and are looking for a small nurturing pre-school please contact Trisha at -  
[managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com)

or through Facebook- Brington and Whilton preschool

or our website contact page.

We have spaces available from September 2021.



### **The Allotments**

Activity on the Whilton Allotments has been more productive than usual, as the lockdown conditions enabled outdoor exercise and socialising at a distance.

We are pleased to report that the allotment holders have been kept busy and that at present there are no vacant plots.

**Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?**  
*And More Happy Hen Happenings at Rose Briar*

We'd really like to first start by saying a huge thank you to everyone in the village for your support and purchase of our free range eggs from our honesty egg box from our ever-growing family of chickens and ducks. The amount of interest and love you've shown towards our eggs has been really warming, and every penny goes straight back into keeping the hens and ducks happy and healthy.

For anyone interested, the price is only £1.00 per half dozen via the honesty box on our drive, or we can take orders on request. The girls have demanded a price rise so that they can get a Sky TV subscription and a Jacuzzi for the coop, but we have thus far resisted those requests.

We're sorry that our egg supply wasn't so free-flowing in the last year, but we hope that you'll all be happy to hear the eggcellent news that we've rescued a variety of 13 hens since the beginning of lockdown, expanding our brood to a grand total of 31 chickens and 8 ducks. In fact, the number of girls has grown to such a size - through our own doing admittedly - that it's surprising our household hasn't been overthrown by chickens and ducks yet!



With so many colourful eggs comes equally as many colourful chickens, and our hen house is now home to a rainbow of Araucanas, Orpingtons, Devons, Couchins, Marans, Rangers and Cream Leghorns; just a few we can think of, there's so many. Each girl holds her own character, and we've grown very fond of the new additions.

Everyone seems to be settling in well, and they enjoy roaming around the garden, although the hens are not a fan of the rain, like the rest of us, but the ducks love it. But on this point, it's come to light that the chicken really did cross the road!

We're terribly sorry for the recent string of great escapes, but some of the girls decided to try to do their own door-to-door egg delivery service in the neighbourhood, and we have had strong words with the culprits.

The second time was especially embarrassing, and we think they made their way home via the top of the wall! However at this point, we did discover that the hens were actually not returned until, of course, they had paid back their rescue debts and dues with the price of an egg. Rightfully so too, given that this incident happened often throughout the week, every time they just seem to defy the laws of gravity and escape again next door to Mark and Sarah.



Superior reinforcements are now in place (we stopped short of the razor wire and death rays!) so this incident should not happen again. We have noticed the same group gathering on the mound in the far corner of the garden eyeing up the fence, and we're quite convinced they're plotting something - a Chicken Run sequel is in the making!

Many thanks again,

Anthea and Randal  
Rose Briar  
Main Street

# Aperture Photography Group



## Art and Photography

**For some groups, this period of lockdown has been very difficult, with many deciding to go into a period of hibernation. The APG decided to go in the opposite direction, expanding its activities through the use of Zoom. In addition to our fortnightly meetings, we have held online training sessions, monthly meetings to explore how images can be enhanced in the computer, and meetings to discuss how art can help us to find ways to create more artistic photographs. In this article we look at some of these new initiatives in more detail and tackle the question whether a photograph ever become a work of art?**

Most of us are happy to go out with our cameras (or more likely our phones these days) and merrily snap away taking views, photos of friends or family, or selfies. Rarely do these photos ever truly express feeling, simply creating a record of a moment in time. Often, these photos then sit on our computer or phone and never see the light of day again. That doesn't have to be the case. The starting point for taking a photograph that become a piece of artwork, sufficient to be framed and hung on the wall, is to have a clear understanding of why you want to take that photograph in the first place. What is its purpose, what are you trying to say and how best can you express your idea in a finished photograph?

Newcomers to photography often say: "I grabbed this shot", or "I saw this out of the corner of my eye and snapped it". Making better photographs is not something you do quickly; Rembrandt didn't throw together one of his masterpieces in five minutes, each one took careful thought and hours of work. Creating a good photograph doesn't need to take hours, but it needs you to be deliberate and purposeful. Don't do anything thoughtlessly. Every single part of each photo you take should exist for a reason. Nothing can be an accident – not the lighting in the scene, not the way you compose your subjects, and not the smallest details at the bottom of the frame. Consciously evaluate every single element in a scene, and, if something is unwelcome, find a way to eliminate it. So much of photography – good composition and good post-processing – is about minimizing the elements that harm your photo. With this goal in mind, consider changing your composition, perhaps by moving your camera around to a different position or using a different lens. Refine your photos as much as possible in the field so that nothing takes away from the overall look of the image.

I went for many years taking lots of photos and over time I developed my skills as a photographer, carefully creating better compositions. However, the results of my labours were often disappointing; the photos were technically good, but nothing more. When you look back at the work of the great photographers, you often notice that their images are not as sharp as you would expect from today's cameras, yet there is something in their work that makes you keep looking; they say something, they express a feeling, or they tell a story. It is this aspect of photography that I am now trying to learn. The right lighting, an eye for a



person's gesture, a facial expression, a decisive moment in time, can be exactly what is required for a photograph to elevate a photograph into something more artistic. I have found that it has taken time to come to that appreciation and that may be due to my not having had a formal education in photography. Having learned through experience, it is something that I am keen to pass on to the group's members in a new training course looking at how to compose photos that have meaning, tell stories or capture emotion. We will be launching this online course soon for our members.

There is so much to learn from the great photographers and artists. Many of Turner's late landscapes could be seen as just a mass of smudgy paint, but they express more about the feeling he felt being in the landscape than any amount of beautifully sharp and well composed images. It is with this in mind that we have set up a separate group for those members interested in creating more painterly, expressive work, where we examine the work of artists and learning about alternative photographic techniques. One of the techniques we have been exploring is something called ICM (intentional camera movement); this uses a slow shutter speed and involves intentionally moving the camera when taking the photograph.



The results are more impressionistic and often quite abstract, sometimes having the appearance of work by Monet or John Virtue. In future meetings we will be looking at infrared photography and cyanotype images (an old chemical-based analogue process).

Another new initiative has been our monthly 'Monday Livestream' sessions, where we explore how images can be enhanced in the computer. Some people believe that 'getting it right in the camera' is all that is needed to make a good photo. That used to be the case for slides, but today's digital images need a little work in post processing software to bring out the best in them. You still have to ensure you get the right composition, exposure and focus when you take the photo, but computer software can help you to recreate the scene you saw in your viewfinder, remove any distractions in the image and direct your viewer's eyes to the important elements in the picture. The Monday Livestream sessions have proved to be a

great success, with the number of attendees growing each month as we tackle different aspects of post processing.

Over the last few months I have spoken to many people as I have walked around the village and the local area. They have expressed an interest in our group and learning more about photography. Most say they don't really understand their camera and want to learn how to use them. As I have explained to them, we welcome new members, including those who see themselves as beginners. Our group offers training courses for all levels and so can quickly help you to get to grips with your camera, learn how to create better photos and then enhance them in the computer. You will find it is an absorbing and addictive hobby and there is always something new to learn. You will find that some of us are more experienced and further along the path of our photographic journeys, but remember, we were all beginners when we set out.

If you want to know more about the APG, visit [www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk](http://www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk), or email Neil Phillips ([neilp.apg@gmail.com](mailto:neilp.apg@gmail.com)).

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### **Our Victorian Rector and his wife.**

Since the Local History Society publication of the book, "*The Mystery of the Whilton Stone*", a portrait has come to light among the Skipwith family photographs. We can now show this portrait of Rev Randolph Skipwith, who was Rector of Whilton from 1856 – 1896, and who features in the story. We thank Neil Phillips who has enhanced this so that we can see his face clearly. As a bon viveur we expected he would have a portly frame, which this photo confirms. Do we observe a discerning but kindly twinkle in his eye?

His wife, Mary, was photographed in 1861 in the London studio of the famous French photographer Camille Sylvié (*National Portrait Gallery Ax55694*)



The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated to every household within the parish boundary.

The costs are met by the Parish Council,  
and we thank all who contribute information and articles.

The Newsletter is delivered by volunteers who willingly give up their time to bring this to your door, and we thank them for their help.

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The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter.

The next issue will be the Autumn Edition, covering September – November 2021.  
The last date for contributions will be 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

In the circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic we are unable to produce a “What’s on” page, but we hope the following may be helpful.

**USEFUL WEBSITES AND CONTACTS  
WHILE REGULAR ACTIVITIES ARE CHANGED OR IN ABEYANCE**

Aperture Photography Group: 844182 or via email. [neilp.apg@gmail.com](mailto:neilp.apg@gmail.com)

Brington and Whilton Pre- School: [www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk)

St Andrew’s Church: Rector: [revawat@gmail.com](mailto:revawat@gmail.com)  
Churchwarden: [Jbrierley1@aol.com](mailto:Jbrierley1@aol.com)  
Curate: [revdkevans@gmail.com](mailto:revdkevans@gmail.com)

West Northamptonshire Unitary Council: <https://westnorthants.gov.uk>

Whilton Gardeners Association: [royandtricia@btinternet.com](mailto:royandtricia@btinternet.com)

Whilton Local History Society: <https://whiltonlhs.org>

Whilton Locks Garden Village: [www.wlgv.co.uk](http://www.wlgv.co.uk)

Whilton Parish Council: [www.parish-council.com/whilton](http://www.parish-council.com/whilton)

Whilton Village Website: [www.whilton-village.net](http://www.whilton-village.net)

## THE WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Trustees have to report that no payments have been made this year. This is a reminder to residents of any age who are in difficult circumstances. We continue to ask parishioners to be aware of situations where our help may be very valuable, especially as the economic situation has greatly changed through job insecurity, benefit reductions, falls in interest/dividends, and living longer on a restricted income, which seems set to continue.

We continue to indicate safeguards for confidentiality of applicants.

**The criteria for giving help** are posted on the notice boards and are as follows:

- i) The Trustees are prepared to give grants in sums usually now not exceeding £400 and limited to one application from an individual per financial year.
- ii) These would be given on receipt of a written application to the trustees, in confidence, given to one of the trustees explaining the need and difficulty in financially meeting it, or if preferred, an interview with one of the Trustees, which they would record.
- iii) The need may be to meet a necessary expenditure or for a piece of equipment or experience that anyone with reasonable means could be expected to acquire e.g. a replacement mattress, TV licence, small house repair, musical instrument, evening class/skill-giving course, pre-school fee, taxi fare to visit relative/friend in hospital, holiday break or significant school trip/expedition that would fulfil potential. It could be help with fees for, or transport costs including insurance, to further training.
- iv) Eligibility for an older or disabled person is defined as living mainly on a basic state pension or benefit, for a family living on an income half the national average wage, and for young people in their own right in a situation where it would not be expected a parent would fund the expense required. The payment may be requested to avoid consequences of a loan or the incurring of further debt.

We will discuss any 'What If?' situation before any name is mentioned, if you, or an agency, approach one of us. Recipients of grants in previous years are welcome to apply again if circumstances remain the same or indeed if a new need has arisen.

This fund remains for anyone normally resident in the Parish boundaries and we would urge you to mention the possibility to those who should benefit from the forethought of previous wealthier generous parishioners.

Our total assets are £6209.52. These assets consist on 12<sup>th</sup> May as £848.70 in the bank and £5360.82 in our two CCLA investment Funds. Our existing funds generated £150.98 in the year. Our view remains that if the need is there, it should be met, and if the funds are thereby extinguished then this should be accepted.

**You may approach any of the three trustees on behalf of yourself or someone else:**

**Community representative:** Ann Gilbert: [langtoncottage@googlemail.com](mailto:langtoncottage@googlemail.com)

**Rector:** Rev Andrea Watkins: [revawat@gmail.com](mailto:revawat@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Representative:** Keith Hiscock: [keith@hiscockfamily.co.uk](mailto:keith@hiscockfamily.co.uk) 01327 843319

## 🎵 Whilton Warblers 🎵

Members of the choir are itching to get back to rehearsals, but arrangements for this are dependent on Government rules. As yet there is nothing to report.

## Eating out is possible again in Whilton in Whilton

### *Whilton Locks Garden Village*

All departments are now open and our website for online contactless deliveries continues:  
<http://www.wlgv.co.uk/>

For hungry gardeners our restaurant has reopened in line with new government guidelines. We have 80 inside seats and, when the sun is shining, it is lovely to go outside on the terrace where we have another 40 seats.

Choose your goodies at the till and we will bring your order to your table as you watch the narrow boats drift past.

### **The Break Pad Restaurant**

at Whilton Mill is open to everyone, not just those attending an event, and it provides a unique dining experience. Where else can you enjoy a freshly ground coffee and a filling breakfast whilst watching live motorsport, daily?  
It's now business as usual for groups of six or two households.

#### **Opening hours:**

Mon-Sat = 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun = 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Times may vary according to what's on)

Table reservations are required - 843822.

## Second Chances

Northampton Community Shed (formerly Men In Sheds Northampton) rents workshop space at the Spencer Contact (furniture reuse charity) warehouse in Kings Heath. Some of the donated furniture is unsuitable for reuse and is destined for landfill.

Along with a number of my fellow NCS members I hate to see things being thrown away when, with a little imagination and work, they could have a chance at a second life.

A couple of years ago there was a pair of lovely old chests of drawers on the tip pile: mahogany with Queen Anne style legs. Knowing that if I took them home (a) they could be cited as evidence in a divorce and (b) I would struggle to do much with them and find them a new home, I set to thinking about what could be done. Having decided that I could use the bases for footstools one of the chaps offered to separate the bases from the carcasses ready for me to work on.

I cleaned and polished the bases and reinforced them with some additional infrastructure (receiving a masterclass from one of the members on using a drill and countersinking screws as part of the process) before upholstering them.

Here are the before and after photos.



Here is another transformation: a tired and distressed pie crust table salvaged from the tip pile to become a bedroom stool.

The “Shedders” have been unable to meet since last year and hopefully it won’t be too long before I can resume the salvage work!

Teresa Leadbetter

## A note from Teresa

On the art theme I have attended (on Zoom) a couple of Talk and Draw sessions run by the National Gallery. These last for about an hour, are free of charge and even someone like me who has no artistic talent whatsoever, has been able to turn out some half decent sketches with their guidance.

## Another Whilton artist

Lucy Gow is studying for a BA in Fine Art, Painting and Drawing at the University of Northampton, and her painting, Newport, is shown on the back cover.

Here she interprets her art for us.



*My work is representative, often abstract with pieces evolving from memory, the subconscious, and photo references. This landscape piece, Newport, is created from a journey and through a window and expresses the emotions and energy of the place, time and people. Inspiration is derived from looking through windows either on a journey or from a building. The view is often obscured by rain drops on the glass, movement and perspective.*

*Looking out into the outside expanse of the sky, hills, or sea is also a reminder of our smallness and magnitude of the world. There is a contrast between the juxtaposition of the manmade and nature. There is an exciting interplay that comes about through the subject matter in these "window" photographs.*



*I explore these landscapes, feeling the topography and investigate the forms. I paint gesturally and intuitively with energy, impulse, and spontaneity. And, although I make maquettes and sketches they are there to guide. I enjoy the freedom of the mark making, the viscosity, texture, and unctuousness of the paint, and getting lost and immersed in the flow of the moment. This makes the painting interesting – it is as much about the substance, as the subject matter: the paint becomes the elements. I am not trying to replicate the coastline, roadside or garden scene, nor trying to depict identifiable landmarks and masses.*



Newport, the final painting by Lucy Gow.



Pigs, blossom, butterflies and more, the art work of the very young children of the Pre-School.