

# Whilton NEWSLETTER

November 1988

## Ed's Notes

1.

The Editors of the Whilton Newsletter would like to wish all the readers in and around the Village a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - we hope you enjoy the Christmas issue.

Ed's

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### Parish Church

Sunday Services:           1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th           at 6.00pm  
                                  4th (Family Service)           at 9.30am

Sunday School:           1st and 3rd Sundays           at 10.30am

Friday 25th November, Sunday School Party 4.30 - 6.30pm at the Baptist Church Rooms, Little Brington. (For the three parishes)

Saturday 26th November Norton Bazaar 2.00pm.

Sunday 27th November, Deanery Service of Advent Carols at the Parish Church, Daventry 6.00pm (Collection for Family Care).

Wednesday 30th Feast of St. Andrew. Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm

Saturday 10th December Concert (of local and other talent) in Church at 7.00pm. Tickets £1.75 to include refreshment afterwards in the Village Hall. Raffle. (An organ fund event).

Carol Service Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm. This year by candlelight, very kindly organised by Clifford Ellison assisted by Janet Bowers. Assistance with the decorations for this service will be greatly appreciated. Gifts of non-perishable items will once again be gratefully received at this service and presented to our Diocesan Family Care Unit in Northampton. It is hoped that lots of children will attend with their parents and bring their gifts up to the altar during the first song.

Village Carol singing will take place on Thursday 22nd December under the baton of Susan Townley, meeting at 7.00pm at the lower green. (The collection will go to the organ fund).

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and although it is the 4th of the month the service at Whilton will be the Sung Christmas Eucharist at 9.30am. The loose collection from this service goes to the Children's Society.

Brington service - Christmas Night Eucharist at 11.30pm (24th)

Norton service - Christmas Day at 11.00am

Whilton Churchyard did not reach a top place in the "Best Kept" competition, but did rate very highly (97 out of 100 first inspection and 90 out of 100 second inspection). Which leads us to express many thanks indeed to all who helped to keep it so tidy through the season.

We are most grateful to all who organised and supported the "Forties Evening" for the Organ Fund (£96 + £12.50 for the British Legion). Also to providers of gifts for the Harvest Festival and organisers and supporters of the Harvest Supper and Auction of gifts. (£137.39 to Church Funds)

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Whilton Playgroup

The Playgroup children have been well occupied this term; they began by investigating fruits and vegetables. The children made themselves orange and lemon drinks, grew carrot tops, sniffed onions and one day filled the Village Hall with scent of home-made pomanders.

Since half term we have been thinking about animals but as Christmas approaches we are planning to make good use of many gifts for the village. We shall be making puppets from our nativity play using cylindrical containers and scrap of material and the lids we have been collecting will be used for Christmas decorations.

This is a time of year when we all acquire boxes and containers which are often discarded in the New Year. If you have interesting or attractive containers we shall be pleased to receive them, especially as we plan to do some "junk building" next term.

Anthea Hiscock

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Whilton Badminton Club

A Badminton Club is run by the village at Duston on a Friday night. It begins at 7.30pm and we play through till around 9.30pm. The club is not competitive so people of all standards are welcome. The evening is usually followed by a social meeting at the Fox and Hounds.

If anyone would like any more details then please contact Adrian Fallows, Foxhill, Whilton. Tel 842887. Hope to see you soon.

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Collection of Milk tops etc. and used Stamps

Once again thank you to all who have contributed to the above collections for "Guide Dogs for the Blind" and "Save the Children Fund". Last time I was able to take four sacks of tops and foil etc., and lots of stamps.

The children of Lyncrest School are now saving for their ninth Guide Dog. I feel that youngsters who are being encouraged to think of others deserve our help.

This Christmas there should be lots of stamps to save as well as extra silver paper and foil from all those chocolates. Remember that even a small bag of tops or just a few stamps will be gratefully received, so carry on saving. Contributions can be left in the porch if we are out.

G. Haynes (The Old Plough)

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Merriden Jewelry

Solve some of your Christmas Present problems, come and see Merriden Jewelry.

Tim Merriman formerly of School House, Whilton will be displaying jewelry at Home Farm on Friday 2nd December at 8.00pm. Please feel free to come and view, or buy at your leisure.

Susan Townley

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## Parish Council Report

3.

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the village hall on 7th November, among matters discussed were:-

Tidy Village Competition - Whilton has won the prize for the most improved village - Daventry South section. The Parish Council has received a prize of £25 and a tree.

Footpaths - Literature had been received setting out the legal requirements regarding the ploughing up of footpaths. This is to be kept on file for future reference.

Repair of Wadd Close road - The Northants C.C. has agreed to make any necessary repairs.

Garden Centre, Whilton Locks - A letter had been received from the D.C.C. stating that the business concerned was to cease trading and remove the roadside signs.

Public Telephone Kiosk, Whilton Locks - British Telecom has sent notification that a new style kiosk is to be placed at Whilton Locks.

Parish Rate Precept - After discussion it was decided to precept for £1100 for the year 1989/90. This equates to a 3p in the £ rate. This amount is made up as follows:-

Allotments	-	£20
Cemeteries/Churchyard	-	£50
Roadside Seats	-	£20
Street Lighting	-	£580
Other Expenses	-	£430

The figure for street lighting includes the possible provision of three photocell controlled street lights.

### Planning Applications:-

Kingston Lodge - Extension granted.

Holly House - Proposed new dwelling. The parish Council had no comment on this.

Rose Briar - Proposed alterations, again the Parish Council had no comment to make.

Whilton Locks - Proposed new dwelling at Canal Side. Although the Parish Council likes the idea of the demolition of the derelict building, it does have reservations regarding access to the site as it is very close to the canal bridge, particularly with regard to traffic turning into the access.

Whilton Locks - Proposed stable and allotment opposite the Lodge Cottages. The application states that no trees are to be felled and the Parish Council hopes that this is strictly adhered to.

Village Notice Board - The Parish Council's thanks were recorded to Mr. H. Haynes for his work in enclosing the notice board thus making it weatherproof.

The date of the next meeting is 9th January 1989, and the Clerk was asked to put the subject of acquisition of a playing field on the agenda for this meeting.

### Memories

Everyone said what hard work it would be, but none of them said how much we would grow to love the Village and them us. I have always risen to a challenge and so it was to be when my family and myself became Village Shopkeepers in Denton. It may not sound a "noble title", but one soon learnt you became "the eyes and ears" of the village, you had to have infinite patience to listen to everyone's "troubles", even if you knew that the dinner was "boiling dry" in the kitchen. I lost count of the Saucepans I burnt and kettles I boiled dry, until I got the sort that "switched themselves off"!

The village school used to be next door but progress took it away from the centre of the village, it seemed the heart had gone. I remember the "runaway" we had, he did not like school preferred to come and look at the sweets in the shop - he must have been all of four and a half!! But of course villagers grow to love you and your family, become part of you. Our own children all had to help as they got older and have all been News Delivery children, so their hearts go out to the village ones when it rains! Many of the children who helped us when we started off in business brought their offspring in to see me - as we were leaving, so we went back down memory lane, many a time! The old folk really took us to their hearts and us them. They never faltered in their relying on us to have what they needed, be it Fynnon Salts for Rheumatism, or Rennies for the Indigestion or safety pins for Auntie Nellie's garters! Some of them now departed are always in our special memories. I can picture them now always having a good word, often having no family of their own they came to look upon my children growing up as somebody special.

The Christmases when people knocked on the door (I only had 2 days off)! - I need a bag of coal, a child's dummy, a loaf out of the freezer, my ..... I forgot to get - how many times I heard that expression, plus of course "Tesco's" don't open on Sundays or Christmas Day!!

Of course memories of the good times can be reflected by the bad times, the dreaded snow - great for trade - but I remember the day I was delivering papers on foot - they nearly lost me and the papers in a snow drift! I am only 5' and drifts were over 10', those were the busy days looking after everyone's needs in the bad weather, even if it meant clearing the snow before you could deliver the "old folks" orders. Still the summer never seemed far away and I used to enjoy my "paper round" those mornings when the children did not turn up - for whatever reason!! Old habits die hard and I can often be seen walking my dogs "at some unearthly hour", as some might say.

I could go on and on, good job I only have half a page to fill!! I hope I have not bored you too much with my ramblings, it was a sad day for us and the village, the day we closed our doors for the last time after 13 happy years, but that is called progress, and we hope to spend many happy years in Whilton.

Chris McMessenger

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# Whilton Fete

5.

The following statement from the audited Fete accounts shows what a successful year 1988 has been:-

	£	£
Opening Bank Balance		356.10
Gross Takings and Interest	1602.02	
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>640.86</u>	
Net Contribution in 1988		<u>961.16</u>
		1317.26
Less Payments to:-		
Church Fabric Fund	450.00	
Village Hall	450.00	
Playgroup	50.00	
Women's Institute	<u>50.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
Closing Bank Balance		<u>317.26</u>

The remaining balance of £317.26 (Deposit Account £269.57; Current Account £47.69) has been left for 1989 to cover any expenses incurred should the fete be washed out.

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## Fete 1989

Two representatives are required from the village to join those representing the Church, Village Hall, Playgroup and W.I. If you would like to join the team, would you please send your name to Janet Bowers at "Heritage" by December 17th. Should there be more than two names then there will be a vote by you the village residents which will take place in the village hall at a date to be arranged immediately after the New Year.

Janet Bowers

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### Chocolate Whisky Cake

2 eggs	2 oz cherries
1 tbsp castor sugar	2 oz walnuts
8 oz butter	8 oz plain cooking choc.
8 oz digestive biscuits	2 tbsp whisky
Cream	

1. Beat together eggs
2. Add melted butter and chocolate gradually and beat well
3. Fold in whisky, crushed digestive biscuits, chopped cherries and walnuts
4. Pour into greased 8" loose bottomed cake tin
5. Decorate with more cherries, angelica etc.
6. Allow to set in refrigerator (can be frozen at this point)
7. Take out of tine and serve with whipped cream.

Serves 6 to 10

Church Organ Fund

6.

Target last October £2,576 - Now only £535.75 needed to complete.

NOT FAR TO GO.

Since the last newsletter we have had the enjoyable evening of the 1940's with the result of £96 to the organ fund and £12.50 from a special raffle, which was for the purchase of the Remembrance Day wreath for the memorial in church.

Generous donations amounting to £117 have brought the fund total to £2,040.25.

The next event is on Saturday December 10th - A Concert for Christmas.

Janet Bowers

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Grape Wine

You will need:

- 4 lb grapes (black if possible)
- 5 pts boiling water

To each gallon of juice

- 2 lb sugar
- 1/4 oz yeast
- 1 teaspoon almond essence

Method:

1. Put fruit into container and pour over the water pressing well to extract the juice.
2. Leave for 4 days to infuse.
3. Strain liquid and measure.
4. Add sugar, yeast and almond essence and leave to ferment in a warm place 65-75 degrees F.
5. When bubbling ceases stir well.
6. Stand for a further 3 days for the sediment to settle.
7. Strain through muslin into a cask filling completely. If wine is not clear add wine finings.
8. Cork and leave for 6 months.
9. Pour into bottles cork and store in cool dark place to mature for another few months. If you can wait.

This is a dry grape wine.

Lyndon Morris

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## Whilton Gardeners' Association

The meeting on 3rd October was the A.G.M. and was almost 9 years since the Association began.

One of its founder members, Mr. Frank Warnes, would shortly be leaving the village, but hoped to come back from time to time. Mr. Warnes gave a prize for the largest onion grown from his own seed which was won by Mr. Don Welch with a magnificent onion weighing 3lb 3oz.

Cups were awarded to two winners of sections in the Horticultural Show held early in September.

Mr. Don Welch (again) - Most points in show (two years running)

Mr. Harold Haynes - Best Exhibit, Display of vegetables.

Congratulations to both of them.

The usual matters of business were discussed and it was pointed out that the objectives of the Association were as follows:-

1. To improve the quality and pleasure of gardening in Whilton and District.
2. To secure economies for members by bulk purchasing, discounts, exchanges etc.
3. To enhance the knowledge and practice of gardening by arranging talks, visits, demonstrations and similar events.

Next year's programme was then announced by Miss Scott as well as some of the outings which were planned:

6th February	Royal Horticultural Society Slides.
3rd April	The Labour Saving Garden. Mr. Patrick.
16th May	Quiz at Flore with Flore & Harpole.
5th June	Chrysanthemums and Fertiliser. Derek Birkenshaw
7th August	All the year round colour in a mixed border. Mr. Beckwith
2nd October	A.G.M. and wine tasting
4th December	Villages of the future. Mr. Bishop

### Other Activities

Outing to Rowsham Park

Visit to Members' Gardens

Visit to Water Perry

Extra meeting to be arranged - Dressing Vegetables for Show Demonstration

Subscriptions for the year to next October are £1.75 per person or £3.00 per couple.

Next meeting December 5th at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall - subject:-

Flowers for Christmas and other decorations.

New members welcome.

Anne Heeley

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November 23rd felt very festive, as a Christmas Cake Decorating Demonstration was given by Mrs. Janet Bowers, in the Village Hall. Janet had arranged for 3 cakes to be available at different stages of readiness. She showed how to put on the three base coats needed to give a smooth, flat, professional finish. Then came the interesting and more artistic side, the decorations. Christmas roses, poinsettias, bells, holly and ivy leaves, books, log cabins, to name but a few. These were made out of sugar paste and I'm sure that the children would enjoy trying their hand at a few of the ideas. When Janet got out her paintbrush and food colourings, we all felt she was going to do a landscape on the cake. It turned out to be a pond which she surrounded by 'familiar' roughed up icing. Fir trees, reindeer and log cabin completed the scene, along with icicles down the edge of the cake.

It was a splendid evening thanks to Janet's hard work, a shame that it was not very well attended. The proceeds from this evening are to go to the Barratt Maternity Home.

Please note these events, although organized by the W.I., are for all villagers, and the next one is on 'Entertaining for Christmas' a Cookery Demonstration at 7.30 in the Village Hall on 7th December. Price £1.25 plus raffle.

Angela Hall

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### Competition Corner

The first correct solution, from each section, opened after the closing date will be awarded a small prize. Answers to Miss D. Scott at Holly House not later than December 18th.

Part 1 is for boys and girls of 7 years old and under.

Part 2 is for boys and girls of 8 years old and over.

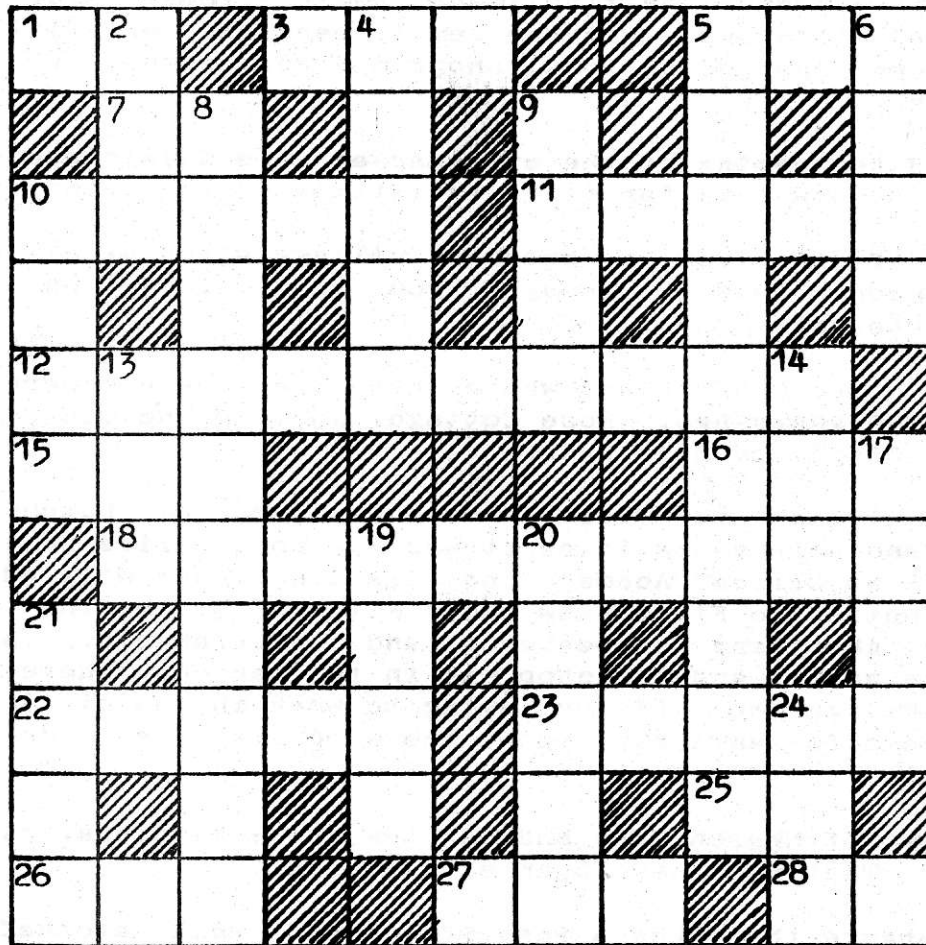
Part 3 is for anybody who wants to have a go.

#### Part 1

My first is in cola but not in pop,  
My second's in hurry but not in stop,  
My third is in rat but it isn't in mouse,  
My fourth is in igloo but not in house,  
My fifth is in satchel and also in school,  
My sixth is in carpenter and in his tool,  
My seventh's in moonshine but isn't in sun,  
My eighth is in cream cake but not in bun,  
My ninth is in whisper and also in say,  
My whole's in December - you'll welcome the day.

#### Part 2 (needs a bit of research, perhaps)

- a) List 3 novelists whose surnames begin with "D".
- b) If you had any of these in your garden what would you be growing?  
Cambridge Favourite, Red Gauntlet, Bounty, Royal Sovereign.
- c) Draw an ampersand.
- d) What have these 3 dates in common?  
1588            1804            1940

**Across**

1. Royal objective (2)
3. Sunburn by beating (3)
5. Prohibit a proclamation (3)
7. Indian area that was not down-hearted (2)
10. Winter pear (5)
11. Happen this is more than half canine (5)
12. Merit in wet (anag.) (10)
15. Abbreviated explosive (3)
16. You need to irritate this firm to make it leave the country. (3)
18. Sauna tales (anag) (5,5)
22. Is this kind of joint getting close to the knuckle? (5)
23. Have six parts but are sometimes limited (5)
25. Make this and repair (2)
26. A demand for payment would make a city of it (3)
27. Just the same if it were all this (3)
28. Sounds like a Japanese drama (2)

**Down**

2. The girl to apply for (3)
4. Elsa and I have got confused (5)
5. To get old begins to sound attractive (6,4)
6. He must be quite average (4)
8. We were asked to in '83 (5,1,4)
9. She's herself on the hidden vessel (4)
10. Scientist, not on, gravitates to the pond (4)
13. N included would advance them to court circles (3)
14. Second largest living bird (3)
17. Egypt in Oxford (4)
19. Not spot on - just the opposite (4)
20. A clever fool (5)
21. Employed (4)
24. Looked at from the south he's shortly the opposite (3)

**Solutions in next issue**

## WHILTON PARISH - its Shops and Tradesmen

Today it is difficult to imagine Whilton and the Locks with their own shops and several roundsmen calling each week. Years ago, however, things were very different. Without family cars and very little public transport villagers depended on local shops and roundsmen for food and other commodities.

Car ownership and the coming of the supermarket made this dependence less necessary and so we now have far fewer facilities of this kind.

Having gathered facts from a group of villagers and ex villagers who remember the bygone days I thought you might find the following information of interest:

We will start with The Old Cottage where there was once a general store - this was about 80 years ago. Rose Cottage, just behind Old Cottage was kept as the Post Office by Miss Dyer.

Moving up the village to Tudor House we had a butcher's and slaughterhouse and some years later it was the Post Office in the charge of C.H. Adams ("Post Office" Adams) - no relation of our Will Adams. We now turn our attention to Field View where Will informs me that there was a Wheelwright's shop and carpenter's and undertaker's. The present coalhouse was the stable and the shop was in the garden. There was also a sawpit in the garden. (Fancy having to work in the pit!) When the school was extended for an infant room, the woodwork was made at this shop.

Within the area of Church Gate and Oak Lea was a saddlers, blacksmiths and a bakehouse. That must have been a busy area!

Where Sira now stands there was a Post Office and well stocked general store kept by Harold's great grandmother. This closed at the turn of the century. Harold can remember seeing the empty shop with its oak counter, storage bins and drawers for spices etc., all named. What an atmosphere there was in such shops!

Opposite at Stone House was an off-licence which sold drinks, sweets and bags of crisps. The latter were considered a treat and one bag would be shared by the family. The annexe, shown on a previous Newsletter was a bakehouse which was open each Sunday. The menfolk would bring along the Yorkshire Pudding to be baked, and whilst waiting they would enjoy a drink, perhaps a smoke and certainly a good chat among themselves. Sometimes cakes would be baked when the puddings had been taken out.

If a villager had a pig killed the bakehouse would be available during the week, to bake the pies. This bakehouse was later than any of the others in the village.

During the time I have lived in Whilton I well remember Mrs. Gardner keeping the Post Office and a well stocked general store at Stone House. We were all grateful for the excellent service she provided.

We now move to Dormer Cottage. The coach-house of the Old Plough was built partly over the drive and behind in the corner was a butchers and slaughterhouse. Mr. Adams remembers seeing the shop interior after it closed - with the wheel for lifting up the carcasses. Henry Dunkley, who kept the Old Plough was also the local carrier and we have a very interesting bill which we found here.

The Old Shop was kept by Mrs. Welch who sold smaller items. To quote Don, there were "tin tacks, candles, drawing pins and laces". There were also sweets for you to buy with your halfpenny or penny. Toffee was broken from a block with a special hammer. On the outside wall of the shop was a metal advertisement for a very important item - Lyons Tea.

The Barn was once two cottages. The one nearest to the Old Shop was once an Undertakers and the owner made his own coffin and kept it in the house for years before he needed it. In the other cottage lived Mrs. Young - a dressmaker - who made the dresses and red capes given to the village girls, from the Rose Charity.

Later Mrs. Noon had the Post Office there. This was just before Mrs. Gardner took over at Stone House. Langton House once had a small bakehouse in part of the barn by the house.

On the way to Whilton Locks part way down the hill, on the left, was a smallholding where milk was sold. Whilton Mill must have been a busy place as a flour mill and alehouse. Sheep were washed - not dipped - in the stream near the mill, to improve their wool. Behind the mill were beds of osiers which were cut to provide pegs and binders for thatchers.

Mr. Lewis, in a previous Newsletter, has mentioned the Spotted Cow, general store and blacksmith and also the lime kilns and coal wharves, owned by Mr. Reynolds.

At Wheelgate House lived Mrs. Clarke, a dressmaker who made dresses, aprons and the elaborate bonnets worn by the barge women. She also made men's shirts from Oxford cloth - very strong and hardwearing. These shirts had no collars. If a collar was needed it would be a stiff one which buttoned on at the back; very uncomfortable!

Over the other side of the canal bridge lived a Lock-Keeper who was also a Photographer. I wonder how often people could afford to have a photograph taken?

The village was also well served by roundsmen. Goldings - a Daventry grocer would send an assistant over by cycle to collect orders for delivery later in the week. F.F. Tees of Northampton also brought out confectionery and Linnels potted meat.

There were several other bakers and grocers over the years. The Muffin Man - wearing a velvet coat - was also a caller. Locust beans and halfpenny bags of broken biscuits were also a treat bought from Oliver Cooper another roundsman who came by horse and dray on a Saturday morning.

Over the years several butchers have called but they no longer come. Drapery was also sold at the door, and Mr. Lou Beard a bespoke tailor from Great Brington would call if any men wished to have garments made.

There was even a chemist - Newitts - who called selling among other things - rhubarb pills! Last but by no means least were the hardware carts and vans selling everything from pans to pins. Most important of their wares were candles and paraffin - very necessary in the days before electricity was available in Whilton.

These tradesmen also provided a welcome link with other villages and towns. No doubt they were the bearers of news from friends and relations. There were also deliveries of newspapers.

Today we find a very different situation with housewives shopping elsewhere. Nevertheless, we are quite well catered for.

We still have out Post Office which has been quite "mobile" since Mrs. Gardner left the village. It has been at "Evergreen", 8 South View and now at 7 South View.

We also have milk and other dairy products delivered by the Co-op and Mr. Wells.

A roundsman calls on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with bread and confectionery and we have a travelling shop every Wednesday selling fruit, vegetables, fish and groceries.

A mobile library is another welcome and much appreciated facility, calling on Thursdays once a fortnight. The time is 10.45am and it stops near the green.

We also have our newspaper deliveries, thanks to some of the young villagers.

Those of us who use all or some of the present facilities are very grateful and hope there will always be sufficient support to keep them.

G. Haynes

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Concert for Christmas

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER at 7.00pm

in the church, with refreshments afterwards in the village hall.

- RAFFLE - of Christmas prizes. Price of ticket £1.75  
from Janet Bowers "Heritage".

Come and enjoy an evening of mainly local talent, on similar lines to last year, which certainly drew the crowds. Let's fill the church to capacity again - so please give if your support and see how near we can get to that final figure of £535.75.

Janet Bowers

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D O G S

From time to time in recent years, because of complaints from villagers, the Parish Council has drawn attention to the nuisance caused by dogs fouling footpaths, maintained grass verges, etc., within the village and has appealed to dog owners to keep their pets under strict control.

In spite of this the complaints still come to me, as Chairman of the Parish Council, so I thought I would use the medium of the "newsletter" to make a further appeal.

If you are a dog owner please ask yourself if you are offending by allowing your dog to deposit its excrement where it is likely to prove offensive to your neighbours and others!

Harold Haynes

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It is, by now common knowledge that we had an uninvited guest in the early hours of October 20th. What followed was extremely traumatic, but it has made me wake up to the fact that Whilton is not immune to the influences of the 1980's. Everyone I have spoken to since our break-in has admitted leaving car doors unlocked, doors ajar and windows open. Now though, I trust our misfortune has been enough to show that the criminal mind is awakening to this 'sleepy Whilton' syndrome. Many villages and urban areas now have a "Neighbourhood Watch" scheme, in these areas suspicious characters, un-recognised cars or unusual happenings are reported to the police, who are more than willing to investigate. Of course, now that so many people do look and report their suspicions, the criminals are often moved on before they commit any crime. Where do they move on to? Places where no watch is kept of course - sleepy villages. It is for our own protection, for our friends and neighbours, that I propose that we adopt a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Whilton, and would urge you to consider joining. P.C. Bassett, our local Policeman would be willing to come, early in the New Year, to give a talk to any people interested in the scheme.

In order to organise such a visit the amount of support for the scheme would need to be known. I will therefore be paying everyone a visit in the near future to see whether a "Whilton Watch" is a viable proposition.

Angela Tilston

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### W. I. Report

On 12th October, the W.I. held its A.G.M. which was immediately followed by an Open Meeting with a representative of Anglian Water Authority speaking on the subject of Pollution.

The main topic within this theme was that of Nitrates in the water. There has been a steady increase in the amount of nitrate in our water over the last 15 years or so, due to the increased use of fertilizers on the land. This has produced an increased crop yield, ultimately providing cheaper food. Inevitably the nitrates are washed off the land and into rivers and streams and eventually into our drinking water. Removing them from the water involves expensive processing.

Opponents of nitrates claim that they can cause cancer of the stomach though Government reports deny the connection. Blue Baby Syndrome is another possible health hazard. Bottle fed babies under 6 months old can find it difficult to cope with the bacterial action of nitrates in the gut and this can cause Blue Baby Syndrome. However, the last recorded death was in 1950 and the last case was in 1972; in both cases, the water came from private water supplies rather than public supply.

Standards are laid down by W.H.O. (World Health Organisation) and the E.E.C. In 1985 the E.E.C. prescribed a maximum of 11.3 milligrams per litre and the W.H.O.'s standard was 10.0 milligrams in 1984.

However, the Government of this country allows a denegation of the E.E.C. level to 22.6 milligrams per litre. Whilton is in the Oundle district of Anglian Water Authority and here the level is 11.3 whereas other areas of Anglian Water can rise to 22.6 at times. When it is this high in these areas Anglian Water warns the local Medical Officer of Health to watch for symptoms of Blue Baby Syndrome.

The levels of nitrates in the water rise and fall at different times of the year. The first rains of winter bring one of the highest concentrations, washing all the summers residual nitrates off the land. The methods used for de-nitrification are expensive and if we are to demand total removal of nitrates, a considerable increase would be seen in our water rates. A certain amount of natural de-nitrification takes place during the summer, when water temperature rises and the water is sitting in the reservoirs. We are assured that Anglian Water Authority met all the Government Health requirements.

We were also informed that there was no aluminium in our water. Some authorities use aluminium sulphate as a coagulant for the removal of bacteria. There are no lead mains supply pipes in the Authority, any with lead pipes, from the mains (mainly in older houses) are advised to run off some water in the morning to remove the water that had been standing in the pipes overnight. Some modern houses with copper pipes had lead soldered joints though a new material was now being used.

Water purification units were in his own opinion a complete waste of money. There are two types, one using charcoal, to get rid of chlorine - very effective, but bacteria forms on the charcoal. The second type produces a more harmful element than the nitrates it is removing!

Bottled water such as those from Scotland and France were no better than the water in your tap, if not worse.

Our water here in Whilton comes from Ravensthorpe reservoir, which pumps out 4 million gallons a day. Occasionally we may be switched to Pitsford with a distribution of 10 million gallons a day. The reason we get brown water from time to time is that we have old pipes! These are rusted and when there is a surge of water pressure it churns this up and hence brown water - not harmful, or long lasting but not pleasant. This problem often arises when the Fire Brigade come to test the hydrant - perhaps the Fire Brigade could let us know when they are coming! We should be having our pipes relined with cement, which would eliminate the problem - but when? - Your guess is as good as ours!

November's meeting was on the subject of the "Feel and Beauty of Wood". Mr. Tims who is a wood turner showed us samples of a vast range of woods, as varied as Holly, Yew, Laburnum, Lilac, Box and Lignum Vitae, a wood not recommended for boat building as it is so heavy! The most expensive wood is Indian Rosewood at £250 per cubic foot.

He also brought along a selection of the work he does, beautifully turned apples, pears, needle cases, footstools etc. He explained the processes of seasoning and gave us some tips for finishing. Once you have sanded a piece of wood, you should go over it with water which causes the grain to rise. Leave it for an hour or so to dry, then sand once more and then apply the varnish, paint or whatever. As the grain has already risen, it will not do it a second time, and you will have a good smooth surface.

### Future Events

6th December - Area Carol Service, Great Brington

7th December - Easy Entertaining Cookery Demonstration (Open to All £1.25)

14th December - Members' Night

Angela Hall

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Summary of Events

Fri.	2nd Dec	8.00pm	Merriden Jewelry at Home Farm
Mon.	5th Dec	7.30pm	Gardeners' Association in Village Hall
Tues.	6th Dec		W.I. Area Carol Service, Brington Church
Wed.	7th Dec	7.30pm	Cookery Demonstration in Village Hall
Sat.	10th Dec	7.00pm	Concert in Whilton Church
Wed.	14th Dec	7.30pm	W.I. Members' Night in Village Hall
Sat.	17th Dec		Last date for Fete Committee volunteers.
Sun.	18th Dec	6.00pm	Carol Service in Whilton Church
Sun.	18th Dec		Last date for entering the competition
Thur.	22nd Dec	7.00pm	Carol singing around the village
Sun.	25th Dec	9.30am	Sung Christmas Eucharist

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Mon.	9th Jan		Parish Council Meeting in Village Hall
Tues.	17th Jan		Deadline for next issue of newsletter

Keep those articles coming

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The Whilton Newsletter is published bi-monthly and circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary

The costs are met by the Parish Council and the Editors are:

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\* \* \* \* \*