

WHILTON
SPRING NEWSLETTER
March – May 2012



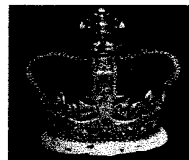
LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome to the spring 2012 issue of the Whilton Newsletter, the first of this remarkable year.

Locally, 2012 has already seen the positioning of the new village sign, the design of which was chosen as a result of a competition instigated in 2008. The sign features the name of Woltone, which is how Whilton was referred to in the Domesday Book of 1068.

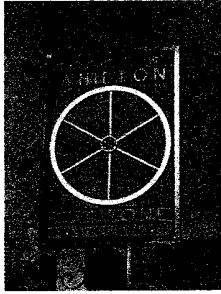
On a national level, 2012 marks the Queen's 60th year on the throne, plans are already underway for the village to celebrate HRH Diamond Jubilee, please read the updates in the newsletter for all the dates and information, we hope that as many villagers as possible will join us in commemorating this historic occasion.



2012 will also see the UK hosting the Olympics for the first time since 1948, one of our editorial team; Rochelle was one of the lucky few who managed to secure a job interview for being part of the elite Olympic support team. Read all about how she got on in her column inside.

As always, if you have anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter please get in contact with one of the editorial team (however big or small). We love to hear about new ideas and suggestions and want to make the newsletter about the village for the villagers. We also appreciate feedback on the articles we already include; please let us know what you think.

The Editors



WOLTONE - WHILTON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SIGN

The new Whilton village sign on the Green was erected by the Parish Council on 21st February.

The sign was chosen after asking parishioners for ideas, and this was the choice of the Clements family. The sign reflects aspects of Whilton and its history. The name of the parish comes from Saxon times, and most probably means “settlement on the wheel-shaped hill”. The Anglo-Saxon was translated into Latin in the Domesday Book in 1086 as “Woltone” and this appears at the bottom of the sign, with the modern spelling at the top.

The wheel shape reminds us not only of the derivation of the name, but also that wheels and travel have always been part of this parish’s history. From Roman times, Watling Street and the road towards Duston were important, later train wheels on the London to Birmingham Railway passed through, joined in modern times by those thundering up and down the motorway. Besides this, Field View, in the village centre, once had a wheelwright’s workshop.

Everyone who looks at the sign may interpret it in their own way. Ken Bowers adapted the original design using the wheel to symbolise Main Street as the hub of the village with the six spokes being the side lanes of Whilton, and it has also been suggested that the wheel could represent the bell wheels in the tower, an aspect of Whilton Church.

The wheel has been picked out in gold, and the colour blue has been introduced as a reminder that Wadd Close, Second Wadd Close and some of the Roughmoor fields were areas where woad was grown in the 18th century, in order to produce blue dye.

The sign was produced by Haddonstone Ltd of Brixworth. The company offers a range of English hand-crafted stonework, garden furniture and ornaments. More information can be found on their website, www.haddonstone.com, by contacting them at info@haddonstone.co.uk, or by telephoning Will Haxby on 01604 772031.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

I would like to thank Councillors for the warm welcome extended to me when I joined the Council in January. I was impressed by their local knowledge and the enthusiasm with which they serve the community.

A little bit about me I am a CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualified Clerk, who is also Clerk to Everdon Parish Council, a post I have held for the past five years. I am sure that my experience in parish council administration will also prove to be of benefit to your community. On a personal level, I am a great lover of the outdoors and look forward to doing some Nordic pole walking in the countryside around Whilton (once it gets a bit warmer). Please feel free to join in if you spot me and we can chat as we walk – poles are optional!

I would like to invite all residents to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall on 11th April 2012 at 7:30pm so that we can get to know each other. Details of this meeting will be posted on the noticeboards and website nearer the time.

The next important date in Whilton's calendar is the Election which will coincide with that of Daventry District Council on 3rd May. Once again, details will be published on the noticeboards and website, so look out for them. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all eligible residents to consider becoming parish councillors by standing for election. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more information about the role of a Councillor or if you would like me to send you a nomination form. The election will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting on 9th May at 7:30 where the newly elected or co-opted councillors are appointed and a chairman is elected .

When new people with fresh ideas join forces with experienced councillors, the council and the community it serves, can thrive and prosper!

Erica Fothergill
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk
Tel 01327 310864 a/h

FAMILY NEWS

NEW BABIES

Just before Christmas the village was happy to welcome two new arrivals.

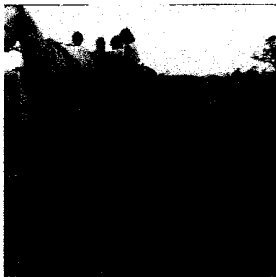
We congratulate Sharon and Trevor Duncan on the arrival of Daniel Mark on 6th December 2011.



Congratulations are also extended to Dee and Harpal Nandhra on the birth of their daughter Maya on 18th December.

A LONG LIFE

We remember the family and friends of Joan Davies of Roughmoor Grounds, who died aged 98 on 8th February 2012.



Joan was a significant part of Whilton life for many years, and her life was celebrated in a packed parish church for her memorial service on 17th February. Further details of her life and another episode of her memoirs appear in this Newsletter.

A snapshot of Joan Davies with passengers, as the pony moves quickly out of the frame!

BRINGTON SCHOOL'S HEADMASTER

We also send condolences to the family of Paul Bilsborough, who died on 23rd February 2012, aged 73.

He was headmaster of Brington School for many years. For much of that time, and during his early retirement, he lived in Whilton. He was active in village life, being a member of the Parish Council, an allotment holder and an encourager of local children.

About ten years ago he moved away from Whilton to live near York, but he will be remembered by the many parents and ex-pupils, who were influenced by his commitment to the education and development of local children.



Roughmoor Spinney

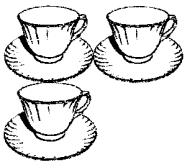


A working party was held on Sunday 4th December 2011, the main task was to spread the MOT (granite chippings) to sections of the footpath which had become rather boggy in the path around the spinney.

It was rather disappointing that only seven volunteers turned out but nevertheless one and half tons of this material was used for improving the path. Many thanks to all the volunteers who came along to help with this task, which was quite heavy work.

We have 1½ tons left to spread and a further working party is to be arranged early in March, possibly some time on a Saturday. Watch the village notice board for date.

Whilton Spinney Management



TUESDAY CHAT

The Tuesday Chat which took place on 20th December was very successful. The table decorations and crackers were attractively Christmas themed and the cakes and savouries were very much appreciated.

Other Tuesday Chats were held on 17th January and 14th February (Valentine themed cakes). These were also very well attended.

These Tuesday social gatherings take place in the Village Hall from 2.30 - 4 p.m.

The next Tuesday Chat dates will be 17th April and 15th May.

We look forward to seeing you. A small charge of £1.50 per person is made to cover the hire of the village hall. Tea and refreshments are included.



Neighbourhood Watch Report

Firstly, I apologise for the change of dates for the Street Surgeries. At the time of the last Newsletter going to press the dates were correct as given to me, but subsequently they were changed by our Support team.

The dates for the next three months are as follows, but please check on the Village Noticeboard or website nearer the dates to ensure that they have not been changed.

14th March 4- 4.30pm
22nd April 12 – 12.30pm
16th May 6 – 6.30pm

Sadly we have had two vehicles stolen from the village since my last report. One was recovered very quickly. The issue of a wooden pallet being left in a dangerous position in the vicinity of the Village Green has now hopefully been resolved.

The 101 non-emergency number should be used to report a crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. 999 should be used in an emergency. The dedicated Watchline number 01604 432436 is still fully operational.

Ros Gardner
Co-ordinator

SASHA'S COLUMN: SNOW AND STARVATION

I'm not a happy bunny at the moment, or should that be happy doggy? So it's just before Christmas and here I was enjoying a nice car ride, with my mum and big sister when we pulled up outside this strange building.

It was OK at first, lots of new smells, but when I got in I was taken to this separate room and this woman told me I was overweight and that I had to go on a diet. Yes I was at the vets and now the word has been jinxed in my house. No one is allowed to say it or I run.

I didn't really want to hear that I was going on a diet, it was almost Christmas, it was almost big chicken day and I couldn't have any of that beautiful, delicious food. I was put on this horrible food, I wouldn't eat it at first but then I just got so hungry I had to try some. It's not that bad actually and now I eat it every day, along with some chicken and a couple of treats, if I am lucky.

Not only has my food changed but my walks have changed too. I no longer go for long and tiresome walks, but short little walks. It is even more exciting at the moment with the cold weather.

So I will probably see you at some point, so when you do see me, don't forget to give me lots of attention.

See you soon.

Sasha



A WINDY DAY IN WHILTON



A windy day but with no rain
Flotsam blowing down the lane
Tesco bag and Flora boxes
Enjoying a gambol, just like foxes.

It's half past eight, here come the cars
Aim for Tesco bag, what little stars
They hit it offside, bag explodes
Bless, more rubbish on the road.

Ring DDC and get a hairnet
For your box, as I regret
I don't enjoy a morning run
Collecting rubbish on the run.

A Villager



MUSIC AND THANKS

From John Townley



In the August of 2011 John Townley Senior made the decision to retire as organist at Whilton Church. As he did so, he reminisced about his experiences as Whilton's organist.

In the mid 1970s when I was taught to play the organ at Whilton by Miss Betty Pride, I used to help her out, playing for her whilst she was on holiday or when she was poorly. In the summer of 1981, I went on a three month's trial to become organist at St Mary's, Great Brington. After 30 years, I am still there.

By the mid 1980s, I became the organist at Whilton after Betty retired. Having a 9.30 a.m. service at Brington, then an 11 a.m. Sunday School, taken by Sue, at Whilton, together with a 6 p.m. service there, helping to ring the bells and playing the organ, my Sundays were very busy, while continuing to run my farming business, especially at lambing time.

I know that the highlight in my organ playing was to play for the funeral of Lord Spencer's father at St Mary's, Great Brington.

Now that there are several organists playing for the Benefice Churches, I felt that this was a good time to retire from playing, without leaving any Church without an organist.

I have really enjoyed my years as organist for the churches, and have met a lot of people who have become my "dear friends", but after my break I also realize that my back problem has been a lot better, without sitting on a seat with no back to it for one or two hours on a Sunday.

I thank all for supporting me over the years.



SINGING FOR CHARITY: a note from Mary Emery

Although Christmas now seems far in the past, Whilton Carol Singers would like to thank everyone for supporting them and giving so generously. On Monday 19th December 2011, £135 was donated to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, and another £135 was sent to the Cynthia Spencer Hospice. Both charities have responded with letters of thanks to all involved, and explaining how vital it is to keep fund raising.



WHILTON GARDENERS ASSOCIATION



The Gardeners Association held our AGM on 1st February with half of our members attending even though it was such a cold evening.

Because our expenditure exceeds our income, it was agreed that the membership fee will rise to £12.00 per person; this is still a good deal if people take advantage of all the talks, trips and Christmas supper, not to mention the discounts available through the seed purchases from Kings Seeds. Olive is the Membership Officer and her telephone number is 07921429228.

There was discussion about the proposed Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and the request for some members to open their gardens after the tea on Sunday 3rd June, for Whilton residents to be able to wander around and view. There will be a limit on the time gardens are open – it has been suggested this should be from 6pm until 8pm or 8.30pm. We have already had one or two members offer to open their gardens but would like some more – if you would be willing, please let Jonathan know on 842401.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th April, when we will be visiting Bert Manton's Craft Centre in Woodford Halse. This will be our second visit and by popular demand – it really is a fascinating place.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday, 29th February 2012 at 7.30 pm in the village hall which was attended by all the Committee Members. This was an open meeting for all parishioners, but none attended. The following Officers were elected:

Chairman	Maurice Clements
Deputy Chairman	Philip Grant
Treasurer	Derek Brown
Secretary	Jane Thomas
Committee Members	Janet Bowers, Shirley Brown, Anthea Hiscock, Jenny Holman & Jonathan Hanslip.

Fortunately during the last 12 months three volunteers have come forward and are now members of the Committee which is very encouraging.

In the normal Committee Meeting that followed Anthea Hiscock gave an update of the position regarding the proposed Jubilee Celebrations.

It was agreed that we should replace 10 of the seats which are well past their prime by a more comfortable design and we hope to have these installed very shortly **but they will not be for hire away from the premises**

The rents/hire charges will remain unchanged for 2012 due to the current economic situation. However there will some fine tuning to the rental charges bearing in mind the charge for parish activities is £6 per hour or part thereof.

Whilton Village Hall Management Group

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FACES OF WHILTON

The Local History Society's last meeting was on 12th January, and was entitled "Faces of Whilton", when members looked at a presentation of photos of people who have been residents of Whilton during this Queen's reign. Besides this some people had brought their own photos, which proved very interesting, but made us realize how many, and what a variety of subjects, there are. This was a good opportunity for bringing back memories of the past.

The Local History Society is now embarking on finding and copying photos of Whiltonians from the last 60 years, and is hoping to provide an exhibition of these in the church during the Jubilee Weekend. We shall also be very interested in any photos of how Whilton celebrated the coronation in 1953, including the fancy dress parade down the main street. Please do let me know if you can help with this.

Part of the meeting was also taken up with making final alterations to our leaflet about the churchyard, and this will now be available for visitors to the church.

The next meetings of the Local History Society will be on 15th March and 10th May 2012.

Anthea Hiscock

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WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All are invited to

<p>"ORPHANED AND FATHERLESS OF WHILTON"</p> <p>The lives of four fatherless children connected with Whilton from medieval to Victorian times</p>
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**Whilton Village Hall
7.30 p.m. Thursday, 15th March 2012**

All are welcome. Please bring £1.50 to cover expenses

Joan Davies

1913 – 2012

A tribute by Sarah Bennett

I feel greatly honoured to be asked to say a few words about Joan. I have had the privilege of knowing Joan all my life. Griff was my father's best man and I grew up with Margaret and Wendy on the next farm.

Joan was born in June 1913 -she would have been 99 this June. She was born in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. Her father had inherited a Manchester Cotton Broking business. She enjoyed a privileged up bringing. To quote Joan: 'our nurse, Mrs Morley, a plain middle aged woman with spectacles, lived in the nursery upstairs looking after me and my brother Ted who was two years younger. It was often the case between the wars amongst children of my background to be looked after at home then educated by a governess before being sent to boarding school. Our parents came upstairs once a day to see us when they were at home'.

She was sent to boarding school and enjoyed her schooldays and her father bought her a pony called Sammy to ride in the holidays. She said that she rode him everywhere and her lifelong passion for horses began. After boarding school she went to Art School and enjoyed sketching and buying paintings all her life. Soon after leaving Art School she met Chris Smalley her first husband who was a friend of the family. They found that they had lots of shared interests. They married in 1937.

When war broke out, her husband joined the Manchester Regiment. He was in the Fifth Commandos which was the equivalent of the SAS. He trained for two years for a daring raid on the harbour of St Nazaire. The commandoes were successful in blowing up the lock and the warehouses but he was killed during the raid. A TV documentary and a book have been written about the raid. Joan was informed that he was missing but did not have confirmation that he had been killed until three years later.

Joan had become a land girl in Derbyshire but a childhood friend arranged for her to come down to Bugbrooke to work for Heygates, the millers. By this time Griff was living with his aunt in Bugbooke and it was not long before she met Griff and romance blossomed. They were married in 1946. They enjoyed a long and very happy marriage and to their great joy they had two daughters, Margaret and Wendy. They farmed at Green Hill, Long Buckby until the M1 ploughed through their farm and then they moved to Park House at Buckby Wharf where they lived for 14 years. They fell in love with the position of Roughmoor Grounds in Whilton and decided to move again and they lived there for 40 years.

It was impossible not to love Joan. She was a great eccentric, a real character; she provided colour in our lives. In winter, she was a familiar sight in the snow with a donkey pulling a sledge to collect post or in summer, on the single track back road to Brighton, with her pony and trap going like the wind. You would see her hunched up in the trap like Lester Piggott waving her whip in the middle of the road yelling at the pony or any motorist who had the temerity to get in her way; she later told us that when the pony turned for home, she was totally out of control and there was no way that she could stop, even if there was a vehicle coming in the opposite direction. One day the trap did turn over spilling Joan, the dog and the shopping. The dog moaned a bit but Joan told him not to be a wimp, righted the trap, packed the groceries and set off for home.

Joan loved 'spirited' horses: nothing docile or predictable for her. As well as her pony and trap she had a gypsy caravan pulled by one of her 'spirited' friends. She would go shopping to Long Buckby in the caravan. There, outside the grocery store she would alight and co-opt an unsuspecting stranger to hold the horse whilst she went shopping. (I think we can all imagine the scene!!). On returning she would find the ashen faced helper either hanging on for dear life or being pulled reluctantly towards Roughmoor Grounds.

Part of village folklore is Joan's sense of fun. We all remember when Joan appeared dressed as a witch at a village hall Halloween supper. We were all sitting down at long trestle tables eating supper when an old crone hobbled in bent double over a walking stick totally covered from head to toe in a black cloak, mumbling through toothless gums. It frightened the children to death. We had no idea who it was and it took ages for us all to realise that it was Joan who thought it would be a great idea to surprise us all.

Life was never dull when Joan was around. Her great love was hunting and of course she was fearless. Some would say that she was a kamikaze horse rider. She would go for anything. One day she had a serious fall. She had taken a huge jump, a fence that had been back wired and the horse was brought down. Joan had some bad cuts to her face and had cracked a chest bone but true to character someone bandaged her up and undaunted by the experience and concussion, she spent the rest of the day out, because, as she said she knew that her days on the hunting field were numbered. She was nearly 70!

Of course, there was also another Joan. She was heavily involved with Riding for the Disabled. She loved poetry and was a very good artist. She loved to sketch, particularly on holiday.

Anyone who came into contact with Joan became and stayed a friend. She was just such an attractive character. She loved a party and kept Open House at Roughmoor Grounds. She did not want to miss her own wake and organised two wakes for herself in anticipation of her death. When you ask about Joan, people remember her kindness. She was a great friend and many have treasured letters or one of Joan's poems tucked away for safe keeping and very dear to them.

Joan died aged 98. She had always said that she would go out into a spinney with a whiskey and watch the badgers whilst hypothermia carried her off. In fact the doctor used to ask her every time he saw her, 'how were the badgers last night?'

The last time I saw her, she was sitting by the window. She had lost her sight and her hearing was poor despite the hearing aid. She loved to tell stories even then and she never lost her sense of humour. She was a great raconteur and loved to talk about the old times. I just sat there laughing at her stories but when I left she said that all she wanted to do, sitting there immobile and unable to see or hear, was to go out into the fields and wander and to be free.

I like to think that Joan is doing just that with a couple of dogs and one of her favourite ponies. And certainly there will be no shortage of laughter in heaven – and the angels had better watch out for a high speed pony and trap.

I cannot end without thanking Olive on behalf of the family. She looked after Joan for nearly nine years. Olive and Joan got on like a house on fire. Olive gave me a rhyming ditty written by Joan a week before she died, in fact the day before she had her stroke. You will all know that they had moved from the farmhouse into a small bungalow. Neither Joan nor Olive was in great shape. Joan found it very difficult to move about, and Olive was in great pain waiting for a new hip. As they were both staggering around on sticks, Joan sat down for breakfast and said :

'We're a couple of crocks

We live in a small brick box

We are just about able to sit at the table

But have difficulty putting on our socks'.

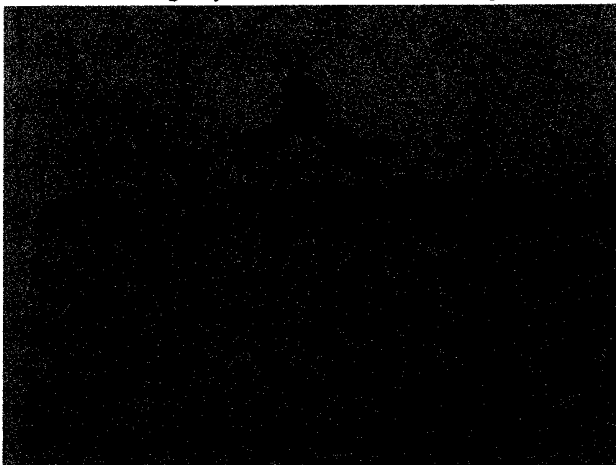
Pure Magic. THAT WAS JOAN

Early Memories of Following Hounds 1928—1936

When in my teens, my father thought it time I was introduced to following hounds on horseback, having followed beagles on foot since childhood rather reluctantly, but; "Exercise, exercise every time you can, Exercise, exercise that's what makes you a man." Unfortunately I was incapable of hitting a golf ball in spite of professional coaching and the same with tennis. Shooting was as disastrous, but at least I could ride, or thought I could. I could ride my pony sitting backward and bareback, no problem.

My father kept a horse at livery in a small yard in Nantwich, hunting with The Cheshire. Mr Brown had about half a dozen horses, and mounted me on a hireling, a lightweight hunter mare named, "Sqwealibags," a most suitable conveyance for a beginner. She always reeked of "Sloan's Linament" on hunting days and could be smelt someway off at the Meet, where the horses were taken for us to mount them; the car being taken back to the yard. We hacked back at the end of the day, very often over 12 miles, but as this was in the late 1920s the roads were a pleasure to ride on and the clip clop of a hunting jog as darkness fell, for me, was the best part of the day. That first season must have been an exceptionally wet winter; many fields held sheets of water and some of the gateways near the farms were literally hock deep in mud where the cattle trod. As they were dairy herds, it was grass with small hedges and ditches, known to neighbouring hunts as "The Funk's Paradise".

I felt very happy on "Sqwealibags" following Mr Brown, striding over grass, not having a clue where we were going, until we faced a hedge which had to be jumped, and I fell off! This was a rude awakening and very soon I became expert at finding the gaps and gateways and was happy again. Mr Brown soon spotted this and instructed me to follow him. Well, I fell off in mud and I landed in flood water and remained soaked for the rest of the day, but never remembered hurting myself, just realising that hunting was nothing but misery. I lay in bed at night praying that it would snow or freeze so hard that hunting would be cancelled. I never told anyone of my fears or the agony I suffered or to let anyone know I was such a wimp.



Even when I was given a horse of my own it had a habit of bucking me off in the first field, winding me and rendering me speechless for some time. Mercifully, by now I was gaining the art of sticking on my own horse, Romeo, who turned out to be a good hunter and lasted some years, by which time I was thoroughly enjoying the thrill of the chase.

one of Joan's illustrations

In 1936, when living in Derbyshire, I followed the High Peak Harriers. Romeo took to the walls with enthusiasm, maybe preferring the solid ground to the mud. There was a much friendlier atmosphere, maybe because my father in law had once been a joint master in days gone by and won the members' point to point run over the walls at Flagg. Also the hunt was smaller. The hunting was different, it was easier to watch the hounds working, and the field was always on the move when drawing. Then when pus jumped up and hounds picked up her line, away they went, up the hill and down dale, over the walls, some strong, some a tumbling heap of stones. Even on blank days we were on the move when drawing. When the hare ran it was never in a straight line. New to the sport I did my best to keep near hounds, thinking I was galloping for miles, to look up and see a bunch of followers standing about on a hillside munching sandwiches, telling us where the hare had gone, and I and my horse were in a muck sweat, it did all seem rather futile.

In this country there were biting winds and I suffered agony on long hacks home with my boots pinching or a button pressing on a shin bone, but at least I was not plastered with mud! After a year or two Romeo developed windgalls which looked unsightly, but was never lame. About this time people were going on skiing holidays and asking me to hunt their horses to keep them fit. This was too good to be true but altered my method of following hounds. From now on I joined the inner circle brigade being fearful of damaging my mounts (which I never did). Only once did I have a nerve racking ride on a horse bought at Leicester sales. I was incapable of preventing him from galloping full tilt at the walls instead of collectedly off his hocks. He had improved by the end of the day and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My father in law gave me some red letter days with the Meynell, especially when he hired a cattle box to transport the horses and we enjoyed tea by an open fire in the local pub on the way home.

By 1936 all fear had left me and I have enjoyed following hounds ever since, in spite of grave discomfort; such as boots pinching, agonising cold and general stiffness.

By Joan Davies.

This article was submitted before Joan's death in February, and her family are happy that we continue to publish this as she intended.

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

Dec 2011

1 st Prize	148	A Hiscock
2 nd Prize	084	T Treacy

Jan 2012

1 st Prize	065	R Gardner
2 nd Prize	203	M & S Healey

Congratulations to All

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB-2012/2013

This 200 club was started nearly 20 years ago and has proved to be a valuable asset and has enabled us to improve and modernise our building. It is still very necessary to continue the 200 Club as all costs are increasing and the rents only just cover the necessary expenses leaving nothing surplus to carry out other improvements.

1st April is the start of 2012/2013 collections and our volunteers will be round to collect your subscriptions.

For the year 2011/2012 we lost eleven tickets and gained seven resulting in a net deduction of four. Again for the year 2012/2013 we know there will six subscriptions not taken up over which we have no control and therefore we have ground to make up. It is hoped that we will get the usual support in the renewal of membership.

Those members who didn't renew last year may like to reconsider supporting the 200 Club or even increase the number of tickets held (Contact Organisers Derek & Shirley Brown 842968). The cost of a ticket is £13 per year.

Based on the Membership numbers for 2011/2012 the prizes were 1st £45 & 2nd £25 and unless the membership number is maintained as a minimum, the level of prizes may have to be adjusted accordingly.

The February and March draws have not yet taken place but this will be dealt with very shortly.

Derek & Shirley Brown



Dear Everyone,

At the time when the days lengthen and we feel spring in the air – even if it is still a little chilly – we have the joy of celebrating Easter. The austere days of winter and Lent, when everything feels dead, have gone; everything bursts into life. Easter is about New Life. We sometimes call it eternal life. Jesus rose from the dead and shows us today how we can have a New Life. Sometimes we think that this New Life comes after death, but it is available to us here and now. It's a life that brings an inner peace; we are at one with God.

The old words of the Book of Common Prayer ask God "to bring us to eternal life". The new words of Common Worship ask God "to keep us in eternal life", implying that we can already live in that life that goes on forever. So this Easter let us celebrate the New Life that we can have because Jesus rose from the dead.

Happy Easter!

Sue

**Easter Services in
St Andrew's Church**



8th April Easter Day

6 p.m.

Easter Evening Communion

15th April Second Sunday of Easter

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion with hymns

22nd April Third Sunday of Easter

11 a.m.

Worship for All

29th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

8 a.m.

1662 Holy Communion

WHILTON SOCIAL LUNCH

The next Social Lunch will take place on Thursday, 8th March 2012 at 12.30 for 1.00pm in the village hall. This year we have again decided to have the meal during Fair Trade Fortnight and to use as many Fair Trade ingredients as possible in the menu.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THEN AT THIS POPULAR EVENT.

The charge will be £5 per person.

Whilton Social Group

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH - FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Spring Quiz

Once again we have secured the services of Quizmaster Extraordinaire Neil Phillips for the Spring quiz on Friday 23rd March in the village hall. Always a sell out, phone Janet (842851) Phil (844731) or Teresa (843988) to reserve tickets. There will be a fish and chip supper and tickets cost £10 per person.

Bring your own drinks.

Whilton Car Boot Sale



This event is planned to take place on Sunday 29th April. Check the notice board for details nearer the time.

PLANS FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE



A variety of Whilton organisations have come together to celebrate this special event. The Whilton celebrations will all take place on **Sunday 3rd June**, and will include the following:

- ❖ **An exhibition in the church, showing photos of people who have lived here during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, organised by the Local History Society.**
- ❖ **An exhibition of modern photos, organised by the Photographic Team, in the Village Hall, which will have been decorated by the Pre-School.**
- ❖ **The publication of a Photographic Survey of the whole parish and its people, as a record of Whilton as it is in 2012, organised by the Photographic Team.**
- ❖ **Bell ringing by the Whilton Bellringers in the afternoon.**
- ❖ **A Tea Party on the Green (weather permitting) at 4.30 p.m. organised by the Village Hall Management Group.**
- ❖ **The opening of several gardens in the village, following the tea, from 6 – 8 p.m., organised by the Whilton Gardeners Association.**

This is quite an ambitious programme for a small parish. Extra volunteers will be welcomed, especially to sit and monitor the Church and Village Hall exhibitions on a rota basis. It is hoped that everyone will be able to enjoy at least some part of these celebrations!

There will be an opportunity to see sample pages of the Photographic Survey before its publication. Information will be available on the village website (**whilton-village.net**) and there will be other publicity to keep all residents informed. Copies ordered and paid for in advance will be at a reduced price.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact the secretary of the Village Hall Management Group:

Jane Thomas at 3 Langton Rise, telephone 843395;
e-mail: michael.janethomas@btinternet.com

London 2012 Games Maker Interview

As the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games draw closer, chances to get a place as a volunteer are coming to a close. 'Games Makers' are volunteers who provide a helping hand at the Games, assisting in everything from the opening and closing ceremonies, guiding people to their seats and helping out with the press. After filling out an application form all the way back in Summer 2010, **Rochelle Lye**, talks about her recent 2012 Games Maker interview.

After an horrific journey, including trying to find Euston Square tube station and having to get a bus service due to rail works, I finally reached my destination, the ExCel building, a full hour late.

I know it's not the best of impressions, but everyone was very understanding. Obviously everyone had been having problems getting there, and after being told to take a deep breath and join the queue, everything, luckily, from that point went smoothly.

I was given a white wrist-band, which stated I was part of the London 2012 Games Maker Selection Event. This matched perfectly with the blue and pink London 2012 bands that I had brought a couple of weeks previously for luck (I am a little superstitious, so yes I do believe in lucky charms). I had to have a passport style photo taken before moving onto the next section.

It is fair to say that I was generally surprised when I realised that they had set up a very small exhibition about the London Olympics and what it takes to be a Games Maker and how important their job will be.

A 3D map showed where each event would take place throughout London, whilst a video played above it, about how important London was as a nation and also giving watchers a sneak peak at inside some of the new venues. The ExCel itself is going to be used to hold events such as fencing and boxing. This gets the blood pumping faster, you realise that summer is nearly here and soon these amazing venues will be filled, with sports fans all over the world.

Another board display, showed the London 2012 mascots for both Olympic and Paralympics games, Wenlock and Mandeville. The diagrams were split up with descriptions on why each shape was chosen. For example there is a light on Wenlock's head to represent the light on top of a taxi.

What stood out most at the exhibition was an enlarged copy of a letter written by Lord Sebastian Coe, which stated what was needed to be a games maker. The video displayed beside it saw Lord Coe himself, sign the bottom. I had no choice, I had to feel the signature. Sure enough it was a different texture to the typed words. It really was signed by him.

Feeling a little bit more exhilarated, I joined the other twenty or so people who were being interviewed the same time as me, to which we were told that we had made an incredible step forward as over quarter of a million people applied and only a hundred thousand were called back for an interview. We watched a short video, starring Lord Coe, the Head of Kraft and Eddie Izzard. I am so glad the latter was on the film, he made jokes, which made everyone laugh and settled the nerves, as the interview was about to begin.

The interview process was odd. The whole room was filled with opened pods so you could hear muffled answers from other people. Each question was scripted, therefore given to all.

I got asked questions like what was my favourite event and why? What had been the most challenging thing that I had volunteered myself to do? I won't bore you with all the details.

I have to say that I was a little bit disappointed that I wasn't being interviewed as part of the media, which is what I originally applied for but a member of the Venue Entry Team. It still sounds exciting as it will be part of this very special event.

During the interview, my eyes were drawn to the wall I was facing. Big pieces of parchment type paper covered the wall and each one was filled with writing. I couldn't wait to find out what it was.

Once the interview had ended, I was told that there was a board that I could write my own personal note on and that each board will remain in the ExCel as a good cheer for Team GB.

What I wrote was simple. Come on London! Let's show the world how we celebrate in style. Go Team GB! Followed by my signature. That was it. The end. It had finished so quickly I was a bit gutted to be going home, without an answer.

I may not find out if I am going to be a London 2012 volunteer until April and I may even be called for training before I get offered a place. So I think the best thing now is to do what I did with my application progress. Forget about it until I hear something. But still, fingers crossed!

PHOTOS...PHOTOS...

Other pages of this Newsletter refer to the photographic survey of the parish, which will be continuing during the spring, in order to produce a book of photos ready for the Diamond Jubilee weekend.

At the time of writing there has already been a very good response from people in the parish. However there may be some, who for various reasons, have not indicated that they would like to be included among those photographed.

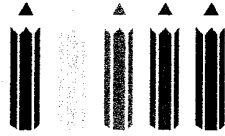
It is not too late, and further information or forms to complete may be obtained from Anthea Hiscock at Langton House, or by e-mailing: anthea.hiscock@tiscali.co.uk.

...AND MORE PHOTOS...

The Whilton Local History Society is beginning to gather copies of photos of residents of Whilton over the last 60 years. This includes people in the village, at The Locks and on the canal, who have lived here since 1952, when Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne.

A number of people have already indicated that they have photos to share, but if you have not done so and would like to, please contact Anthea Hiscock for this too.

We would also be very interested to see any more pictures of the festivities in Whilton, when the Queen celebrated her coronation in June 1953.



Brington and Whilton Pre-School

The Village Hall, Whilton, Nr Daventry, Northants

Spaces available for children 2 years and over.

Join a local pre-school offering excellent education and care.

Led by very well qualified and caring staff.

Children enjoy a variety of activities including small world play, role play, construction, crafts and physical play.

Monday 9.30am – 1.00pm, Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm
and Friday 9.30am – 12 noon.

For further information or to visit – contact Jenny Holman 01604
770083.

SAINSBURYS and TESCO VOUCHERS

**We are collecting these to obtain some tools for gardening as the Spinney Committee has very kindly offered us a patch of ground to plant out down at the Spinney. We would be grateful if you could collect these from friends and family for us and post them in the post box outside the Village Hall.
Many thanks.**

Whilton Local History Society

“DOWN MEMORY LANE”

**7.30 p.m. Thursday, 10th May 2012
In the Village Hall.**

An opportunity to look at photos and identify Whilton people who have lived here in the last 60 years, in preparation for the exhibition to be shown in the parish church on the Diamond Jubilee weekend.

NEWS FROM BRINGTON SCHOOL

CREATIVE CURRICULUM



We are really enjoying this term's topic of Turrets and Tiara's. We all visited Warwick Castle for our Stunning Start and had a fantastic time looking around, meeting Merlin's dragon, climbing the battlements and for the younger children visiting a 'real' princess and getting our very own pea to put under the mattresses to see if we were real princes and princesses! Back in school the children have produced some really high quality work including medieval poetry, persuasive writing and studying forces through the making and testing of trebuchets! The younger children have learned all sorts of things about castles, princesses and knights and have become fascinated by Henry the Eighth and all his wives!

HOT MEALS

We are very excited about the arrival of our Kitchen pod that is now providing us with delicious hot school meals. Most of the pupils and parents joined us for a tasting session and the uptake of the meals has been very good. Parents are now being invited to share lunches with the children and when we have a longer term we will have a community lunch for older members of the community.

PANCAKE RACES

We had a really lovely afternoon on Shrove Tuesday racing with our pancakes and pans! All the children from both Brington and Harlestone schools participated and had lots of fun. The adult race was won by Mr Nicholson and the community relay was won this year by the Brington parents. Well done to all! We then moved back into school and ate pancakes very kindly cooked by Mrs Batson and Mrs Munton.



EASTER SERVICE

Please feel free to join us when we celebrate Easter in Great Brington church on Thursday 29th March at 2.30pm.



All About Me!

This page is for you – the children of Whilton to tell us about you. You can include photos, drawings, games or anything else you want to share. We're looking for lots of ideas so please get in touch with anything you want to include.

Introducing

This issue Morgan Say from Whilton rocks has told us all about herself and we have a word search designed by Louise Whitcombe (aged 6). Thank you very much.

The things children say!

- On his first trip to the theatre, my nephew got very excited when the lights in the auditorium began to dim. Patiently waiting for the show to start, he said "Press play, Daddy".
- My daughter and I were watching an episode of the hairy bikers, when she said "those men have drank too much beer", uncertain what she was referring to I asked what she meant, she replied "the beer has given them big beards".

Name: Morgan Say

Age: 6

What pets do you have and what are they called?
Guinea Pigs, Fifi and Sparkles

What do you like best about living in Whilton?
All the trees

Is there anything you don't like about living in Whilton?
No!

What do you like most about spring?
You get to pick flowers.

What do you enjoy the most about Brington School?
You get to do lots of fun work.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
I like to do my horse-riding.

What would be your perfect day?
Going to the fair.

Is there anything special you are going to do this year (eg. Watch the Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee or holidays etc)?
Going to Canada to see my Gran and Grandad.

Can
Mat
Toy
Cat
Boy
Rat
Bat



FUN STUFF

Bored?



Why don't you make a garden scrapbook?

You will need:

- A scrapbook
- Sticky-backed plastic
- A camera

Start by drawing a picture of yourself in the garden, write the date underneath and stick it on the first page of the scrapbook.

You could collect leaves / flowers from the garden stick them in the book using the sticky backed plastic. Write names or where you found them next to them.

Or why not draw different parts of the garden, or take photos - perhaps take a photo on the first day of each month to see how it changes?

Keep the book by a window; draw, photograph or write about any birds, insects other animals you see.

Remember to update the book regularly and always add the date in!

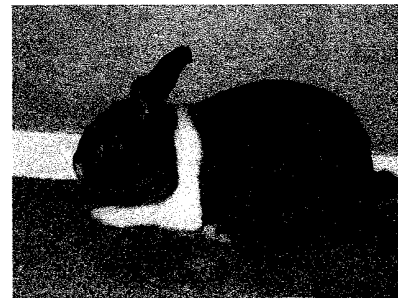
Children's events at Whilton Locks Garden Centre:-

• Mon 2 & Weds 4 April

Easter egg Hunt and cup cake decorating in canal side restaurant. (Booking is advisable for the cake decorating, call on 844904).

• Sun 1 April

Cuddle day! – Ever fancied seeing what a snake feels like, or getting crawled on by a spider? Or perhaps you'd rather stroke the bunnies?



The garden centre is holding a cuddle day where you can spend time with their team of experts, handling and learning about all sorts of animals.

Spot The Difference

Can you find the 5 differences in the picture of Whilton Marina below?



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 supply a memory card with your contribution, or send it by e-mail. If you do not have a computer or typewriter, the editors will be happy to type handwritten articles for you.

The next issue will be the Summer Edition, covering June – August 2012. The last date for contributions will be 21st May 2012.

Whilton is also proud of its website – www.whilton-village.net. This contains details of the organizations in the parish, previous Parish Council Minutes and Newsletters and a very comprehensive Picture Gallery. If you have the facility, why not take a look at the content?

What's on in Whilton? Spring 2012

Thurs	8	March	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Fair Trade Social Lunch
Wed	14	March	4-4.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Police Street Surgery Parish Council meeting
Thurs	15	March	7.30 p.m.	Local History Society: "Orphaned and fatherless of Whilton"
Fri	23	March		Spring Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper
Sat	24	March	2.50 – 3.10 p.m.	Mobile Library at the Green
Sun	1	April		Cuddle Day at Whilton Locks Garden Centre
Mon	2	April		Easter egg hunt and cup cake decorating at Whilton Locks Garden Centre
Wed	4	April		Easter egg hunt and cup cake decorating at Whilton Locks Garden Centre
			Evening	Whilton Gardeners Association visit to Bert Manton's Craft Centre at Woodford Halse
Sun	8	April	6 p.m.	Easter Evening Communion at St Andrew's Church
Wed	11	April	7.30 p.m.	Annual Parish Meeting
Sun	15	April	9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion with hymns at St Andrew's Church
Tues	17	April	2.30 – 4 p.m.	Tuesday Chat
Sun	22	April	11 a.m. 12 – 12.30 p.m.	Worship for All at St Andrew's Church Police Street Surgery
Sat	28	April	2.50 – 3.10 p.m.	Mobile Library at the Green
Sun	29	April	8 a.m. 1 p.m.	1662 Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church Car Boot Sale
Thurs	3	May		Parish Council election
Wed	9	May	7.30 p.m.	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Thurs	10	May	7.30 p.m.	Local History Society: "Down Memory Lane"
Tues	15	May	2.30- 4 p.m.	Tuesday Chat
Wed	16	May	6- 6.30 p.m.	Police Street Surgery
Mon	21	May		Deadline for Summer Newsletter, June – August 2012. Please supply your contribution by this date to be sure it can be included in the next edition.
Sat	26	May	2.50 – 3.10 p.m.	Mobile Library at the Green
Sun	3	June		Whilton celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee