

*Whilton Spring
Newsletter*



March – May 2020

*Letter from the Editors
Spring 2020*

This Newsletter comes to your door through the willing help of a band of parish volunteers. Today we receive letters, notes, information and news through a variety of media, from e-mails, twitter, facebook and more through land lines, computers and mobile phones, but we still appreciate the friendly service of our Whilton postmen.

70 years ago the parish depended on the Royal Mail for all its letters and parcels and the man who delivered them was well-known in the villages he served. In 1950 our postman retired. The following article from the Northampton Mercury of 24th March 1950 is a reminder of the enormous personal effort required to provide this service to Whilton, Welton, Preston Capes and Badby.

VILLAGE POSTMAN HONOURED

Winter and summer, rain or shine, the inhabitants of Preston Capes, Badby, Whilton and Welton knew they could count on one man visiting their village at least once every weekday. The familiar figure on a red bicycle never failed and was never late, and although his news was not always of the most pleasant kind, yet he was made welcome wherever he went. This man who endeared himself to young and old alike was Postman Thomas Gilkerson, of Daventry. Now strange feet push round the pedals of that bicycle and another back bends beneath the load of letters and parcels, for Mr. Gilkerson has retired.

Mr. Gilkerson, who started work for the Post Office as a messenger boy at Weedon, was always a country postman. The Daventry branch of the Union of Post Office Workers organised a dinner at the Dun Cow Hotel, Daventry, in his honour, at which Mr. I. E. Howell (Daventry Postmaster) who presided, handed to Mr. Gilkerson a wallet and notes, subscribed for by his fellow workers at Daventry. Mr. Howell paid tribute to Mr. Gilkerson. It was great to be great, but it was greater to be human, he said, and Mr. Gilkerson was always prepared to give more than he ever hoped to receive.

In this issue we record the passing of another postal worker, Alice Welch of the Old Shop.

We take this opportunity to thank those who provide us with a cheerful mail delivery service today, and also to express our appreciation to the volunteers who help with delivering this Newsletter.

The Editors

WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Now that we have survived the onslaught of storms Ciara and Dennis around the Parish, and are moving into spring, here are the current issues and dealings from your Parish Council.

- **Irresponsible Dog Owners Around Whilton Village.** Apologies for starting with a negative article, but this issue appears to be causing a great deal of angst around the village. It is unfortunate that there are some dog owners amongst us in Whilton village who are totally irresponsible with their dogs, in that they will not pick up after their dogs have fouled in a public place. I myself own 4 dogs, and I find it continually frustrating to see piles of dog mess from others along the walkways and roads around the village.

This not only creates an unsightly mess, but also a health hazard to other people in the village, and the Parish Council have received several complaints over the past few months of evidence of irresponsible dog owners. All details have been passed to the respective department in the Daventry District Council, who have the power to **fine individuals up to £1000** for failing to clear up after their dogs, and the Council representatives have been seen around the village on several occasions doing spot checks. I have raised this concern to the Parish on previous occasions, but we still appear to have an issue. Hence, I would urge you all to be extra vigilant around the village to catch these irresponsible owners. You may not know the individual by name, or where they live, but even if we have a description of the dog, most people tend to know the dogs and where their owners live.

So if anyone sees a dog fouling around the village in a public area, and the owner failing to pick the mess up afterwards, please pass on any details you have either to myself or the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk. Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence, and we will then forward the details onto the Daventry District Council to deal with the individual accordingly. Together, let's eradicate this problem of irresponsible dog owners in our village.

- **Superfast Broadband.** There was an increasing concern that Whilton and Whilton Locks were continually being delayed for the introduction of superfast broadband from Gigaclear to the Parish, so much so that I finally wrote to our local MP (Chris Heaton-Harris MP) to detail the Parish's frustrations at the continual delays. He then wrote to the CEO of Gigaclear for an explanation, and surprisingly, things started moving.
 - To get the latest information, the key websites are:
 - www.roadworks.org. This site lists all the planned roadworks in the Parish and the surrounding areas. There are currently a number of planned works from Gigaclear that have just been put up on the site along Brington Lane in late February/March 2020, and along the side streets in Whilton village in April/May 2020. Whilton Locks is also showing planned works in March 2020. So keep visiting this site to find the latest plans.

- www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net. This team are responsible for the overall roll out of superfast fibre broadband across Northamptonshire, which will include Whilton and Whilton Locks.
 - www.gigaclear.com. This company are responsible for building the network and installing the broadband to your home. The website also details the broadband packages that will be offered, with speeds from 30Mbps up to 900Mbps. Note that the speed you pay for with Gigaclear will be the speed you get, unlike BT and similar providers who quote a theoretical 'up to' speed.
- As yet, we still don't have a confirmed date as to when the network will be live in the Parish, although the Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband website is currently showing Whilton for Q2 2020 and Whilton Locks for Q3 2020.
- **Gigaclear Discount Code.** This discount offer appears to have quietly come out through social media, but I have then checked directly with the Gigaclear who have informed me that it is legit. You need to register your details at www.rural.gigaclear.com and you will then be sent a code which can be used to get the first month's contract free when you sign up for a broadband connection with Gigaclear.
- **Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) Service.** With the cancellation last year of the local bus service due to the Northampton County Council cuts, the Whilton Parish Council have been working with Brington Parish Council to develop an alternative solution. Some of you will hopefully be aware that we set up a joint 3-month pilot trial of the DACT bus last year, and that proved to be a resounding success, running residents to either Daventry or Northampton.

With the success of the trial, it has now been decided to continue with the service for another 9 months. We're just working with the Brington Parish Council to finalise the details, but the first bus should be on **11 March**, departing Whilton village at 09.30 for Northampton, with later dates being arranged for trips to Daventry, and possibly to Elliotts Field shopping centre in Rugby. We'll publish the dates on the village notice boards and via the village e-mail list asap.

Unfortunately, the DACT licensing does not allow for the running of public buses, and hence, cannot carry members of the public. To use the service, passengers need to be part of a 'Travel Club'. To join this club, please let the Parish Council Clerk know at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk so that your name can be registered as a member of the Evergreen Travel Club. You will need to be registered with the club before you can use the service. There will be no cost to passengers for these journeys.

- **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, with the recent inclement weather, and following periods of strong winds, 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.

- **Village Litter Pick.** The next village litter pick will be on **Saturday 28 March 2020** to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean running from 20 March to 13 April. This is part of the bi-annual event where we gather together to collectively clean up the village. Meeting at the phone box at 10.00, full litter picking equipment is provided, and it is a great way to get out and meet people whilst keeping the village clean. It should only take a couple of hours to complete, so any volunteers who are able to help with this event will be most welcome.
- **Northamptonshire Village Awards.** Over the years, Whilton has won a number of awards for being a Best Village in the county, primarily for some of the floral displays that used to be around the village. But, with the aging members of the Parish, all that activity in Whilton fell by the wayside some years ago. However, the competition for the Northamptonshire Village Awards is still running on an annual basis, and they also have an award for Best Creative Use of a Communal Space.

Hence, if anyone is interested finding out further details, and in resurrecting this initiative and leading the village, and co-ordinating effort to enter in the 2021 competition, please contact the clerk at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

- **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 and Whilton Locks E-Mail Distribution List.**
The Parish e-mail distribution list continues to grow apace, with more and more people asking to be included so that they can be kept informed of the latest issues and information concerning the Parish. Previous issues notified have included thefts in the area, suspicious activities and planned road closures.

If you are interested in being added to the list for the Parish to find out what is going on in the Parish, please send your e-mail address to clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.

- **Whilton Parish Council Website.** The Whilton Parish Council also have a website at <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. The Council also hold a regular meeting in the Whilton Village Hall every 2 months, which is open to the public to attend and raise any issues.

Randal Smith
Rose Briar
Chair of the Whilton Parish Council



Roughmoor Spinney

Why not take a walk through the Spinney this spring? The volunteers in the working parties have ensured the stream is running freely. The reflections in the pond are clear. Following on from the new walkway, we have begun our first dead wood hedge along the diverted top path and the top path bridge has been wired.

As the flowers come out in the sun this walk will enhance your appreciation of the coming season.

Keith Hiscock
Whilton Parish Council



The stream flows freely



The stream in full flood, February 2020



The start of the new dead wood hedge



The newly wired bridge

NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS



Drawing by Jean Wiltsher who used to live in Langton Rise

By the time that you are reading this we will have hosted our Village Quiz. This is always a popular event. Thanks to you who supported the event, provided puds and especially to Neil Phillips for putting the questions together.

We see some great opportunities to provide a social focus for the village. When we host coffee mornings these are well supported and give you all chance to catch up with neighbours and village gossip. Similarly drinks after the Carol Service generated a good buzz and natter.

We would like to be able to run more events like this but as always with these things we are reliant upon a small nucleus of people (who can become quite tired!) and so there is a limit to what we can do. There is always room for more volunteers and if you think you would like to get involved in helping with a coffee morning, running a social event, getting involved in the running of the building or even doing a bit of weeding in the churchyard then do let me know.

We should try some new ideas to get new village residents involved and to feel part of the community. If you have any suggestions, no matter what, please send me an email.

The weekend of 8 - 10 May will mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Again this is a good opportunity for a village event. Friday 8 May is a bank holiday. A coffee morning, afternoon tea, evening drinks would be good. What do you think?

I can be contacted on 843380 or by email Jbrierley1@aol.com.

Jon Brierley and Linda Treacy Churchwardens

Letter from the Rector



Dear Reader,

As I sit writing this letter it is a cold, dark, blustery day. Thoughts of Christmas are beginning to fade and I long for warmth, light, and the onset of spring, that promise of brighter things that lays on the horizon before us.

Looking ahead really is my theme for this letter. The BBC are currently running a trailer highlighting the new programmes that they will be broadcasting in 2020. This is our church trailer outlining some of the new things that we shall be starting in the Spencer Benefice during the first half of this year.

In our last letter Rev Kathryn told you about our new "Singing for wellbeing" sessions. Just to remind you that this is being held at East Haddon Church on the last Saturday of every month from 2:30 till 3:30pm. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be able to sing a note, it's all about having fun!

We plan to run "Scripture inspired art and craft" sessions for those of you who like to make and create things. We shall also be starting a "Sew and sow" group, the idea being that we can come together to make seasonal wall hangings etc. for our churches or to work on our own sewing projects.

There will also be a lent bible study group, confirmation classes will begin and following on from the success of "Experience Christmas" we shall be running "Experience Easter" to engage with our local schools and communities.

Keep an eye out for details of these and other activities that will be happening within our benefice. The new year tends to be a time when we try something new so why not come and try church? You may have attended church in the past or you may never have been to a service, either way, you will always be made most welcome. Details of church services can be found in this publication or you can give me a call on 01604 771338.

I hope to see you soon.

Rev Andrea Watkins.

In memoriam

We send condolences to Marian Gardner of Wadd Close Lane on the recent death of her husband, Philip. We remember with gratitude his musical contribution as occasional organist for services at St Andrew's.

Pot Luck Suppers

For the Winter Pot Luck Supper in early January we once again invited husbands and partners.



The village hall was filled to capacity and, as usual, there was a vast and varied selection of starters, mains and puddings to choose from, rounded off with cheese and biscuits.

There were a couple of seasonal quizzes which we tackled in small groups between courses just for fun, no prizes.

Thanks to Agnes and her team of helpers for organising, setting up and clearing away. Judging by the messages flying around the following day the evening had been a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

If you are not already on the mailing list and would like to join in then please contact me. We don't have a date yet for the next PLS but it's likely to be late Spring.

Teresa (teresajleadbetter@gmail.com)



Thank you

Mary and Gordon Emery and the Whilton Carol Singers would like to thank all who gave so generously when they sang through the village just before Christmas.

The collection amounted to £360 which has been divided between the Daventry Food Bank and Churches Together in Daventry, earmarked for the Holiday Food Project for feeding Daventry children who go without a lunch in the school holidays.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

The 200 Club began nearly a quarter of a century ago and has proved to be very useful in providing income to improve and modernise the building. Recently the 200 Club funds have been used towards the new small tables and some of the chairs.

The Village Hall is well-used by the community and is, of course, subject to regular wear and tear.

It is still necessary to continue the club, as all costs are increasing, as with our homes, and the rents only cover normal expenses such as power and water.

When the club began there were 200 members, which explains the name. We have nearer half that number now, but new members are always welcome, as are purchases of more than one ticket!

1st April 2020 is the start date for collection of £13 per ticket renewal and so after that our small band of dedicated volunteers will be round to collect your money.



Last year we were able to pay £45 monthly for first prize and £25 for second prize. Under the Lottery ruling, 50% of the total remaining income has to be retained to support Whilton Village Hall. We hope we will be able to maintain the same amount of prize money, but it is important that our membership does not dwindle.

We trust that current members will continue to support the hall in this way and invite new residents to join the 200 Club too.

The draws take place at public meetings in the Hall, usually at Social Lunches.

If anyone would like further information, please ring Shirley Brown on 01327 842968.

John Clare, the Northamptonshire poet from Helpston is being recognised as the voice of concern and care for our endangered environment. We include one of his poems here:

*All nature has a feeling: woods, fields, brooks
Are life eternal: and in silence they
Speak happiness beyond the reach of books;
There's nothing mortal in them; their decay
Is the green life of change; to pass away
And come again in blooms revived.
Its birth was heaven, eternal it its stay,
And with the sun and moon shall still abide
Beneath their day and night and heaven wide.*

SOCIAL LUNCHES

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2019

The weather was reasonable for December so everyone arrived in an appropriate happy mood. All were welcomed with mulled wine, fruit punch, cold drink or donated wine and Christmas cheese nibbles.

We then sat down to delicious salmon or chicken with beautiful coloured vegetables including ratatouille. The usual varied selection followed which included Christmas Puddings (the star), Pavlova, trifle and mince pies all served with custard, cream or Cumberland rum butter. Tea and coffee were then served with plenty of chat.

We also drew the 200 Club draw for the last three months of the year as follows:

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2019/2020

OCTOBER 2019

1 ST PRIZE	M Jack	105
2 ND PRIZE	J Stoddart	016

NOVEMBER 2019

1 ST PRIZE	A Hiscock	148
2 ND PRIZE	T Treacy	145

DECEMBER 2019

1 ST PRIZE	C Battison	015
2 ND PRIZE	G Camps	116

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

The lunch was, as usual, a very happy social occasion concluding with a take-home bag of delicious coconut ice. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this an enjoyable festive occasion.

The next Social Lunch will be on Tuesday 3rd March 2020
In the Village Hall
£6 per person
You are very welcome to come and join us.
Please book with Marian Seal: 07523 890589
or Anthea Hiscock: 843319, anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk

In memoriam
Alice Welch of The Old Shop 1929 - 2019

Violet and Jack Little welcomed their second child, Alice, into the world on 8th November 1929, in Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire. Alice was one of five children, having an older brother Tom and younger brothers and sisters, Jim, Gwen and Rita. Whilst she had a good childhood, Alice didn't have the easiest of lives, however, things improved when she met Don Welch in the early 1960's. Alice was working at James Higgs florist and greengrocer at the time. A mutual friend 'fixed' them up by inviting them both to a function. Don asked Alice if she wanted to go "to the dogs" with him. She declined but then later decided that she liked him, and they started courting. They had a very small and private wedding at the Northampton Guildhall in February 1963. Alice had two children, David and Barbara and Don, a widower, had four, Bill, Maureen, Jen and Colin.

As well as working at James Higgs, Alice had various jobs. She was a leather worker, making saddles, a bus conductress and her last job was as a post lady in Daventry. Alice was a sociable lady who loved dancing and playing bingo. In fact, to her grandchildren she was known as Bingy Nanny. She was a good grandmother and the children used to enjoy staying with her. She was proud of her children and her grandchildren.

Alice was fantastic at needlework, crochet, knitting and sewing; however, her creative domestic skills didn't stretch to the kitchen. She was not known for her high cuisine. She also enjoyed jigsaws and reading and was known for her story telling; stories which she may have embellished from times to time.

Don, who was a really lovely man, sadly passed away in 2010 and this hit Alice hard. She started to suffer with her own physical health, battling through breast cancer, septicaemia and renal failure. She was having dialysis three times a week and was in and out of care and hospital over the next ten years. Whilst she struggled with her physical well-being, mentally she was as bright as a button right up until the end.

Alice was determined to keep going and really wanted to make Harriet and Paul's wedding on the 29th November. Sadly, this wasn't to be as Alice peacefully passed away on 20th November in Northampton General Hospital, just two weeks after her 90th birthday. She was comfortable at the end and knew that her time had come.



Alice on her 90th birthday

With thanks to Jenni Patching

CONGRATULATIONS!



The marriage of Alice's granddaughter Harriet Patching was on 29th November 2019. Harriet has lived in Whilton from birth and met Paul Shawcross from Stockport, when both were studying for their MSc in physiotherapy at university in Leeds.

The wedding took place at St Andrew's Church in Whilton, followed by a reception at Holdenby House. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

BANK HOLIDAY, FRIDAY 8TH MAY



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY

Friday 8th May 2020 will mark 75 years since the end of the war in Europe. In many places, especially in large towns this was an occasion for great rejoicing and street parties. In Whilton there was no great party.

Older Whilton residents, interviewed in the late 20th century, remembered this time as a bitter-sweet event. They did not recall celebrations.

Four Whilton sons were dead and others were still serving in the Far East and India. Families could not be sure of their return.

Country villages like Whilton had not experienced the extreme austerity of urban areas; there were still some eggs, milk, and home-grown fruit and vegetables, which could sometimes be exchanged for items such as sugar with friends in town.

Wartime recipes were rarely exciting, with names such as cabbage casserole, curried carrots and beetroot fricassee, all of which saved the meat ration, and those who had to cook for their families looked forward to more and better supplies. The end of all rationing, however, did not come until June 1954, when meat was the last item to come off ration.

Whilton Local History Society

As usual we held our AGM in January, meeting on 17th for a meal before the business meeting. This year we prepared a Roman meal, remembering that the Roman town of Bannaventa once stood on the Watling Street near Whilton Locks.

A group of members had prepared a 3 course Roman meal, accompanied by spiced fruit juice and mulled wine. The planning and preparation provided a learning curve for all of us and the eating was enjoyed by everyone. Included below is a recipe for Columella's salad, which formed part of the first course.



Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella was born about 4 AD in Spain. After retiring from the Roman army he took up farming and writing. In his book "De Re Rustica" he gave advice on wild plants, gardening and animal husbandry, and also provided recipes.

Although described as a "salad", this was not what we expected, but was surprisingly acceptable, best prepared with a pestle and mortar, or alternatively chopped very fine.

Columella's salad

Ingredients

100g fresh mint
50 g fresh coriander
50g fresh parsley ... or experiment with different herbs
1 small leek
Sprig of fresh thyme
200 g salted fresh cheese (feta is ideal)
Vinegar
Pepper
Olive oil

Method

- Put the herbs, leek and cheese into a mortar and crush with a pestle.
- When crushed, stir in a little peppered vinegar.
- Put the mixture on a plate and pour oil over it.

Our next meeting on Friday, 20th March 2020. will be open to all. This will mark the launch of the society's new publication, "The mystery of the Whilton Stone," and will include a talk about the discovery, meaning and history of the stone, which was ploughed up by Gordon and Martin Emery in 2014.

The following meeting will be on Friday 15th May, as shown on the following page.

Whilton Local History Society
OPEN MEETING

THE MYSTERY OF THE WHILTON STONE

Launch of the new book produced by the Society
with a talk about the Whilton Stone by Anthea Hiscock.



Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. Friday, 20th March 2020

To order a copy contact

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

or Marian Seal, 07523 890589

or purchase at this meeting for £15.

Whilton Local History Society

The Northampton Saints and the First World War
Speaker: Graham McKechnie



7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Friday, 15th May 2020

No charge for members. Visitors: £3

All welcome

Aperture Photography Group

As we arrive in 2020 our group has reached a milestone that we never thought we would reach, certainly not in just over three years. We now have 52 enthusiastic members and we have reluctantly had to come to the decision that our premises at the Saracen's Head in Little Brington cannot hold anymore of us and, therefore, we can not accept any more new members. I felt really bad having to turn someone away a couple of weeks ago! But with that success has come opportunities....

In our early days the group was mostly made up of newcomers to photography, but as time has progressed and new members have arrived, we have all started to show signs of improvement and our enjoyment has increased. Thirteen of us spent a long weekend in Liverpool at the start of February, just as Storm Ciara was about to descend on the UK. We were fortunate in having good weather on the Friday and Saturday, but Sunday was very different and saw us all cowering in doorways near to the site of the famous Cavern Club as the rain lashed down and the wind blew around the status of John Lennon and Cilla Black. On the good days we were able to shoot at the Pierhead and make images of the Liver Building and Liverpool Museum and a short walk took us to the famous Albert Docks. We walked around the city centre and went to Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, the Central Library and St George's Hall and worked together to create lots of interesting and unusual images.

Our workshops away are always a great opportunity for members to get to know each other better and to learn camera skills and practice creating compositions with the help of the more experienced group members. So much so, we have three further workshops lined up during 2020. In March we head down to Dorset for five days to photograph some of the iconic landscapes in that county. In April we spend a long weekend in Bristol and later in the year we are off to the Lake District.

It is fascinating listening to our members tell us how they see their photography improving and then seeing how that improvement shows itself in their finished photographs. Here are a couple of images I made in Liverpool.



Although we cannot accept any new members this year, if you would like more information about the group, check out our website (www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk), or contact Neil Phillips on 01327 844182 or via email (neilp.apg@gmail.com).



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



We held our AGM and quiz on 5th February, when we announced our 2020 programme.

- 1st April - Maria Ellis, Adding Style to your Country Garden
- 3rd June - Whilton garden visits and Social / Buffet, details nearer the time
- 5th Aug - Stuart Phillips, Pruning
- 7th Oct - Johnnie Amos, Late Flowering Plants for August and September
- 2nd Dec - Members' Christmas social

Moving our open garden visits to June, rather than August, proved successful in 2019, so we are going to do the same again this year and will be looking for two or three volunteers to open their gardens for us on June 3rd.

Our annual membership costs £15 per person. If anyone would like to join WGA please get in touch with our membership secretary, Maurice Archer, on 01327 843081, or the chairman Roy Haynes on 07879861673, email royandtricia@btinternet.com

The New Plough - Whilton



The Old Plough closed its doors in 1967 and Whilton has now been without its own hostelry for 53 years. But that's all changing. For one night only... on Friday 17 April, the Village Hall will host our own 'pop-up' pub, the New Plough.

Please put the date in your diary to drop in any time between 5.30pm and 10.30pm. We'll have a barrel of real ale (maybe two if it looks like we need more!), plus wine and soft drinks. So come along and share in the hospitality with your friends and neighbours!

And a request! We will welcome some help on the bar and if you are able to spare an hour or so to join the rota, please mail me at richardbunce54@gmail.com. I'll confirm details back to volunteers later.

WHILTON AND BUCKBY LOCKS ASSOCIATION A towpath tale

Repairing the towpath by the canal has been proving a frustrating headache for members of the Association. In December Geoff Woodward described a meeting where he learned that “the dredger is stuck in London due to not being able to pass through a lock somewhere further south from here and the Trust are proposing to transport it by road to drop it back in the water somewhere near here, thus enabling the towpath work to be carried out.

Due to the fact WBLA has been awarded a further £250 in 2020 by the (Long Buckby) Parish Council, we all agreed it would be better to leave the path until early April so that we can use the new money and hope the weather will be better for working. We know this is a longish delay but at last it does look as though the Trust are keen to get the job done. We are indebted to those who have promised funds for aggregate and thank those who have already paid for their patience.

During the meeting a few facts and figures were announced and it seems that already in the 2019/20 financial year a total of some 70,000 volunteer hours have been recorded and they expect this to rise to 120,000/130,000 by the end of the financial year. Where would the Trust be without this fantastic band of willing helpers?”

In January this year Geoff and Sue Woodward were able to write:
“We still can't believe it, but at lunch time today we received a phone call from the Canal and River Trust advising us that the crane boat has now arrived at Cosgrove, from where it will be moving on to Welton for vegetation works and it is scheduled to be available for WBLA's towpath works 6 weeks from today!

Now that sounds very precise and we are not holding our breath, particularly as we have to get the aggregate ordered, the finances sorted and a workforce signed up. We understand Braunston and Northampton groups have been roped in already, so that is a good start. Hopefully it won't be long before we can make some more definite arrangements.”

If anyone from Whilton is interested in volunteering, please see:
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/wblaorguk/>



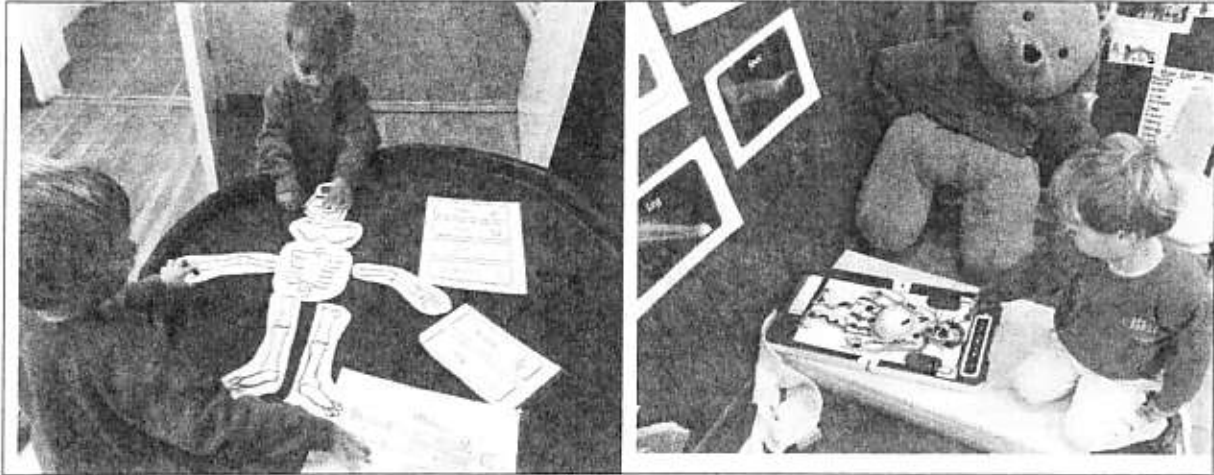
SEASONAL FOOD

Hot cross buns!	If you have no daughters,
Hot cross buns!	Give them to your sons.
One a penny, two a penny,	One a penny, two a penny.
Hot cross buns!	Hot cross buns!

These spiced and glazed buns were traditionally sold on Good Friday, marked with a cross of flour paste, and the nursery rhyme was based on the cries of the town street sellers. People in Whilton probably had to make their own until modern times, when they are available in the shops or delivered to our doors all year round.

Brington and Whilton Pre-school

The children at Brington and Whilton pre-school have had a fantastic term learning about our amazing bodies. They have looked at the bones in our bodies, learning their names and the names of the different parts of our bodies too.



We had a visit from Nurse M who showed us the germs on our hands and how we need to wash our hands carefully, the children got to listen to their heart beats and the children got to touch and look at a model of a spine.

The children have been very active this term by taking part in fun physical activities like yoga, ballet and dancing, using the parachute, moving different parts of our bodies, climbing on the climbing frame and we have also been looking at healthy foods and how we can promote healthy lunchboxes in our pre-school. We learnt how exercise is really important for our bodies and minds to keep us fit and healthy too.



The children learnt about Chinese new year and made some lovely valentines cards for their loved ones.



We opened up the pre-school to the villagers of Whilton this term to spend an hour talking, reading or just playing with the children. If you have a spare hour and are interested in coming in to visit us please contact Trisha at managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com.

Our next open morning is on Friday 27th March from 9.45am – 11 am. Come and say hello....

Our Pre-school annual Easter egg hunt is on again – **Saturday 11th April at Great Brington Church from 10am.** This is a fantastic family event with a raffle, cakes and refreshments and lots of fantastic egg hunting. £3.50 per child which includes a drink and a snack. Come and join the fun. Everyone welcome....



If you are looking for a small nurturing pre-school for your child aged between 2-4 years old to learn, play and grow, which offers amazing activities, crafts and has some fantastic outdoor learning environments for the children to play in and explore...

Please contact Trisha on 07546 440572 or managerbanwpreschool@gmail.com or look us up on facebook- Brington and Whilton preschool.

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Calling local artists and friends

Preliminary notice for October



On the first weekend of October the Local History Society will be holding an art exhibition in Whilton. If you know someone who has paintings of Whilton and places around, if you draw or paint yourself, or if you own Whilton artwork, we would like to hear about it.

We shall be sharing all types of art from work of the Pre-school to paintings of more experienced artists, especially of Eric Fleming whose brother died in his plane in 1940.

There will be more details in the summer issue, but please contact any member of the Local History Society Committee if you think you can help.

Spring Nest Colour by Number

- 1 - spring
- 2 - green
- 3 - light brown
- 4 - dark blue
- 5 - dark brown
- 6 - tree

Match the colour to the numbers



j	s	c	o	w	p	a	r	s	l	e	y
b	r	u	d	e	r	a	f	j	s	g	u
u	f	c	d	s	i	n	h	f	z	w	s
b	s	k	c	a	m	g	o	u	j	x	n
v	c	o	v	q	r	s	g	f	b	a	o
w	o	o	d	s	o	r	r	e	l	d	w
s	w	f	q	d	s	q	a	u	u	p	d
f	s	l	w	g	e	d	m	b	e	f	r
u	l	o	d	j	g	s	s	y	b	g	o
o	i	w	f	o	f	m	o	f	e	o	p
n	p	e	b	s	n	b	n	j	l	d	s
g	h	r	d	f	h	d	s	d	l	a	h

Find the spring flowers

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

The costs are met by the Parish Council.

The Newsletter is delivered by volunteers who willingly give up their time to bring this to your door.

The Editors are:

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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 to August 2020. The last date for contributions will be 20th May 2020 .

The Newsletter is published quarterly, but Whilton also has a website: www.whilton-village.net. It has latest news and updates on parish events.

Other websites with information about events in Whilton include:

Whilton Parish Council:

www.parish-council.com/whilton

Brington and Whilton Pre-school:

www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk/

Whilton Local History Society:

<https://whiltonlhs.org>

Whilton Locks Garden Village:

www.wlqv.co.uk

**WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON
MARCH – MAY 2020**

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Sun	1 Mar	10.30 a.m.	Church	Benefice Communion
Tues	3 Mar	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Village Hall	Social Lunch
Sun	8 Mar	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Wed	11 Mar	9.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Green Village Hall	First bus leaves for Northampton Parish Council meeting
Fri	20 Mar	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society
Sun	22 Mar	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Fri	27 Mar	9.45 – 11 a.m.	Village Hall	Pre-school open morning
Sat	28 Mar	10 a.m.	Green	Village litter pick
Wed	1 Ap	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association
Sun	5 Ap	10.30 a.m.	Brampton Church	Benefice Communion
Sat	11 Ap	10 a.m.	Brington Church	Pre-school Easter egg hunt
Sun	12 Ap	9.15 a.m.	Church	Easter Day Communion
Fri	17 Ap	5.30 – 10.30 p.m.	Village Hall	"The New Plough" pop up pub.
Sun	25 Ap	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Sun	3 May	10.30 a.m.	E Haddon Church	Benefice Communion
Sun	10 May	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Fri	15 May	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society
Wed	20 May			Last date for contributions to Summer Newsletter
Sun	24 May	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Sun	31 May	4 p.m.	Church	Pentecost Praise

Regular weekly events

- **BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL** in the Village Hall:
Term time: Mon, Wed, 9.30 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Fri. 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **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 Hall until Easter and then in the Church: Term time:
Tues, 7.30 p.m.
- **THE APERTURE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP** usually meets fortnightly in the Saracen's Head, Little Brington at 8 p.m. See article in this issue.