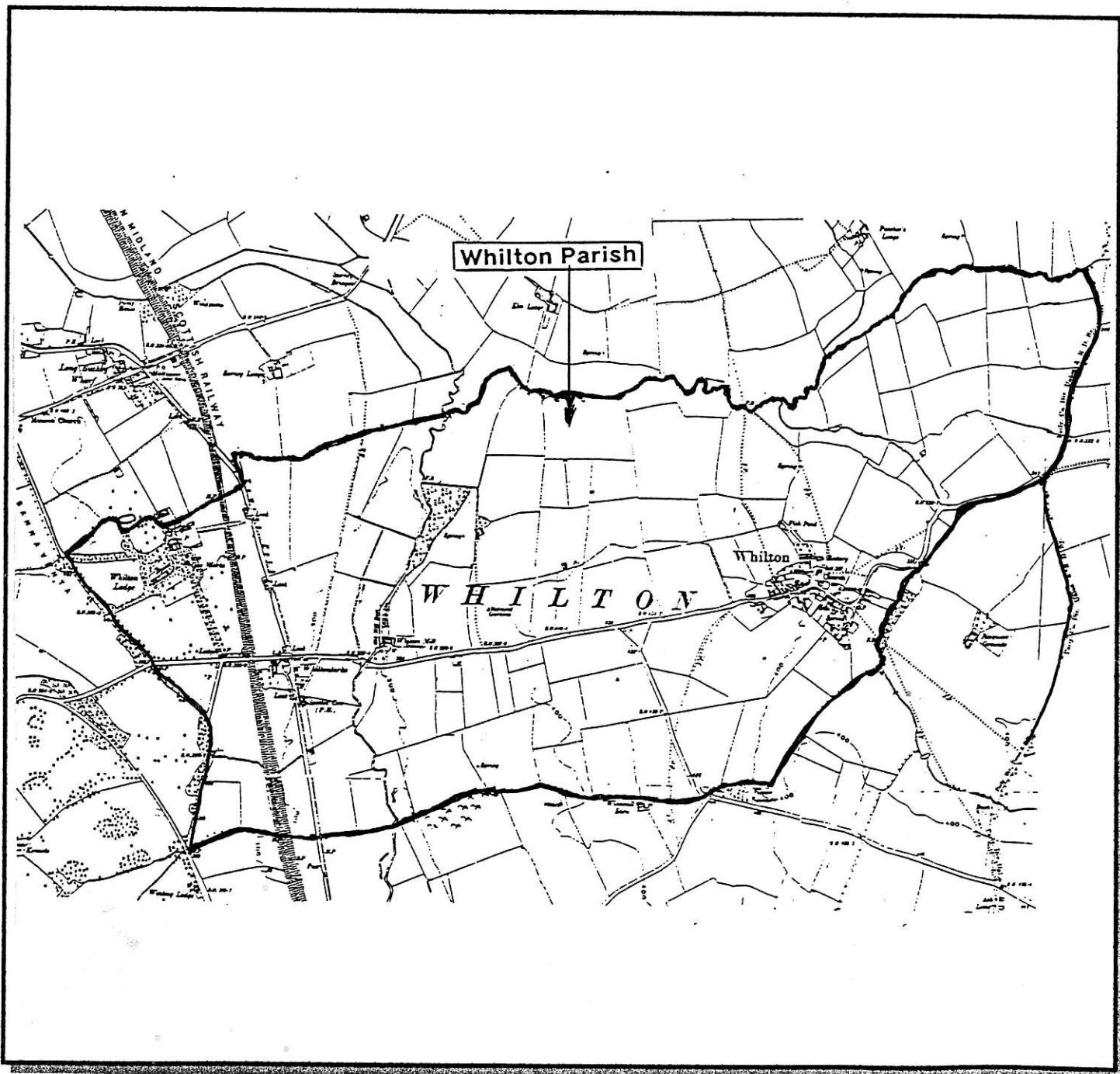


# Whilton Newsletter

October 1996



## EDS' NOTES

Congratulations Whilton folk! Haven't we done well again?  
Perhaps you have not heard? If not you will find the details on one of the following pages.

Our grateful thanks to regular contributors for the reports of meetings, outings, etc that we have received for this edition. It tends to be mainly the same people, however, who are supplying us with the material to make up our *Newsletter* and we would welcome contributions from others.

Despite our past pleas, repeated again in the last issue, we are still not getting any more articles, drawings, recipes, etc, or any suggestions for changes or improvements.

Does that mean you are all happy with things as they are?

Ed's.

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## EVENING OR ONE DAY COURSES

After the success of the First Aid Courses organised by the W.I. last winter, members have expressed a wish for some sort of class to be offered again this winter. Suggestions already received for a course are:-

Car Maintenance(Ladies in particular)  
Self Defence  
Needlework Sampler Design

If you would be interested in any of the above subjects, or if you have a subject you think others might be interested in, please contact Ros Gardner (tel:- 842324) who will make further enquiries.

Classes would be arranged to commence after Christmas subject to sufficient interest being shown.

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## CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, October	6th	6.00pm	Sung Eucharist
"	"	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
"	"	6.00pm	Sung Eucharist
"	"	6.00pm	Night Office of Compline
"	November	10.00am	<b>Benefice Eucharist - East Haddon</b>
"	"	6.00pm	Remembrance Day Service
"	"	6.00pm	Sung Eucharist
"	"	3.30pm	Family Patronal Festival Service followed by tea in Village Hall
"	"	6.00pm	Night Office of Compline
"	December	10.00am	Benefice Eucharist & Patronal Festival - <b><u>Harlestone</u></b>

## **Whilton Parish Council Report**

A meeting was held in the village hall on Monday 2 September and three parishioners came along to listen to proceedings.

Two planning applications, within the Parish, had been considered by Daventry District Council. DA/96/0414LB - DA/96/0415, Extension to existing lounge, additional WC, hall and bedroom at the Courtyard Barn, Manor Way had been refused. DA/96/0570, outline application for new public house to replace existing and caravan sales site, land adjacent to Whilton Marina, had been permitted.

Although the Parish Council are invited to pass comment on applications within their area, they do not have powers to make a planning decision. The decision is made by the DDC planning committee after considering all the submitted evidence and comments.

A statement of the Parish Council financial situation was given. The main business to be undertaken at the next meeting, in November, will be to consider and approve a budget for the following financial year. Plans will be made and decisions taken as to what spending is likely to be needed and this must be balanced off against the income which can be expected.

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the school bus operated by York's Coaches is again using the narrow road between Great Brington and Whilton in the afternoons. This will be further investigated.

A meeting, called by the District Council, had taken place regarding the Canal Conservation Area. The aim of the consultation is to draw up a plan of

action to enhance the area. Further meetings would take place in the near future.

A welcome quick response was made by the Trunk Roads Authority recently. When notified that the cross roads on the A5 between Whilton Locks and Norton was becoming more difficult to cross, because the vegetation had grown up at the junction, the area was mown and tidied within 24 hours. This prompt attention is appreciated.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 4 November, at 8.00 pm in the village hall. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Anne Heeley (Clerk)  
843270

## **Research Volunteers Wanted for Rural Employment Research Project**

Researchers at The Nottingham Trent University working on an in-depth investigation into the job opportunity restrictions facing people who move into rural areas are keen to hear from anyone who has moved into Northamptonshire in the past 10 years.

The aim of the research is to explore how moving to a home in the country affects the working lives of different members of the household. The results will be used to help shape future policies in areas such as economic development, transport, housing, childcare provision and training. If you can help please contact Anna Dudleston, Dept of Social Science, York House, Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham, NG1 4BU - tel. 01159 418418 Ext. 5585.

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

On Sunday, 8th September 1996 we said farewell to Canon Jim at a Benefice Sung Eucharist in St Mary's Church, Brington.

The Clergy and Choir processed together with the Churchwardens from each Parish with representatives carrying either their church banner or an arrangement of flowers or their service book to be placed on the altar.

It was a truly splendid service and Canon Jim stated later that no priest could have had a better farewell.

Canon Jim was presented with many gifts and to mention just a few, £800 and a framed pen sketch of all six churches in the benefice from the parishioners, a mobile phone and six china Spencer beakers from the joint choirs and the bellringers presented a framed inscription of the details of the four quarter peals and one peal rung in five of the six churches during the previous week.

Canon Jim, during his time with us, has given us new and really interesting services, ideas which we hope will continue.

Especially in our children's worship, he has been responsible for following up ideas from parishioners, for instance the monthly Family Services, Christingle. Patronal Festivals and Mothering Sunday Services.

We sincerely thank him and wish him well as Team Rector in Bournemouth Town Centre Parish.

At the time of writing there is no information as to when we will receive a new priest or his identity. During the interregnum the running and care of St Andrews will be the responsibility of the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council.

Services will continue in the same pattern and details will be published each week on the church noticeboard in the porch. Requests for Christening or Wedding Services will be dealt with through Janet Bowers (01327 842851)

If you have any other queries please contact Janet Bowers or Derek Brown (Churchwardens).

### **FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :-**

**FAMILY SERVICE** and Patronal Festival Tea - Sunday, 24th November at 3.30 pm  
**CHRISTINGLE** - This popular Service will be held on Sunday, 15th December at 3.30 pm

Janet Bowers

### **SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE**

This took place on Saturday, 14th September 1996. Unfortunately no one from the village came forward to take part in the cycling - how disappointing! However the Co-ordinator, who had not cycled for a few years, decided to "fly the flag" for Whilton and visited five of the churches in the Benefice.

With sponsorship for two of the recorders and the lone cyclist a cheque for £50 approximately will be sent to the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. St Andrew's Church will benefit by 50% of this amount.

Thank you to all the recorders and sponsors.



Derek Brown  
Co-ordinator.

## VILLAGE BELLS

When bellringers wish to celebrate special events, they usually ring either a peal or a quarter peal. The term 'peal' always causes confusion among non-ringers because it is used in several ways: we apply it to the bells themselves and refer to 'a peal of bells', and we also use it to mean the sound they make 'the bells were pealing out from the steeple'. Bellringers, however, use the term to describe the number of changes that have been rung, and the number required for a peal is fixed at 5040 changes, (making a quarter peal 1260 changes). The time required to ring a peal depends on the weight of the bells: it is usually about 3 hours, but on very heavy bells like St Paul's Cathedral it will be over 4 hours.

As a farewell compliment to Canon Jim Richardson, and to wish him well in his ministry in Bournemouth, special ringing was organised in several towers in the benefice, culminating in a peal at Whilton on Saturday 7th September 1996. This was the first peal to be rung on the bells since they were recast and increased to eight. Five Whilton ringers were included in the band, and for two of them, Sue Townley and Janet Bowers it was the first occasion for them to ring a peal on eight bells. For Harold Haynes, former tower captain, it was the first peal for almost twenty years.

The official publication in *The Ringing World* (the bellringing newspaper) will be like this:-

### PETERBOROUGH D.G.

WHILTON, Northants. S. Andrew

Sat Sept 7 1996 3hr5 (13)

*5056 Plain Bob Major*

Comp. F. Bennett

1 Susan Townley

2 Bryan Williams

3 Iris Webb

4 Harold Haynes

5 Janet Bowers

6 Geoffrey H Pullin

7 John S W Townley

8 Christopher J Groome (C)

First on the bells.

First on 8: 1 & 5

Farewell compliment to Canon J J Richardson  
leaving to become Rector of Bournemouth.

In addition to this, quarter peals were rung in four other churches in the benefice; Church Brampton, Norton, Harlestone, and East Haddon. Our thanks to the conductors, and especially to Sue Townley who made most of the arrangements.

Bryan Williams

# CONGRATULATIONS

Whilton has been awarded a "Highly Commended" Certificate in the East Midlands in Bloom Competition; what an excellent result - well done all.

Whilst escorting the judge around the village, he informed me that this year they had to estimate the cost of all the work done by the residents (including time and labour). This to include cost of the plants grown, the mowing of the verges and greens, maintenance of the churchyard and the hiring of machinery to do the work. His estimate was between £3000 - £4000 for a period of twelve months. It makes one stop and think how our rates would be increased if we had to have the work done by the council to keep the village to its current high standard.

## VANDALISM

Following on from above the article: what a great shame that persons unknown cannot leave our village without stealing. Not only the plants from the box on Brington Lane near the pumping station were stolen but the box as well!

Janet Bowers



## VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION

We have reached the **Finals** in the **VILLAGE SECTION** of the above Competition. Well done and thank you all for the tremendous effort and support given. From the enquiries made during the end part of September the Judges were still active in those villages in the **Finals**.

Despite the very dry weather our village was still looking good during the final stage of judging.

The 1996 Presentation Evening takes place on Friday, 25th October 1996 at which the Winner and Runners-up will receive an award. Further notice of success or otherwise will follow.

Derek Brown  
Whilton Parish Council

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**BLUE & RED RE-CYCLE BOXES** - An instance has been reported of boxes having gone missing when left over night after emptying. **ADVICE** - remove as soon as possible after being emptied to position out of sight.

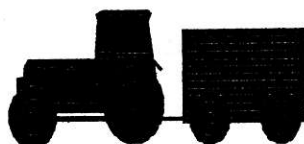
## VILLAGE OUTING 17TH JULY 1996

The coach set off on a perfect July morning in the Peterborough direction via the M1, A45 and A605. We tried a short cut through the very pretty village of Wansford (in England) but were too heavy for the ancient bridge.

We soon arrived at our first destination, Sacrewell Farm, Thornhaugh and were pleasantly greeted by Alan Blake the Leisure and Education Manager. He told us that we were to be taken on a tour of the farm on a trailer pulled by a tractor after a free coffee in the restaurant. This proved to be a delightful modern spacious building.

During coffee we were introduced to the "Frontiersmen" who were camping in a nearby field near the river. Their costumes dated from the 18th and 19th Centuries in America. Apparently their wives and children were with them and the cooking was of that period too. We were invited to visit their camp if there was time after the tour.

We then rather reluctantly climbed on to the trailer for the tour; there was only just room for us all with Trudy Haynes sitting on a restaurant chair at the front.



We saw the plots where peas and beans were grown experimentally to improve the yields and flavour and at this point we heard the song of the skylark and sat in perfect silence. The ride got rather rougher as the ground was so dry and we were relieved when it was time to dismount and look round the recently renovated Water Mill. There was still more to see around the farm but lunch was booked at the restaurant and we had Elton Hall to visit in the afternoon.

Rather regretfully we left Sacrewell Farm without meeting the "Frontiersmen" again.

Just a few more miles took us to Elton Hall. Almost since the Norman Conquest there has been a house where Elton Hall stands. The present owners, the Proby family, have lived there for over 300 years. The Sapcotes lived there from 1450 to 1600 and they built the 15th Century tower which still survives.

The Hall is a mixture of styles; minor alterations were carried out in the middle of the 18th Century but the house was extensively modified and enlarged during the period 1780 - 1815.

A very interesting conducted tour was given followed by afternoon tea and a look around the gardens and Garden Centre.

Yet another successful trip and our thanks to Diana Scott for the superb arrangements.

Shirley Brown

## VILLAGE OUTING 12th SEPTEMBER

The last outing of the summer, which has produced a series of visits full of diversity and interest, (meticulously organised by Diana Scott), took us to the area just north of the West Midlands Conurbation.

First stop was Lichfield Cathedral where we were welcomed by the staff and guides, fortified with coffee and taken on a tour of the main parts of the building. Our guide was exceptional, combining anecdotes with history and architectural detail which revealed his great knowledge and love of the place.

From a distance the cathedral is stunning, with its three tall spires, (an unusual feature in England), rising above the roof tops of the old town. A closer view reveals the attractive reddish sandstone and an exterior covered with carved arches and mouldings, canopies and statues. It is the third building on the site and was possible because of vast funds donated by pilgrims visiting the shrine of St. Chad, the original founder.

There has always been a tradition of change here and as architectural fashion altered, parts of the building were pulled down and rebuilt. The cathedral has suffered horribly from damage and vandalism in the past, chiefly during the Civil War when much of it was reduced to rubble, but it was rapidly restored, and another major programme was carried out in the last century. This has not pleased everyone and Lichfield remains a place where the proponents of restoration and conservation meet head on. It is nevertheless a wonderful cathedral full of interest and delight, and no account of a visit would be complete without a mention of one of the more modern gems - the magnificent chancel screen designed by George Gilbert Scott. It was restored in 1973 and now sparkles with rich colours and gold leaf. How Salisbury and Hereford must regret the trendy modernists who persuaded them to remove theirs!

After a brief lunch, the party continued its journey through what seemed to be endless streets of houses and small industry which forms the northern edge of Walsall and Wolverhampton and arrived at the oasis of tranquility which is Wightwick Manor. This is an enchanting place. The old manor, now the stable area, was bought in 1887 by Theodore Mander, a Wolverhampton paint manufacturer, who restored it and built a new house near by in the 'Old English' style (half-timbering, tiles, red-brick and stone) which was popular at that time. A few years later, the house was more than doubled in size by the addition of a wing which re-created a late medieval half-timbered manor house.

The great interest at Wightwick is the impressive list of artists and designers who contributed to the original building and whose work has continued to be collected by the family. The house has become a celebration of the Pre-Raphaelites and the Arts and Crafts movement. William Morris wallpapers, fabrics, furniture and fittings, alongside William de Morgan tiles, W.A.S. Benson metalwork, glorious stained glass by Charles Kempe, and paintings by Rossetti and Burne-Jones.

Outside the grounds are calm and peaceful. Long, carefully clipped yew hedges divide herbaceous flower beds, rose garden, shrubbery and orchard, and the large lawn in front of the terrace, surrounded by fine trees and yet more yews is a place to marvel at the intricacies of the tall Elizabethan brick chimneys corkscrewing upwards and the heavily moulded boxes on the cast iron downspouts.

There is so much to see, so much to enjoy - a splendid place to end our visits for this year. Many, many thanks to Diana for so much hard work and for providing so much pleasure.

Bryan Williams



## WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Attendance was a little lower than usual at the meeting on August 5th as several members were on holiday, which was a pity because they missed a good speaker.

The evening started with the business. We learned that the Flower Festival earlier this summer had resulted in a profit of £1,050 and people were thanked for all the hard work that had gone into this achievement. The judges had been round on July 17th to assess Whilton's entry in the 'Britain in Bloom' Competition and we have since learned that the village was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate, so our efforts were not in vain. Perhaps we shall do even better next year.

The Treasurer said the membership stood at 37 and the bank balance at £252.47. This sounds reasonable but speakers don't come "for free" and indeed their fees increase yearly. To help the association financially, several suggestions were put forward by the committee for members' consideration:-

1. that we should have a Christmas meal together in December instead of a speaker
2. that we might hold a plant sale in May
3. that we could have a Garden Open Day in the spring when so many gardens in the village were at their best.

Mrs. Bowers then welcomed the speaker, Mr. Ernie Sayers, President of the Northampton Fuchsia Society.

It is not unusual for speakers who are very knowledgeable and experienced in their subject to find it difficult to communicate their expertise in a way which is intelligible, interesting and really useful. Mr. Sayers was an exception. His demonstrations, explanations, information and slides were put across so that all of us, fuchsia growers or not, felt we understood something about growing them and were inspired to try some even if we hadn't before. Mr. Sayers was thanked by Frances Drake.

The delicious refreshments were provided by Liz Church and Joan Davies.

The next meeting is on October 7th, when the speaker will be Mr. Stan Barton who will tell us about "Herbs and their uses".

Diana Scott

## WHILTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### September Meeting

Ten members attended the meeting held in the village hall on 11th September.

Following the business section our Speaker, Mr P. Lee, gave us an enthusiastic account of the renovation of his home. Unfortunately Mrs Lee was unable to join us as she was currently in hospital.

During a canal holiday in Warwickshire Mr and Mrs Lee fell in love with a quaint stone cottage in Napton. The cottage, originating from the 15th century, had a corrugated iron roof and was in need of some repair.

The deeds revealed some of the history of the cottage and Mr and Mrs Lee were both keen to learn more. Talking to the locals produced more information, though not all of it reliable.

A survey undertaken to date the timbers of the property proved difficult to date the elm beams used for the frame. The corrugated iron roof was removed, exposing the old thatch and soot on the beams, which gave clues to the age of the cottage.

Previous owners included the Frisby family and a Mr John Brown, a draper in Coventry, who had met Dick Whittington. Emily Compton also owned the cottage and gave it the name "Comptonplace".

In 1638 the cottage was sold to the Shuckburgh family who sold it to William Hughes in 1657. William Hughes modernised the cottage, putting in a fireplace, proper staircase and bedrooms upstairs.

In 1817 the cottage was extended again, the Census returns of 1861 recording that four families lived in the cottage.

Not everyone in the village appreciated Mr and Mrs Lee's enquiries as some rather dubious goings-on were uncovered.

A plan dated 1986 shows the cottage as it is now, complete with new timbers and thatch.

On the face of it the cottage was just an ordinary house which turned out to have a far from ordinary history. The cottage even boasts its own ghost, a thirteen year old boy named John who likes to move things around at night!

## A PARISH PROJECT FOR THE MILLENNIUM

If you are reading this article, you have already revealed two things about yourself. Firstly you have at least some interest in what is going on in the village, and secondly, you have just a little time to read the News Letter.

The WI is hoping to initiate a project to celebrate the year **2,000 in Whilton**. We hope that we shall be able to produce a communal piece of needlework, which in some way records our parish, as it is, perhaps as a map, perhaps in some other form.

### **Who will be involved ?**

Anyone who lives in the parish can be involved.  
There will be no bar on age or sex.  
You do not have to be an expert to share in this.

### **What will be needed?**

Enthusiasm and a little time between now and 2,000, with expertise from those who have it, but, especially at the beginning, **IDEAS**.

On 16 October at 7.30 pm there will be a public meeting in the Village Hall.

### **THIS IS A MEETING FOR YOU.**

Come and find out the possibilities and bring your own ideas about the village.

Here are some first thoughts and questions:

### **What are the important things about Whilton for me :**

convenience for motorway	the canal
variety of birds	the farms
the footpaths	the old buildings
my house	the gardens
the church	small businesses
its history	village activities...?

Later on we may be asking other questions, such as:

Can you sew on buttons?  
Could you give some scraps from your rag bag?  
Can you draw?  
Are you a calligrapher?  
Do you have local photos?

Whilton is a village of busy people, but it is also a community of many talents and interests. As a community we could create an object of great interest and pride for us all, to be unveiled in the celebrations in 2,000.

Come and be involved at the start.

**Anthea Hiscock**

## HOME-START

The editors have received a letter from the organisers of the above asking if we will give some publicity to their organisation through the medium of our *newsletter*.

Home-Start is a charitable voluntary organisation covering Daventry and South Northants.

### HOME-START HAS ARRIVED IN DAVENTRY & SOUTH NORTHANTS

#### Helping Young Families under stress

Home-Start Daventry & South Northants is a new voluntary scheme in this area, offering home visiting by volunteers to families with children under 5 in need of friendship, support and practical help.

At some stage, almost every parent feels that they could do with support or a friendly listener. Being a parent can be stressful, exhausting and sometimes lonely.

Referrals to Home-Start are usually made via Social Workers, Health Visitors or Self, to the Organisers of the scheme.

Volunteers, who are parents themselves, then visit families in their own homes. The volunteers receive training, support and expenses are paid.

**Sue is a young mother who has just had her third baby. She has no family or friends nearby and is feeling lonely, exhausted and overwhelmed.**

#### Are you a Parent or Grand parent?

**Could you spare a few hours each week to visit her or any other similar young families?**

Interested?.....

**For details contact Jean or Janet at:  
Home-Start Daventry and South Northants, on 01327 703434**

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### WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

**Congratulation to the prizewinners:-**

#### July

1st	No.150	K.Bowers
2nd	No.034	J.Bunce
3rd	No.048	N.Young

#### August

1st	No 066	S.Moses
2nd	No.032	J.Davies
3rd	No.021	J.Fisher

We were very sorry to lose Brigid Fisher who left the village in September. She has been a collector for the 200 Club since it began

**St. Andrew's Church - Whilton  
Exclusive Christmas Card**



We hope to be able to produce and sell the above Christmas card in aid of St Andrew's Church. We have to try and balance the number we print with the number we sell in order to be in profit.

At present we plan to print one thousand cards. If we could print two thousand it would be cheaper and better for us.

The cards, with envelopes(this size), will be sold in packets of ten, for £2.95 a packet.

It would be a great help to us if you could telephone one of the editors, or churchwardens, saying how many you would like to buy and how many your friends would like to buy.

**PLEASE DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

C. J. E.

## Summary of Events

Mon	7th	Oct	7.30	Whilton Gardeners' Association "Herbs & Their Uses" - Mr. Stan Barton
Wed	9th	Oct	7.30	Whilton Women's Institute - Annual Meeting
Wed	16th	Oct	7.30	Millennium Parish Project Meeting (see page 9)
Sun	3rd	Nov	10.00	United Benefice Sung Eucharist - <b><u>East Haddon</u></b>
Mon	4th	Nov	8.00	Parish Council Meeting
Wed	13th	Nov	7.30	W.I. Meeting - Yorkshire Dales - Mr. J. Worledge
Sat	16th	Nov	10.00	Benefice Singing Workshop (all welcome) - <b><u>East Haddon</u></b>
Wed	20th	Nov		<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
Sun	24th	Nov	3.30	Family Patronal Festival Service (followed by tea)
Thur	28th	Nov	7.00	Parochial Church Council Meeting
Sun	1st	Dec	10.00	Benefice Eucharist & Patronal Festival - <b><u>Harlestone</u></b>

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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. The Editors are:

Mr. Harold Haynes - The Old Plough, Main Street  
Mrs. Trudy Haynes - The Old Plough, Main Street  
Mrs. Shirley Brown - Cherry Orton, Main Street  
Mrs. Anne Heeley - Springbank, Brington Lane

Contributions to the newsletter to any of the above **by the deadline date, please**