

WHILTON NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1991



Ed's Notes

H oliday times have almost been
A pples now, no longer green
R eds and golds, the leaves will change
V egetable plots to re-arrange
E lderberry wine
 and
S loes fermenting
T is the mood of the seasons for summer lamenting.

Ed's

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Parish Church

Sunday Services: 1st Sunday of month BENEFICE Eucharist at 10.00 am
at each church in turn. (October Norton - November
Brington - December Whilton)
Other Sundays 6.00 pm

Mothers and Toddlers at Brington - Wednesdays 2.15 pm

Saturday 12th October, Daventry Branch Bell ringers at Whilton 4.30 pm

Wednesday 6th November, Standing Committee 4.15 pm

Thursday 14th November 7.30 pm

Churchyard Whilton is blessed with one of the tidiest churchyards in the
area, and at the end of the season it is time to give high praise to
Harold Haynes and Don Welch who labour throughout the summer to make it a
real pleasure to behold.

It is often thought that people like this do these works for 'fun'.
Though they may indeed derive pleasure from a job well done, they
nevertheless do it because they feel that it needs to be done for the good
of the village, regarding the churchyard as part of the whole.

It is to be hoped that more support from the village will be forthcoming
next year; the work really is too much for two people.

Many thanks indeed to Harold and Don.

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JUMBLE

Anyone with any unwanted jumble please contact Angela Tilston, we are
having a jumble sale at Brixworth School on September 27th. Collection
can be arranged if necessary.

"Ash Lea"

842088

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Country Sayings, Etc.,

St. Denis' Day (9th October)
A hard winter follows a fine St. Denis.

St. Martin's Day (11th November)
Where the wind is on St. Martin's Eve, there it will be all winter.

If the oak wears its leaves in October it heralds a hard winter.

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For the past few weeks gardeners have been busy "lifting" their potatoes. During the '39-45 war we were all urged to "Dig for Victory". Flower beds and lawns were replaced by vegetable plots and potatoes were one of the main crops. Here is a verse from a leaflet (1940) to promote the eating of potatoes:-

P's for protection potatoes afford,
O's for the ounces of energy stored.
T's for tasty and vitamins rich in,
A's for the art to be learned in the kitchen.
T's for the transport we need not demand,
O's for old England's food from the land.
E's for the energy eaten by you,
S's for the spuds that will carry us through.

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Milk tops, etc. and Used Stamps

When school begins I will have two sacks of tops, foil etc. and lots of stamps to take to Lyncrest. Once again many thanks for all the contributions, both large and small. I have lost count of the offerings left in our porch! It is most encouraging to have the co-operation of so many villagers.

Perhaps this might be a good time to re-cap on the reason for these collections.

Milk tops, silver paper, foil dishes (all clean please!) are taken to Lyncrest School and sold to help buy "Guide dogs for the Blind".

The used stamps, English and foreign, torn from envelopes and with a portion of paper around them, are also taken to Lyncrest School. These are then sold for the "Save the Children Fund". This charity works in our own country as well as abroad.

Trudy Haynes

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The City of London Antiques and fine Art Fair Barbican Centre :
20th - 25th November 1991 :
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Youthful Talent

We are pleased to be able to record the success of several of our young people in the spheres of music, athletics and sport.

On the musical front Sarah Tibbs has been accepted as a member of the Northamptonshire County Youth Orchestra as a viola player and John Townley as a member of the Daventry Silver Band, where he plays the tuba.

Mark Hall - main sports are Rugby, Fencing and Cricket. In Rugby he has just become a member of the County under 16s. He also plays cricket for Daventry as well as belonging to the County side. This year has been his best season so far, scoring 9 x 50s and 2 x 100s.

At fencing, a sport which Mark follows in his Father's footsteps, he has represented England at under 16 level in a Quadrangular match against Scotland, Ireland and Wales. He is in the British Cadet (under 17) Squad and is trying for a place in the World Cadet Championships to be held in Bonn next May.

Joanne Hall - came first in the East Midlands Fencing Championships this year in her age group. She was ranked 8th best in Britain last year, and when she was 8, fenced for Northampton against Poitier whilst we were on an exchange visit. She is taking a rest from fencing at the moment.

She enjoys most sports and took up sailing this year. Other interests include playing the clarinet and the piano, which is taught by Miss Pride.

Helen Davies - has progressed through Novice and Intermediate and is now working at Advanced Level in Womens Artistic Gymnastics. Helen has been the under 12 County Champion, a member of the East Midlands under 12 Squad, and in the 90/91 season won a Bronze Medal in The East Midlands Inter County Championships representing Northants at Chesterfield.

Helen is now a member of Huntingdon Olympic Gymnastics Club, which has two National Squad Gymnasts and has some of the finest facilities in the Country.

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Playgroup

Whilton and Bringtons playgroup runs in the village hall, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon. We already have 10 children aged from 3 - 4 1/2 and still have six further places available.

We cover a wide range of activities from painting, model making, creative skills, cooking and toddler p.e. If you think you'd be interested then why not come along and join in a playgroup morning, and have a chat.

Elaine Aldham - Supervisor Northampton 758693

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Days Out - Cheltenham Festival of Literature 12th - 20th October 1991

A 9 day celebration with talks, readings, drama, music, workshops, exhibitions, films and book launches.

Whilton Village Hall

Thanks to the joint efforts of a whole range of people and bodies from the County/District/Parish Councils who gave grants, to the Village Hall Committee and the Fund Raising and the Development Working Groups, and to the individual residents who supported through membership of the "200 Club" and attendance at functions and by donation, the Village Hall was reopened for use on Saturday 7th September. The tape was cut by Mr. Will Adams who has known the hall since he went to school there as a boy.

The work carried out was primarily directed to strengthening the roof, but by using Quartz Ray heaters, it has been possible to do without the inner ceiling, giving the room more height and exposing the substantial old roof trusses. The overall effect is of greater space. The opportunity has also been taken to replace the kitchen and store screen, above which materials were stored, by a full height division wall with an enclosed and enlarged storage area over the kitchen and store, much improving the appearance of this focal point of the room. The whole building has been redecorated with new lighting. We hope you will like it.

An additional feature arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Bowers are a group of old photographs of the village and we are grateful to the owners of the originals for allowing us to copy them. It is also possible for us to sell copies to any residents who would like one at a price of 75p for postcard size and £6 for full plate size.

The old photographs were a talking point at the opening which was well attended; an excellent free buffet provided by Committee members was much enjoyed, and considerable hilarity generated by the auction of mystery parcels donated by everyone who attended. Whilst the Committee had not set out to make a profit, the auction brought in £107 and the total for the evening was £147.

A profit was very welcome because the renovations cost £10,325, whilst we have in hand, including grants, some £9,000, leaving a shortfall of £1,325.

We are very lucky in our builder, Martin Lilley, who was not only efficient, thorough and completed the work on schedule, but has also agreed to allow us 12 months in which to raise the shortfall.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that the "200 Club" and our fund raising efforts continue, and we hope the residents will support us as wholeheartedly in the next 12 months as they have in the past. We also hope that you will enjoy the programme of functions that will be arranged.

The current programme is as follows:

- Saturday, 26th October - Halloween Party (Children Welcome)
- Saturday, 16th November - English Pub Night.
- Friday, 13th December - Christmas Supper.

There will be "200 Club" draws on each of these evenings, the annual draw with £650 in prize money will take place at the Christmas Supper, so book your tickets in plenty of time.

Details of all these events will be circulated nearer the date.

The winners of the "200 Club" draws since the last newsletter are:

- July 1st Prize £30 Mrs. Allen
 2nd Prize £20 Mr. & Mrs. Bate

- August 1st Prize £30 Mr. & Mrs. Webster
 2nd Prize £20 Mr. & Mrs. Swinford

- September 1st Prize £30 Mr. R. Wells
 2nd Prize £20 Mr. & Mrs. Haynes

We still have for sale 4 of the suspended radiant heaters and 4 of the lights and shades from the old village hall, any offers would be gratefully received. The radiant heaters are very suitable for a garage or workshop.

We are also looking for a new electric clock of suitable design to fit in with the renovated hall. Is there anyone who would like to donate a suitable clock, new or second hand?

There is still more to be done and we are all looking forward to the restoration of the decorative plaster work over the gable by the entrance which Mr. Ray Barnes has volunteered to undertake as soon as his busy work schedule permits. We have also to install suitable access ladders to the storage area.

We thank everyone who has helped or shown interest in the renovation and use of the hall.

Philip Waights,
Chairman, Village Hall Committee
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W.I. Report

The September meeting of the W.I. was an open meeting when non members joined us for the evening to sample some of the food delights which Mrs. Linda Waites, one of our members demonstrated. Three starters were demonstrated, such as pears stuffed with cream cheese and stilton, also melon balls and grapes in white wine and ginger.

Our next meeting is the A.G.M. on 9th October at 7.30 pm. As well as forming the new Committee, the evening will be a social when all sorts of suggestions and criticisms can be discussed. All W.I. members are asked to attend this meeting and anyone interested in becoming new members would be most welcome to join us.

Ros Gardner

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Neighbourhood Watch

SAYS

Be

ALERT!!

Parish Council Report

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on the 25th July and 2nd September. Among items discussed were the following:

Closed village - the Women's Institute had offered to help with the required traffic survey. Any further offers of help to Mr. Haynes please.

Telephone Kiosk - British Telecom had agreed to replace any broken glass and also to repaint the telephone kiosk.

Grass Cutting - the specification for this work states that 5 cuts per season should be made between the 30 m.p.h. signs and 3 cuts elsewhere. All the cutting should be to a road safety standard not a garden standard!

Road Repairs etc - the County Surveyors department were to be contacted regarding the following; attention required to the large pot hole in the road outside The Gardens, attention required to the footpath in Wadd Close Lane, attention required to "smarten up" the signpost on the small triangle at the bottom of the village.

Overhanging Branches - following complaints from parishioners the Vice Chairman agreed to contact the owners of houses whose garden hedges and shrub borders overhang the pavement to ask them to trim the offending branches and shrubs back.

Wadd Close Lane - as a result of comments from the Parish Council the District Council have now proposed that the recently completed development in Tudor House gardens be included as part of Wadd Close Lane.

Tidy Village/Churchyard Competition - the Parish Council had been notified that the village has won a prize in this years competition. It will not be known whether this is for the village or the churchyard until the prize giving ceremony in October.

Mobile Library - the Parish Council had been notified that as from 15th October the mobile library would call at Whilton on alternate Tuesdays between 9.40 am and 9.50 am. The library would not in future stop at Whilton Locks.

Great Brington/Whilton Road - concern was expressed about the potential hazard being created by the new hedging along this road. The Parish Council agreed to write to Brington Parish Council regarding this matter. It was also agreed to ask for their official views about the closed village idea as it was not clear whether this had ever been discussed at any of their meetings.

Village name plates - a parishioner had volunteered to repaint these. The Parish Council agreed to accept this kind offer.

Planning Applications -

Proposed installation of roof lights at "Churchgate" - as no property would be overlooked by these the Parish Council had no comment to make regarding this application.

Proposed conversion of redundant cottage (Canal Cottage) at Whilton Locks - the Parish Council would like to see this cottage improved. Concern was expressed regarding the proposed access because of the close proximity to the canal bridge and also regarding roadside parking if the access were not allowed. A District Council site meeting had been arranged for 3rd September.

Jim Gardner

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Trip to Windsor

What a wonderful day! It was just fun fun and even more fun.

The day started with a great buzz from enthusiastic people raring to go. As we all shuffled our way onto our 52 seater bus (with about 53 passengers!) we set off on our journey to Runneymeade. Finally, after 2 hours we arrived and were able to stretch our legs and have a soothing cup of tea. After ten minutes or so we walked down to the river bank and waited for our boat. 10 mins 15 mins we were getting bored. We turned our attention to a family of ducks, including a number of little ducklings. Tearing open my bag trying to find a piece of bread to feed the cute things, and in no time our boat had arrived, 20 mins late.

Slowly but surely we managed to herd everyone onto the large pleasure boat. With a gusty wind behind us, we sailed along the river, looking at the beautiful scenery and trying our best to take it all in. Thousands of thatched roofs, gardens with draping willows hanging their branches into the cool river water. Judging by the sound of laughter from all our passengers, it was obvious we were having a good time.

Finally we landed in Windsor, having been through two locks and a few miles of river. Then we walked down to the coach park and were told to come back at 4.00 pm. As we walked up the steep hill towards the castle, we tried to make the guard laugh, however, this was totally impossible - how they keep straight faces I shall never know! We had a choice of things to see. The Dolls house, the rooms, the Chapel, gardens and shops. Many people went to see the dolls house first. I was told how beautiful it looked and how the size was so tremendous that everything inside looked so real. In the bedrooms chandeliers hung with beautiful looking diamonds. Beds with draping fabrics. Beautiful old antiques dating from 1700s. Gardens full of blossoming roses and shrubs. There was so much to see! but unfortunately time was edging on to 4.00 pm so we walked down to the coach park to get onto the coach to take us back home to Northamptonshire, and what a great day out thank you very much Miss Scott.

By Joanne Hall

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Visit to a Romanian Orphanage

I would like to thank everybody for donating money and goods. They were gratefully received by Cristuru Orphanage and its two feeder orphanages.

Six sixth-formers from my school went to an orphanage, or "children's house", in Romania. The orphanage is in a town of 2000 people, called Cristuru, which lies in the foothills of the Transylvanian Alps (fortunately we did not meet any vampires although there was a bat in the staff corridor of the orphanage...).

The trip was organised by "Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire". This charity regularly sends people and supplies out to different orphanages in Romania. We travelled overland in a converted small lorry from J.O.Y. We were scheduled to depart on 13th July but the van broke down at Rothersthorpe so we had to wait for four days while the engine was dismantled!

After collecting some aid from a village near Canterbury we took a ferry from Ramsgate to Dunquerque. Over the next couple of days we travelled through France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Hungary staying overnight at an Orthodox religious house in Regensburg and a Hungarian Hotel. Throughout the journey we met others who were going to Romania who gave us varying reports of the conditions there.

The political situation in Romania

Ceausescu attempted to industrialise his country by building huge dirty factories and encouraging people to migrate to the towns. He tried to introduce mechanized farming methods but many peasants could not afford them and country villages became very backward. He exported so much food that fertile Romania now has a food shortage. The medical system has crumbled. Children in the hospitals are still kept in cots all the time. Many people are smuggling relatives into Hungary for simple operations which would be impossible in Romania.

He forced every family to have at least five children so there were more people to work in the factories but he did not think to build enough new housing. Even in Cristuru the orphanage's director's house had only three tiny rooms and we heard of an apartment shared by two couples, one with a baby, which comprised of two living rooms a kitchen and a bathroom. Many people could not afford five children so the orphanages were created. Victims of his secret police also fed the orphanages. These included political opponents and members of minorities (e.g. there were a lot of Gypsy children in Cristuru).

In some ways there has not been a political revolution with the fall of Ceausescu as the party who replaced him were elected unfairly and are of the same group as their predecessors but less extreme as they have opened the border. Some Romanians feel that they are worse off now as before everything was static but safe whereas now new western influences mean that the Romanian culture is being invaded and there is inflation of 500% between January and July as Romanian prices had not increased since the last war. Now beer costs 100 lei at the official exchange rate this would be £5 but we changed our money privately and it cost us 50p. a meal of steak and potatoes cost us 25p. A postcard and stamps for England cost 8 1/2p!

Now the border is beginning to tighten up again and the secret police have returned. It is still very difficult to obtain a visa to leave Romania or to get a place at university. For instance one fifteen year old at the orphanage wants to be adopted by an aid worker but she is not allowed a visa.

Transylvania was less affected by Ceaucescu's reforms as it is the centre for tourism (people ski in the mountains). This part of Romania, the north-west, was part of Hungary up to the first world war and the geography of the area indicates that the old border was the natural one. Consequently the Romanians and Hungarians hate each other. The people of Cristuru remain fiercely Hungarian and speak Hungarian - woe betide anyone who speak Romanian to them! Under the new government the Hungarians - being a minority - are being repressed.

By the time we reached Romania we were having to bump-start the van and the back door had frozen shut so that we could not be inspected easily at customs! We had to wait five hours at the Romanian customs. There was a huge queue of cars but the customs officers seemed to either be having an extended tea break or be slowly marching between the vehicles taking any loose food (e.g. crisps and cans) that was noticeable! They finally released us when we all started singing the Transylvanian 'time warp'! This slow process appeared to be a typical example of Romanian efficiency.

First impressions of Romania

The road immediately became bumpier. Huge, unburied sewage pipes followed the path of the road. The cars were all very small Ladas or Trabants. We later discovered many have no exhaust or hand brake and need bump starting! The towns were dirty and the people were housed in huge uniform apartment blocks. However, the weather was warm and the countryside, especially in the mountains was beautiful. The villagers had small picturesque houses with wells and their own livestock. Cows are important: like in 'Heidi' they are taken to a pasture every day but are then trained to wander home on their own! Horses and carts are a common sight.

The orphanage

We arrived in Cristuru at 11.45 pm. Our first impression was "Well what's wrong with it!" The building was neither too grim or dirty and there were proper toilets, showers and wash-basins. In fact the orphanage building is one of the best in Romania. However, there was no hot water in the summer and we noticed water trickling down the wall from burst pipes at least three times. The toilets etc., were all new and had been installed by English workers.

The children were aged between 3 and 18. Younger children are in two smaller feeder orphanages. Cristuru is also a school and in term time there are about 450 children but only 200 remain there in the holidays as many have families. The school is O.K. but only the few brightest ones go on to the village school and none get to university. It can take years, after starting work, for them to earn enough money to support themselves and they have to spend the holidays back at the orphanage although they have outgrown it.

The children

The children over about 5 have no lessons and run about all day with more or less no adult supervision (apart from that of a team of Christian Germans who are spending a year at the orphanage). This means they have great freedom but inevitably many children get bullied. It can lead to disasters as at the orphanage that our driver visited one child drowned and another went missing within a week. The children do not cry naturally but can start up a loud false crying when they are deprived of something (such as swimming in a nearby stream). They are all very lively and desperate for attention. They were not at all shy of us.

Up to about the age of 10 boys and girls are dressed similarly and their hair is cut in a simple boys style to prevent nits. We only realised that there were any girls when we took them swimming! They are all dressed in western clothes and they only change outer clothes once a week so they get rather filthy. The clothes are washed with ancient, old-fashioned equipment. They do not have their own clothes and they often share toys and possessions. For instance one boy gave up his sandals even though he had a bad toe. There did not seem to be enough shoes to go round.

There was a small hospital for the many children who had broken bones. Infectious diseases were treated at the local hospital. They only gave out plasters in emergency and so the children came running to us with their frequent grazes and few had open sores. Unfortunately some would take off a plaster and then come back for another!

The kindergarten

We spent little time with the little ones as their minders were not very encouraging. They looked very sweet but they were all so desperate for attention that they grabbed any loose items (e.g. watches, cameras, glasses) and would hit you if you refused to pick them up. In their part of the orphanage there was a room brightly decorated with nice toys but they were not allowed in it.

The food

We, after being warned by our driver, ate very little of the food. It was very stodgy with bread and noodles. For breakfast they sometimes had bread and dripping. They had no milk and the only meat was pork, as they kept pigs, and the only fruit was tomatoes, despite the large quantity of cherries and apples outside. Consequently the children ate unripe plums and were ill. In other places orphanage food was better.

Decorating

Much of the orphanage was shabby so we painted some radiators and stripped and revarnished wall panels. We were 'assisted' by the children and we wished that they could have been trained to do it themselves as they enjoyed it so much!

The influence of the West

The phrase "West is Best" neatly sums up their opinion of us. The teenagers are desperate for western music and clothes. They held their own discos but had some very old music: they could jive expertly!

There was a local cinema that showed badly dubbed films (The English could be heard underneath!) on a television. They had a video and we had the use of a microwave. However, the western influence has not all been good. They are taught to be more materialistic. For instance the younger children were coming and demanding sweets by the end of our stay. On our journey children stood at the roadside and shouted "Chocolate". We spoke to a Hungarian Pastor on our return journey who said that hard drugs have only recently become a problem in Hungary since the western drug dealers have found a new market.

The Church

There were baptist, catholic and orthodox churches although Christians are persecuted. All letters are vetted. However, recently the church has set up summer camps for the orphanages and for city children. In Hungary the church is stronger.

Conclusion

Compared with our expectations the children were much better off: they were adequately fed, housed and clothed. (In fact many poor villagers were jealous of them). However, they were missing a whole aspect of life because at the end of the day there was no one to love them and care for them.

Rosemary Hiscock

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Whilton Gardeners' Association

There was a good attendance at the meeting on August 5th, which was held at "Heritage" because of the current refurbishment of the village hall. It was reported that the Association had a credit balance of £129.47 - a healthy state of affairs. The visit to Ravensthorpe Garden Centre had been enjoyed by those able to go, and they had much appreciated the wide variety of unusual plants available for sale.

A fascinating talk with a fine collection of slides to illustrate it, was given by Mrs. Bird who is a judge of shrub roses for the Royal Rose Society at their trial grounds near St. Albans. She told us something of the history of roses from the Damask rose, the Bombon rose, the China rose and Rosa rugosa to the modern hybrid tea varieties and the new bush roses of David Austin. Mrs. Bird herself has over 100 different bush roses in her garden. She particularly recommended Belvedere, Mme Hardy, Mottisfort and Graham Thomas. Some of her most impressive pictures were of the Paris rose gardens.

A vote of thanks was given by Diana Scott. Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Bowers for allowing us the use of their house for such a pleasant evening.

Diana Scott

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Chronicle and Echo Newspaper

Anyone wishing to have the local evening newspaper delivered to their door (within the village) .. 26p daily
Contact Heeley 843270

Summary of Events

Mon. 7th Oct. 7.30 pm Gardeners' Association, village hall
Wed. 9th Oct. 7.30 pm W.I. Meeting, village hall
Sat. 26th Oct. Halloween Party
Thur. 14th Nov. Last date for material for next newsletter
Sat. 16th Nov. English Pub Night
Fri. 13th Dec. Christmas Supper

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:

*Mr. Harold Haynes
Mrs. Trudy Haynes
Mr. Jim Gardner
Mrs. Joyce Coles
Mrs. Anne Heeley*

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