

SPRING 2016

Letter from the Editors



Spring is now just around the corner, the daffodils are out and the lambs will soon be in the fields. The cover illustration this month shows a map with village field names and the history of these names is covered in more detail inside.

This edition of The Newsletter aims to give you a good round up of what has been happening in and around Whilton and also gives details of future events.

Although Whilton has a remarkable number of active organisations for such a small village, they will only thrive if they receive the support of the people who live here. We hope that a good number of residents will get involved in the events over the next few months and repay the work that the organisers put in.

We received positive feedback about the last Newsletter, including the notes about farming. It is always good to hear what you think about the articles and what you would like to read about.

Thank you everyone who has provided articles for this edition. It is not an exclusive club! Anyone can join in by writing about something that they have been doing or an interest that they would like to share. If you would like to contribute in future please let the editors know.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Jon, Anthea and Sarah



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to the first Parish Council update of 2016, and it certainly looks like being a busy year!

The date for the election has been set for Thursday 5th May and the Whilton Parish Council re-election will be combined with the Police & Crime Commissioner elections and one third of Daventry District Council's seats.

Daventry District Council is holding a briefing session for all candidates on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at 5.00pm. I would urge all present and potential candidates to attend so that they are aware of the procedures for completing nomination papers etc.

DDC also make us aware that they do recharge the cost of elections to the parishes. However, the cost is often lower as many costs are combined with the other elections and are therefore shared.

The Annual Parish Meeting is taking place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th April at 6:30pm and all are welcome to attend, it is an excellent chance to find out what has been going on in the village over the past year and what plans are unfolding.

We are holding a "Clean for the Queen" litter pick on Saturday 5th March at 10:30am; volunteers are most welcome, meet at the Village Green. All equipment will be provided.

I still have vacant allotments, should anyone like to take one on.

Sue Porter - Whilton Parish Clerk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**This meeting is for all parishioners of Whilton
and will take place in the Village Hall
at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 13th April 2016.**

**Any elector in the parish may come.
This is a time to celebrate local activities and
debate current issues within our community.**

40 YEARS AGO: THE END OF AN ERA

March 1976 marked the funeral of the last descendant of the Langton family to live in Whilton. Anna Beatrice Gammage had looked into her twin sister's grave on the last day of December 1975 and promised, "Don't worry, May. I'll be with you soon." Sure enough Bea followed her to the grave on 22nd March 1976.

Bea and May Gammage, born in the spring of 1883, were the twin daughters of Julia(nee Langton) and Thomas Gammage of Langton House. Anna Beatrice and Clara May were born and died here, and lived most of their lives in Whilton, although they had a period in the mid 20th century when the family left and the house was let.



Bea and May as young girls



Bea and May Gammage in 1973

100 YEARS AGO

The First World War forms the background to much of the news a hundred years ago, but on 26 May 1916 the Northampton Mercury recorded this case of sangfroid in a Whilton resident!

"ACCIDENT

Whilst cycling from Long Buckby to his home at Whilton Locks, Mr. G. Batten had the misfortune to run into the canal at Buckby Wharf. He was cycling from the road to the towing path, and being unable to turn his machine, both himself and the machine fell into the canal. Mr. Batten got out little the worse for his ducking, and afterwards dived in and got his machine out, and then proceeded home."

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

1st APRIL 2016 –31ST MARCH 2017

This 200 Club began 20 years ago and has proved to be a valuable asset as we have been able to improve and modernise our building. In the past two years alone we have installed new heaters and purchased a microwave and extra cutlery and crockery.

It is still very necessary to continue the 200 Club as all costs are increasing (as with our own homes) and the rents only just cover normal expenses such as power and water. **Due to the age of the building some essential work now needs to be undertaken and we are in the process of getting quotes.**

1st April 2016 is the start date for the collections of £13 per ticket renewal and so after that date our small band of dedicated volunteers will be round to collect your money.

As you can see by the name of the Club, at inception we had 206 members but over the years the numbers have decreased. Last year we were able to pay monthly prizes of 1st - £45, 2nd - £25. Under the Lottery ruling 50% of the total remaining income has to be retained to support the Whilton Village Hall. We hope we will be able to maintain the same amount of prize money this coming year, but it is important that our membership does not dwindle.

We hope that current members will continue to support us so that we can go on having a welcoming Village Hall for social activities, clubs and societies, the Pre-School and for hiring for private events.

We invite new residents to join the 200 Club and also any members who didn't renew last year may reconsider, or maybe the holders of one ticket would consider taking out another one!

If any resident would like further information, please ring Shirley Brown on 842968.

HIRE OF WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

A reminder that the Village Hall is available for hire. From 1 April 2016 the hire rate will be £7.50 an hour for village residents, £8.50 an hour for adult education and £10.50 an hour for other hirers. Periods of hire are rounded up to complete hours and a charge of £3 for preparation/clearing up is added to the total.

Tables and chairs may also be borrowed for use outside the hall for a charge of £10.50. If you would like to book the Village Hall please contact the Bookings Secretary, Mary Kane, on 01327 842618.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2015/16

DEC 2015

1 ST PRIZE	S Lye	012	£45
2 ND PRIZE	T Treacy	082	£25

JAN 2016

1 ST PRIZE	M Thomas	046	£45
2 ND PRIZE	T Treacy	095	£25

FEB 2016

1 ST PRIZE	E Bell	036	£45
2 ND PRIZE	I Woods	047	£25

Congratulations to all the prize winners

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WHILTON SOCIAL LUNCH 23RD FEBRUARY 2016

This was again very successful with 18 persons sitting down to hearty casseroles accompanied by a lovely selection of vegetables. There were four desserts on offer this time – all delicious. Soft drinks were available and tea or coffee and chocolate mints were offered after the meal. There was the usual happy atmosphere.

The 200 Club for January and February 2016 was drawn and other matters relating to forthcoming events and village ideas were discussed.

**THE NEXT SOCIAL LUNCH WILL BE ON
TUESDAY 3RD MAY 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL.
12.30 FOR 1 P.M.
DO COME AND JOIN US, ALL ARE WELCOME.**

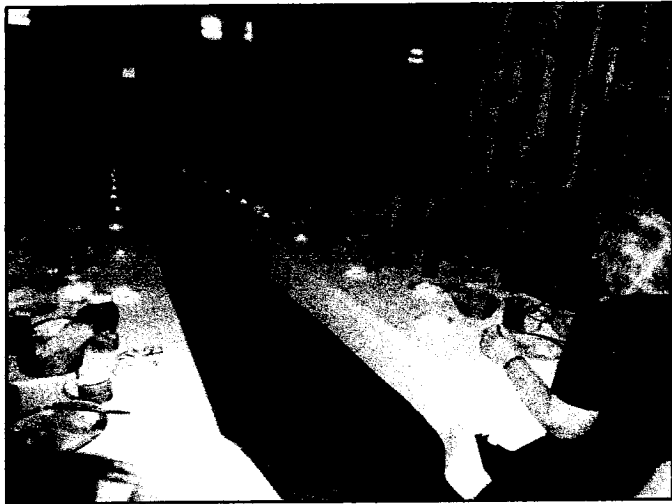
**PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE BY RINGING
JANE THOMAS 843395 OR ANTHEA HISCOCK 843319**

THE SAXON SUPPER

On 15th January the Local History Society AGM was preceded by a Saxon supper. The Anglo-Saxon period covered about six centuries from the time the Romans left until the Norman conquest in 1066. The name "Whilton" is Saxon and it was a settlement in the kingdom of Mercia probably by the 600s.

In the early Saxon period there would still have been memories of Roman cooking and ingredients from the Mediterranean, but these had mostly faded away in later times, and more exotic spices were not available for the majority of the population. Even pepper was an expensive imported luxury. Communities needed to be self sufficient with the purchase of just a very few extras, in particular salt.

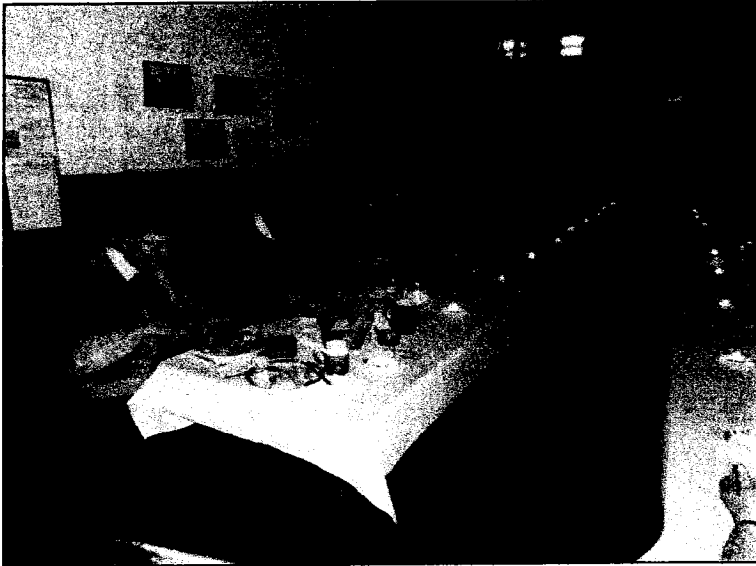
Homes were thatched and cooking and heating was provided by a central stone fire pit, usually lined with stones, perhaps cobbles here. These stones helped to hold the heat. Our ancestors would have lived in a smoky atmosphere, as chimneys were not yet in use. Most food was cooked in a cauldron. The words "seethe" and "simmer" and "broth" are derived from Anglo-Saxon. .



Sometimes different foods encased in bags could be cooked in the same water. Another method was to wrap food in clay and bake it in the embers of the fire. In larger establishments it might be cooked on a spit over a fire, and in some cases roasted in an oven. Ovens were often in a separate building for safety reasons.

When it was available the Saxons ate meat, poultry and fish. As farmers they had domestic animals, so that beef, mutton, goat, pork and bacon and poultry were eaten. They would have eaten the meat of small birds when they could net them, and the rich would have had the opportunity to hunt wild boar and deer. There were hares to be caught, but rabbits were introduced with the Normans. Many animals were slaughtered in autumn and early winter, to avoid providing fodder. The main methods of preserving were by salting or smoking, sometimes a combination of both.

Milk, cheese and butter were available, but hard cheeses were the preserve of the wealthy. When butter was short, dripping (animal fat from cooked meat) would have been used on bread. Egg laying was less regular and not all year round as today. Fish would have depended on local supplies, such as eels in the Nene or river trout, and probably the Whilton manorial fishponds were in existence by the late Saxon period.



In the fields the community grew wheat, rye, barley and oats – used for bread making, brewing, porridge and animal feed. They grew and ate peas, beans, parsnips, leeks, onions, cabbage, white or purple carrots, lettuce and garlic. There were also wild plants and fruits to be gathered, such as nettles, dandelions, mint, mushrooms, nuts, berries and fruit.

They kept bees and so had some honey for sweetening. Herbs and some imported spices were used for flavouring. From all this we can see that, providing there was not a crop failure or disasters caused by awful weather or war, the Saxons had a varied and healthy diet, with some lean periods, especially as winter ended and spring began.

We ate our meal by candlelight, using only knives and spoons in keeping with Saxon custom. Forks had not yet been introduced. Boiled gammon, pease pudding and parsnips were eaten with wholemeal and rye bread and butter, followed by baked apples stuffed with dried plums and served with cream.

The meal was followed by the AGM.

The next meeting of the Local History Society will be on Friday 15th April, when Wendy Raybould of West Haddon will be talking about the Northamptonshire cloth industry in the 18th century.

Whilton Local History Society

7.30 p.m. Friday 15th April in the Village Hall

The cloth industry

in 18th century Northamptonshire.

Speaker: Wendy Raybould of West Haddon

Non members welcome: entry £3

LIFE AT WHILTON LODGE



At the far west of Whilton parish and tucked away behind its entrance drive onto the A5 stands the grand building of Whilton Lodge. Built in 1867 by John Albert Craven, it replaced a less imposing farmhouse. The building was converted into apartments in the early 1970s.

These apartments are all named after trees, such as The Maples and The Hollies. In recent years the residents of these apartments have experienced a growing feeling of community, as they have begun to know one another better and share some social events. Some are owners of dogs, and others are happy to help with exercising or even feeding when their owners are not available. As friendships have grown, so has mutual help, offering lifts or company in times of illness, or recently catching an over-adventurous escaping pony!

Those who live in the Lodge have come to appreciate its proportions, especially in the original reception rooms, with their high ceilings. There is also a staircase, described by one resident as "exquisite". Outside in the maintained gardens apartment holders can use the grounds and appreciate their beauty, and if they have green fingers can add their own touch to the flourishing flower beds. The modern drive to the Lodge brings visitors to the back of the house, but the mainly south-facing front is still impressive to residents who walk out over the lawn to view it. With more desire for community the people of Whilton Lodge are aiming to make this a happy and thriving part of Whilton.

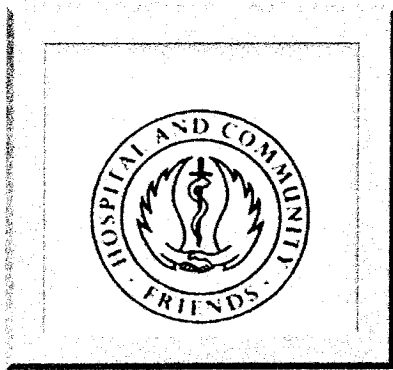
We would like to thank the residents of Whilton Lodge who were willing to share their experiences and opinions for this article.

FOOTNOTE

As we are preparing this Newsletter there has been much interest in the press following the issue of a death certificate for the late Lord Lucan, 7th Earl of Lucan who disappeared in 1974. His son George Bingham is now able to take his title as 8th Lord Lucan.

For a short time Whilton had a link with this family. In the 1890s Cecil Edward Bingham, son of the 4th Earl of Lucan, acquired Whilton Lodge and lived there for a few years. While he was here he left to fight in the Boer War, but also took an active interest in local affairs, even becoming a manager of Whilton School. Whilton was only one of his properties and in 1904 he sold his Whilton estate.

THANK YOU



At Christmas the Whilton carol singers sang around the village and through their efforts and the generosity of villagers a donation was sent to the Friends of Danetre Hospital.

Their secretary, Arthur Pritchett, has written back to Mary Emery as follows:

May I express on behalf of our committee our grateful thanks for the most generous donation of £330 for Friends of Danetre Hospital following your fundraising efforts at your Carol Singing. We are always grateful, as the monies we receive help the funds for our work. Please tell your residents that their generosity is highly valued.

You are, I know, aware of the magnificent work of the staff at Danetre. Gifts like yours and all donations are valued highly and used on items that will be an enhancement to the facilities. The main objective of the fund is to provide additional resources to ensure that patients and staff have the best of everything they need to care for the ill, and in your case we will donate the funds to the Palliative Care Ward.

To date our overall fund has reached over £200,000, thanks to the generosity of the people of Daventry and the surrounding area, and we are well on our way to fulfilling our aims. Every penny we receive goes into the fund and much is achieved thanks to the volunteer help we get.

Thank you for your support. Please pass our thanks to all.

AND THANK YOU AGAIN

Among the residents of Whilton there are a number who quietly take on tasks and whose regular activities make the parish more attractive and welcoming.

This spring we especially note that Maurice Clements continues to follow in his father's footsteps, in keeping an eye on the church clock.

The Village Green is mown by Jim Gardner as a totally voluntary act, and the long grass bank outside South View is cut and planted with flowers by residents, who do this entirely of their own volition.

Thank you. We appreciate what you do.

ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY

The Spinney between Whilton village and Roughmoor Grounds was given to Whilton Parish as a Millennium gift by Griff and Joan Davies who then owned Roughmoor.

This small damp woodland covers about 2¼ acres and is looked after by a Management Group of volunteers, who keep it safe, improve facilities such as the paths, and occasionally carry out pruning, planting and repairs as necessary. The Pre-School make regular use of the Spinney and it is open at all times for the use of Whilton people. The woodland changes with the seasons, and is usually very attractive in spring, when snowdrops and celandines are followed by marsh marigolds, ragged robin and other damp loving plants.

Remember to wear boots, as this can be a muddy area.

VACANCIES

The Management Group is currently functioning with a temporary **Chair** and without a **Secretary**. Neither of these tasks is onerous and both can provide a sense of achievement and much interest.

There are between two and four meetings a year, according to needs, and there is usually very little paperwork beyond the routine.



If you are interested in either of these responsibilities, or in just assisting or finding out more, please contact:

Janet Bowers, Acting Chair, 842851, e-mail: janbowers22@gmail.com

or

Richard Bunce, Treasurer, e-mail: Richard.Bunce@beds.ac.uk

If you are able-bodied enough to help out in a practical way that would be a bonus.

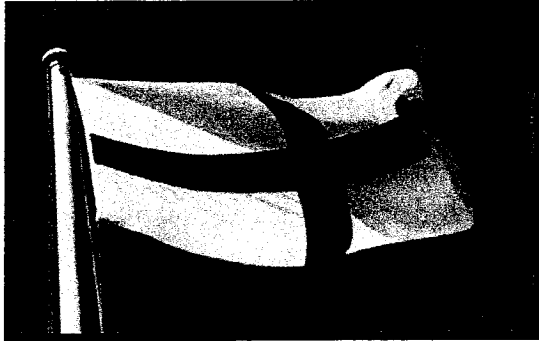


Ragged robin flowers



Marsh marigolds

Spinney Management Group



St George's Day, Saturday 23rd April

SPINNEY AND VILLAGE TRAIL

Meet at the Village Hall to collect your clues from 2 p.m.

Tea and cakes will be served in the Hall from 4 p.m.

There will be no charge,

but contributions towards costs will be very welcome.

Remember to wear boots or stout footwear
as this trail includes Roughmoor Spinney.

2017 VICTORIA CROSS CENTENARY EVENT

The work party is continuing to plan for the event which will commemorate the winning of the Victoria Cross by Captain Henry Reynolds of Whilton.

The official ceremony will take place on Wednesday 20th September 2017, and we now have a liaison officer from the Royal Scots, who is part of the work party and assisting with planning. Other events within the parish are under discussion and these are likely to take place on the following weekend.

If you are interested in helping or in finding out more, please contact:

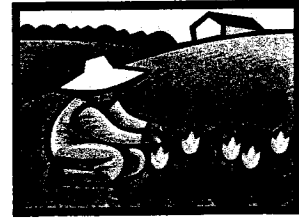
Anthea Hiscock: anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk 843319

or

Jane Thomas: llewellajane@hotmail.com 843395



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



We held our AGM on February 3rd, with 26 members attending. All the officers and committee were re-elected for another year. After the meeting we split into teams for a short natural history quiz whilst we enjoyed our wine and nibbles.

Our programme for the rest of 2016 is as follows:

- 6th April – Speaker, Anita Thorpe: Woodland Plants
- 1st June – Speaker, Brian Ellis, Texture and Foliage in the Garden.
- 3rd August – Whilton garden visits and social/buffet, details nearer the time.
- 5th October – Speaker, Linda Smith, Attracting Wildlife to Your Pond.
- 7th December – Members' Christmas social.

New members are always welcome. Membership costs £15 per year.

For further information about WGA contact Maurice Archer on 843081 or Roy Haynes on 844673.

WHILTON WARBLERS



Whilton Warblers continue to meet on Tuesday evenings in term time. The next concert will be on Friday 1st July and further details will be available in the summer.

Before that the choir will be taking part in the Music and Performing Arts Festival in Northampton. The choir has been entered in the Community Choir section. This will be a new venture for the Warblers, who will be singing in the Northampton Malcolm Arnold Centre on Sunday 22nd May.

FIELD NAMES BY JON BRIERLEY

This has been covered in Newsletters a few years ago and I am following in the footsteps of Harold Haynes in writing this. As we have a number of new residents in the Village it is worth re-visiting. I am grateful for the research that Anthea has kindly loaned.

Some of the field names date back many years and broadly fall in to three groups: reference to a natural feature or building, what activity took place there or who owned it.

For example the derivation of Dairy Ground is fairly obvious, as is Lane Field and also Brook Close which is a reference to the brook or stream at the bottom.

Less obvious is Wadd Close which refers to the fact that woad was grown there in the seventeenth century. Woad looks like a cross between spinach and sugar beet and a dye is extracted from the leaves. Boudicca and the Icene tribe used it paint their faces (and who can forget Mel Gibson in Braveheart!) but at that time woad was used to dye yarn blue. It could not be cropped successfully for more than two years so the woadgrowers, some of whom were based in Nobottle, travelled around the area and would return to the original field every 12 or 15 years. Some of the land at Roughmoor was also used to grow woad. Commercial production ended in the twentieth century with the development of modern dyes although there is still one commercial producer in Norfolk.

Donkey Field was where the Rector kept his donkey which pulled the mowing machine over the Rectory lawns. Windmill Close is where a windmill stood from at least 1500 although it was in ruins by 1827. The name Mill Leys by the water mill also dates back to 1500. Laundry Field was by the laundry which served Whilton Lodge.

Many names date back to the enclosure of 1778. (Prior to that Whilton had operated a communal open field system). Landholders were allotted an acreage in exchange for their existing strips of land and the field boundaries marked by new hedges and it is this layout that we can still see today. Langs Hill and Joe Langs were allotted to Joseph Langton, Butlins to John Butlin, Dunkleys to John Dunkley, Parson's Close to the parson. Gammages was allotted to Perridge Langton; the Gammages were descendants of the Langtons.

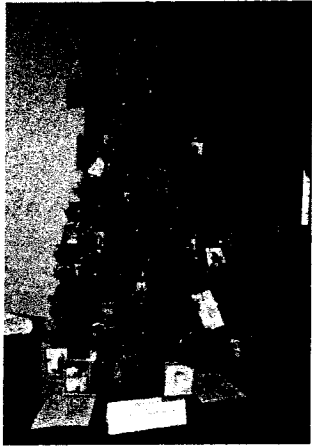
Some field names refer to more recent occupiers. Carpenters used to be known as Great Close. It was occupied by Thomas Emery in 1854 and Robert Emery in 1884. By the mid 20th century it was in the occupation of Roy Carpenter. Roy lived in Tudor House.

Tarry's Orchard was farmed by Edward Tarry who presumably used it for grazing and apple growing in Victorian times. He died in 1907.

Finally we have Top of the Town where Hill Top Farm stands. Many have been puzzled by this as you would not think Whilton is the size of a town. However the suffix "tun" means settlement or village and there are many historic references to the township of Whilton. The field marks the top of the hill and also the end of the village.

NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

We had a very full Christmas programme which was well attended. The highlight was the Carol Service which was held in candlelight and featured the Christmas Trees which had been decorated by our village groups, including the History Society, Gardeners, Social Lunches, Spinney, PCC, Bellringers, Warblers and Pre School. The church really looked festive and it is great that so many groups and individuals gave their time to decorate the trees.



Local History Society tree



The Spinney tree



Whilton Warblers tree

With that spirit of co-operation in mind, we have another opportunity to show how as a village we can work together. We plan to organise an event to join the national celebrations of the Queen's Ninetieth Birthday on the weekend of 10 – 12 June. Initial thoughts are to hold a Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea in church but there is plenty of scope to add to this for example by running a Bake Off competition, tombola, raffle etc. It would be great if village groups could join in. Any ideas or volunteers would be much appreciated.

It seems to be rushing up quickly but Easter is now just around the corner. We will be holding a service for the Benefice on Maundy Thursday and our main service will be Evening Communion at 6pm on Easter Sunday. I can promise Easter Eggs for both children and adults and I do hope that you will be able to attend. We are also going to experiment by opening the church for visitors every Thursday during April and May

Church security remains an issue for us. There have been a number of thefts of metal from churches in the County. Please keep an eye out for any suspicious activity and report this to the police.

We lit the exterior of the church over Christmas, helped by a number of generous donations to cover the cost. We will illuminate the church at any time to mark specific events or anniversaries at a cost of £10. If you would like us to do this, please contact me.

If you have any other ideas about our activities or the building, we are always keen to discuss these. I can be contacted on 843380 or by email Jbrierley1@aol.com.

Jon Brierley, 7 Langton Rise

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Everyone,

Easter Day is usually considered to be the most important day in the Christian year, the day when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead – and it is the day I most enjoy. It defines what Christianity is about: belief that life – our spiritual life – begins here on earth and goes on forever; it never dies because in death we are absorbed into God's presence.



If we are comfortable in God's presence, that is heaven. But we can't have Easter Sunday without Good Friday, the day I like least in the church calendar, when Jesus was killed on a cross after he had had to endure cruelty and humiliation. He had to suffer an awful public death in order to demonstrate that life continues beyond the grave by rising again from the dead.

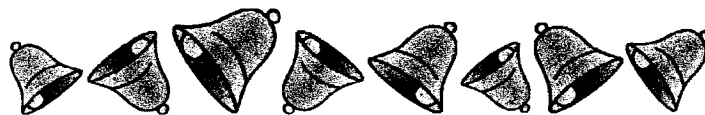
So the time before Easter when we remember Jesus' suffering – we call it Holy Week - is just as important as Easter. We can't have the joy of Easter Sunday without the pain of Good Friday.

I hope that you will grow closer to God both in times of suffering and in times of joy.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter!

Sue

Rev Sue Kipling, The Rectory, Main Street, Great Brington, NN7 4JB
01604 770402 suekipling@btinternet.com



Listen out for the bells of Whilton which will be ringing to celebrate St George's Day on Saturday 23rd April.

HISTORIC PUB BUILDING WILL BE DYLAN'S DREAM HOME

A Whilton Locks building which was a favourite haunt of generations of working-boat people is getting a major makeover -- thanks to a local rigger player who relishes a challenge.

The old Spotted Cow pub, which provided food, drink and stabling for horse-drawn boats plying between London and Birmingham, was forced to close in 1959 following a big recession in the demand for commercial transport along the Grand Union Canal.



The Spotted Cow between the wars.

The building became Four Square Farm, the home of the Linnell family for over 40 years. When Jackie Linnell and her brother Vincent decided last December to sell up, the house was in need of serious renovation and, with its four acres of paddocks, was put up for sale with an asking price of £400,000 .

In March it was bought by Welsh-born Dylan Roberts and his Irish wife Caroline, who have a daughter Cara, 9, and a son Iolo, 8, with the intention of making it their permanent home after having already completed several successful renovation projects. They moved from Long Buckby into a caravan on the site and hope to occupy the newly-roofed house later this year.

Dylan, from a Denbighshire farming family, has lived in the local area for 20 years and is well-known to local farmers as a director with Farol Limited, one of the largest John Deere tractor dealerships in the UK..

A leading member of Long Buckby Rugby Football Club, he has been captain of its first XV, still plays the odd game at the age of 41, and is chairman of the club's mini and junior section.

He has been looking for relics of the old Spotted Cow and is determined to retain the canal-facing character of the old pub with its iron sign bracket, and to look after the hop plants in the hedge which still bloom each summer.

Tom Price.

FAMILY NEWS

On Friday 22nd January 2016 a service of thanksgiving was held at St Andrew's for the life of Freda Margaret Collins. Freda was born at Whilton Locks in May 1924, the daughter of blacksmith, William Tomlinson. She was brought up at the Locks, was baptised in Whilton Church and went to Whilton School. In later years she lived in Long Buckby, and was particularly remembered by friends and family for her hospitality and delicious food.

Her ashes were buried in the grave of her parents, William Charles and Gertrude Tomlinson, in Whilton churchyard.

EASTER BISCUITS

These were traditionally made on Easter Sunday and given as a gift.

Ingredients for 12 biscuits:

- 200g plain flour
- Pinch salt
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 75g caster sugar
- 100g butter
- 1 medium egg, separated
- 50g currants
- 2 tablespoons warm milk
- Pinch saffron (optional, mixed with milk)
- Caster sugar, to dredge

Method

1. Preheat oven to fan 180°C, conventional 200°C, gas 6.
2. Grease two baking trays.
3. Sift the flour, salt and spice into a small bowl and set aside.
4. Using an electric whisk, cream sugar and butter together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolk.
5. Fold in the flour, salt and spice, currants, milk and saffron if adding, to form a fairly soft dough.
6. Knead lightly on a floured surface and roll out thinly.
7. Using a 7.5cm fluted round cutter, cut into rounds re-rolling where necessary.
8. Place onto baking trays and bake for 8 minutes.
9. Remove from the oven, brush with remaining egg white, sprinkle over sugar and bake for a further 3 minutes until golden brown.
10. Cool on a wire rack.



Brington and Whilton Pre-School

The Pre-school is thriving with 17 children on the register and two more to join in March. We are therefore very busy and have taken on an extra member of staff to support the children. Thank you all for your patience, we do understand the village can be very busy at drop off and pick up times and parking can cause quite a problem.

Children continue to enjoy use of the Spinney despite being very muddy, the snowdrops are just coming through now and we have some primroses in our raised bed. We have purchased some new equipment to replace some of our tired/old equipment and the children enjoy a wide range of activities whether in the hall or outside.

For those of you who shop on the internet, we are members of the Giving Machine and if you would like to support your local pre-school you can donate every time you shop – at no expense to yourselves (there are over 1500 retailers to choose from). All you have to do is join as a giver at www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and give to Brington and Whilton Pre-school. We would be very grateful.

If you don't shop on the internet, but go to Sainsbury's, they are once again giving out their active vouchers which we are collecting. Please collect these for us, last year we managed to get some PE equipment. We do have a collecting box in the hall, but if you put them in the letter box we will collect them. Thank you for your support.

We still do have some spaces left and if you have a child aged 2 years to rising 5 years who would benefit from attending a caring setting, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Holman 01604 770083 or 07948724415 and book a visit to come and see us.

NEWS FROM WHILTON LOCKS GARDEN VILLAGE

As spring is here we have lots going on throughout the store - and it's a great venue for you to bring the kids this Easter holiday.

Easter Eggs-stravaganza at Whilton Locks Garden Village!

Join in our Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Use the clues to gather eggs, pick up your entry form at the Garden Centre till point and collect your prizes from Canalside restaurant.

And throughout the Easter Holidays **Meet the Baby Animals** – including Ducklings, Chickens, Turkeys, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Goats, Kids and Lambs (subject to births!)

Family Fun

Fun Things to do on a Walk

1. Tell a Story
Nominate someone to tell a story. Give them five words to include in their story. Try to make the story as funny as possible.
2. Funny Walks
Think of funny ways to walk between landmarks, e.g. from the gate to the tree. You might like to hop, jump and skip, or move like your favourite animal!
3. Shadow Tag
On a day when you can see your shadow on the floor why not give this game a go. Somebody is chosen to be 'it'. They have to try and stand on the shadow of one of the other players. If they are successful that person takes their place.
4. Tree Spotting
Some trees lose their leaves in winter, others don't. Look out for these two kinds of trees on your walk. You could take photos of these trees at different times of the year and see how they change.

Spring Garden

Jack Frost has upped and gone away,
To his icy summer home.
He stays there whilst the sun is warm,
It's not safe for him to roam.

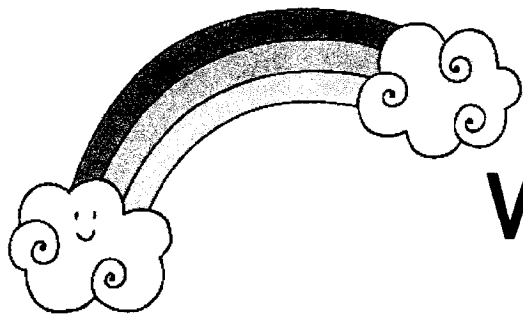
Now he's left the earth warms up,
And flowers start to grow.
Peeking through the heating soil,
Growing quickly for a show.

Crocuses and Daffodils,
Green shoots poke through the ground.
And with each day as spring returns,
They burst up all around.

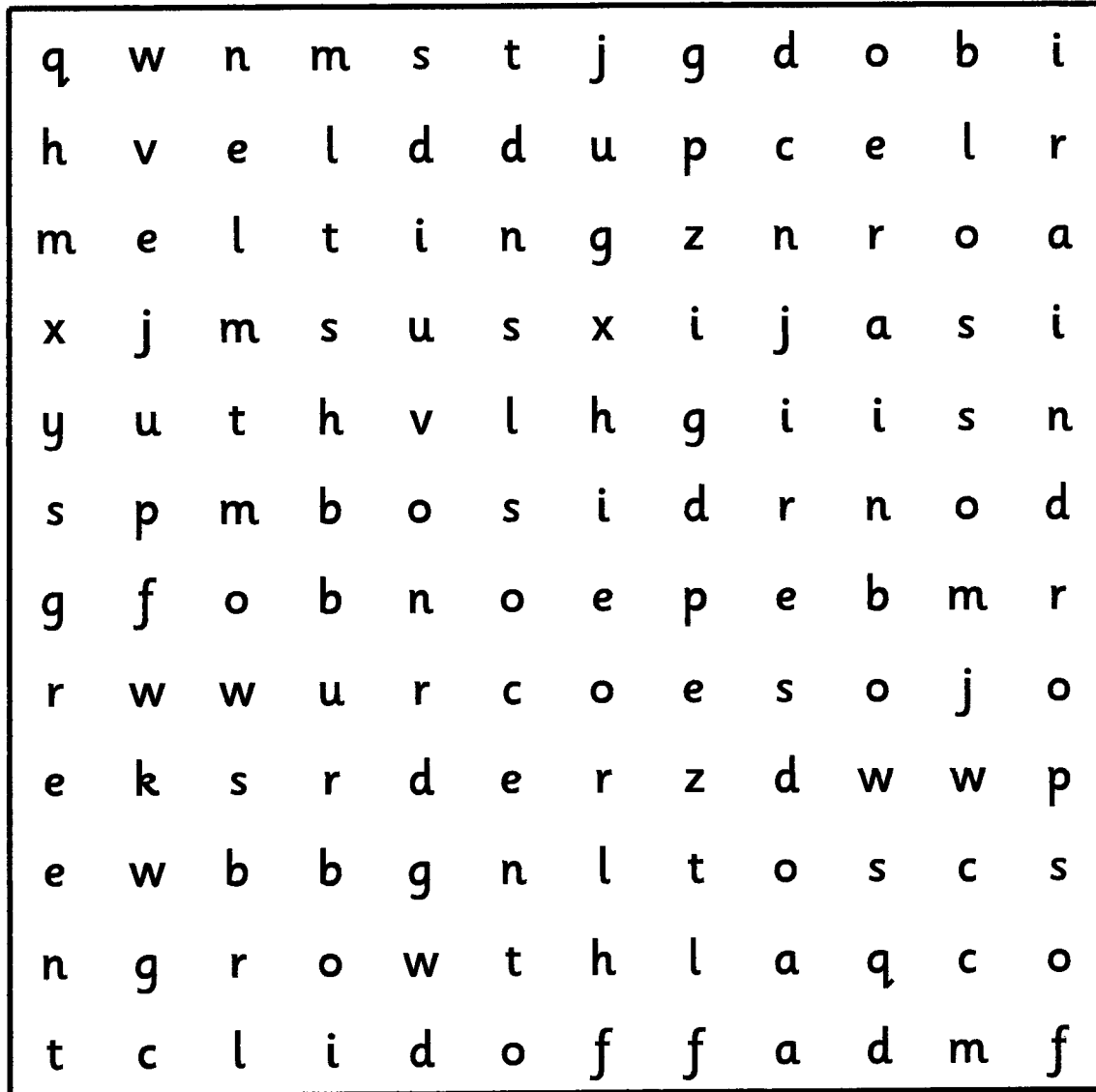
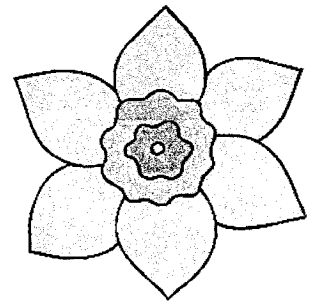
When spring arrives the garden glows,
With yellows, blues and reds.
Stretching in the sunny warmth,
Whilst Jack is safe in bed!

By Gareth Lancaster





Spring Word Search



blossom

daffodil

green

growth

melting

puddle

rainbow

raindrops

seeds

sunshine

tulips

umbrella

The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated free to every household within the parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council.

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❖ **The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter. If possible, please send your contribution by e-mail. If you do not have a computer, the editors will be happy to type handwritten articles for you.**

❖ **The next issue will be the Summer Edition, covering June – August 2016. The last date for contributions will be 20th May 2016.**

❖ **The Newsletter is published quarterly, but Whilton also has a website: www.whilton-village.net. This contains details of the organizations in the parish, previous Parish Council Minutes and Newsletters and a Picture Gallery. It also has latest news and updates on parish events.**

❖ **If you would like to advertise your local business, flyers can be delivered to every household in the parish with the Newsletter at a small charge. For information please contact one of the editors.**

WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON

SPRING 2016

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Sat	5 Mar	10.30 a.m.	Meet at Village Green	"Clean for the Queen" Litter Pick
Sun	6 Mar Mothering Sunday	10 a.m.	Harlestone Church	Benefice Sung Eucharist
Wed	9 Mar	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun	13 Mar	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Worship
Sun	20 Mar	9.15 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Thurs	24 Mar	7 p.m.	Church	Maundy Thursday Washing of Feet and Holy Communion
Sun	27 Mar Easter Day	6 p.m.	Church	Easter Communion
Wed	6 Ap	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Whilton Gardeners Association Anita Thorpe: Woodland Plants
Wed	13 Ap	6.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Annual Parish Meeting
Fri	15 Ap	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society. Wendy Raybould. Northamptonshire cloth industry in the 18 th century
Sat	23 Ap	2 p.m.	Start at Village Hall	St George's Day Spinney and Village Trail followed by tea and cakes
Tues	3 May	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Village Hall	Social lunch
Thurs	5 May		Village Hall	Election
Wed	11 May	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Annual Meeting of Parish Council
Sun	22 May		Malcolm Arnold Centre, Northampton	Whilton Warblers singing in Music and Arts Festival
Wed	1 June	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Whilton Gardeners Association. Brian Ellis: Texture and Foliage in the Garden

Regular weekly events include:

- **BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL** in the Village Hall:
Term time: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Mon, Wed 1 – 3 p.m. for over 3's.
- **BELL RINGING** at the Church: Mon: 7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
For further information please contact Justin Baker 844263 or Janet Bowers 842851
- **WHILTON WARBLERS CHOIR** in the Church: Term time: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.
- **CHURCH SERVICES** in April and May: please see the notice board.