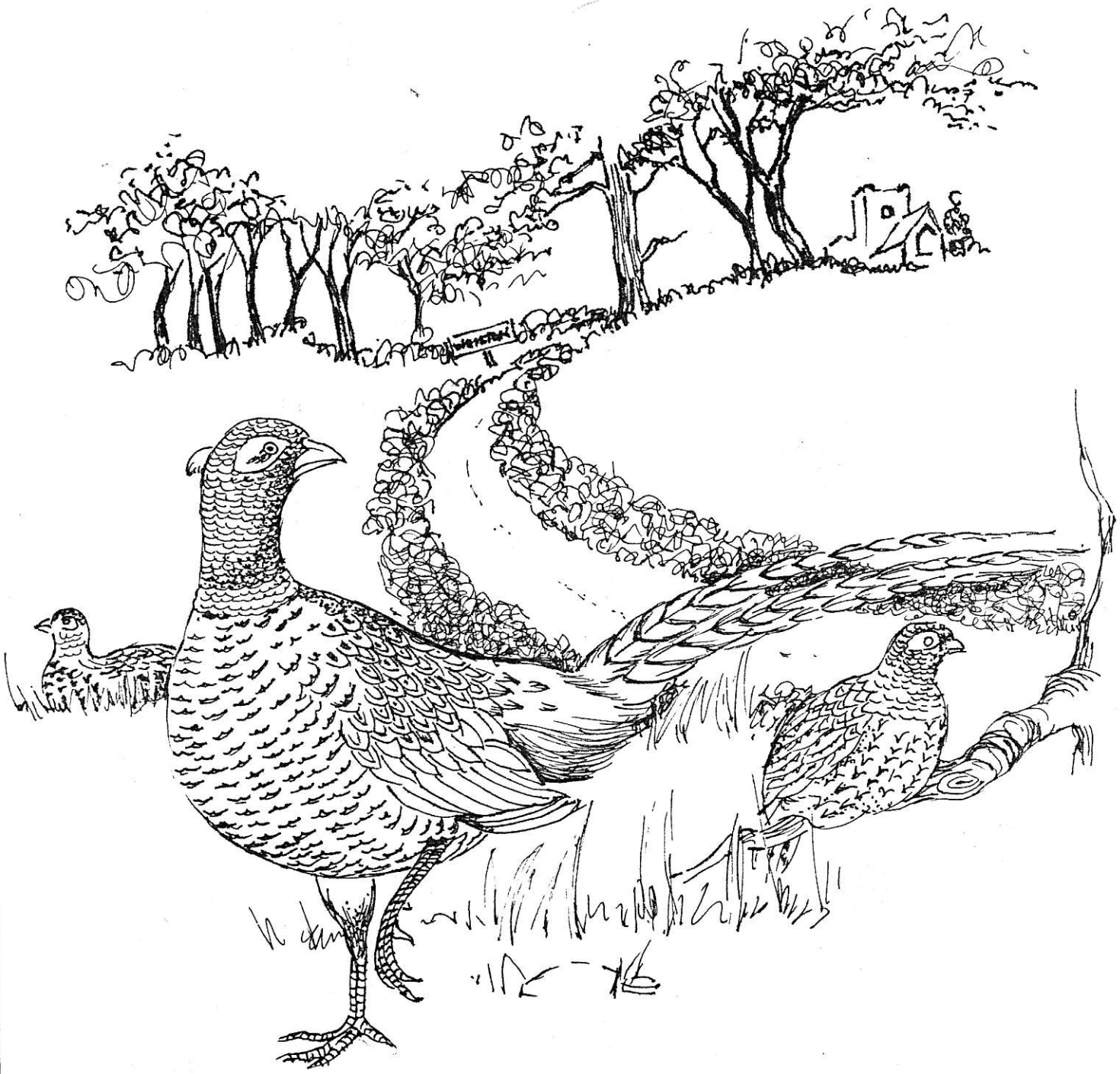


Whilton Newsletter

October 1999



PARISH MATTERS !

The Parish Council met on Monday 6th September with our deputy chairman Derek Brown officiating. Mike Lewis was at a conference.

Does it Matter ?

It is rather disappointing to note that no members of the public came. It was also reported that there had been no response to my request for comment on road safety or a playground for the children. There is now some doubt about whether there is any interest in a Millennium Night event in the village. This will finally be decided at our next meeting. Please let us know what you think. There are Parish Council elections in May and at least one known vacancy. Now is the time to begin to consider what your contribution might be to preserving our village heritage and supporting its way of life.

Southview

The meeting was concerned with a number of minor aspects that go into making it a prize village. The County Council have now accepted they are responsible for the Southview fence but at present only have the money for pulling up the wire apparently. I have now to inform them of loose stone slabs and bricks on the steps. It is to be hoped they take less time to do these things and replace the missing finger post at the top of the village than BT have managed with the telephone box at the centre of the village.

Saga of our telephone box

The meeting were amazed to be told the explanation for this half completed mess was a small metal piece which had broken off and needed to be soldered back. The painter had to stop till BT found a firm to solder it, then get a structural engineer to approve it, before authorising the painter to proceed! As a result to date it has been without its windows and door for some 10 weeks. Apparently I was the first to ask what was going on and will now have to write again, as the little flurry of activity my query produced appears to have halted again.

Rubbish !

Mrs Amos, our District Councillor, was unable to be with us on this occasion, but is keen to hear our views on the change in rubbish collections. The matter is to be reviewed after loud protests in some quarters. Two concerns were raised at the meeting: hot weather makes the fortnightly collection of food waste very smelly and possibly unhygienic; some are finding their bins overflowing with normal rubbish after two weeks. Is this a drop in service or is it worth the environmental gains? Your views are important, although changes may cost us all more. Let Mrs Amos or your parish councillors know.

Flore WASP

Mrs Amos has also invited us to the Flore Ward Action Service Plan Consultation on 23rd September where two of our members will meet Officers and Members of DDC to discuss what might best improve our parish. A small sum of money is available for the best ideas. We made a short list. Again it is not too late to tell us your priorities - there may be a second chance.

Planning, Paying and Public Matters

The Council considered and approved of two planning applications: for an extension at Tudor House, and for new windows and other repairs at listed Dormer Cottage. They approved a large and very late bill for £325.58 from the Audit Commission for our last Triennial Audit completed in April 1998. Finally we discussed such diverse matters as my salary, the NCC Questionnaire on Best Value in providing residential services for older people and a possible millennium coat of arms for the village. This would be put on a plaque on the green commemorating our achievements in the Village of the Year competition in recent years.

The Future : up to us all.

These many aspects affect us all. But can I be bold and blunt in saying to you that we will all be pawns in decisions made elsewhere, unless more people think through the issues with the Parish Council, help spread the views, and complete the work that results. To that end I invite everyone to our next meeting at 8pm on November 1st.

Keith Hiscock
Clerk to the Parish Council

Doorstep Selling - Where You Stand

The facing page is a copy of a leaflet we have received from the County Trading Standards Officer, with a request for us to make its availability known. The leaflet will be widely distributed to local libraries and district council offices, through Social Services and Age Concern or by contacting the Trading Standards office on 01604 707909.

Both the Trading Standards Service and Northamptonshire Police want to reassure householders that support is out there if it is needed. They want to change the perception that the consumer is obliged to hear out a salesperson, not to be afraid of saying 'No' and reminding all that there are cancellation rights. Both the Police Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officers and Trading Standards Advice Line staff are fully briefed to help should there be any problem.

Eds.

USED STAMPS

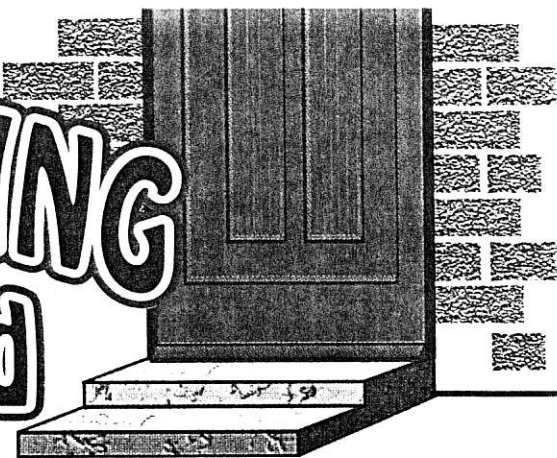
Over the last four months I have collected enough stamps to fill a small carrier bag. Many thanks to all who have co-operated.

Please continue to save your stamps for the "Save the Children" Fund. They are greatly appreciated and may be left in the porch at the back door of the Old Plough.

Trudy Haynes

DOORSTEP SELLING

Where You Stand



- Put the door chain across, or check who is there, before you open the door.
- ID Card checks are vital for official callers, but for doorstep sellers, ID Cards or Business Cards are only of value if they show a verifiable business address, and a telephone contact number starting with an 01 or 02 dial code (which is other than a mobile phone).
- Reputable traders will not try to pressure you, or frighten you into signing documents, entering into contracts, or agreeing to have work done.

If you choose to hear the salesperson out then:

- Ask yourself if you are really interested in, or need what they are selling.
- Never sign anything before you have spoken to a relative, friend or neighbour or you have taken advice from one of the agencies on your useful number card.
- **BEWARE** if a trader won't give you time to think about taking up the service or product offered.
- If you do agree a contract during a cold call by a trader you have seven days in which to change your mind.



Cut out and keep in a safe place

Doorstep Selling Useful Advice Numbers

Ring **700700**, tell the switchboard operator where you live, and ask to be put through to the Police Community Safety/Crime Prevention Officer in your area, or....

Ring **707909** and you can speak to Trading Standards Officers



IF YOU DON'T KNOW
THE CALLER OR THEY
ARE NOT EXPECTED
DON'T LET THEM IN!

In partnership with



Northamptonshire
County Council
Trading Standards

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD
COMPETITION 1999

SUCCESS AGAIN - we have heard that we have reached the finals in both sections of the above competition. Judges will be making their final decision as to placings in the last week of September. The Finals Evening is to be held on Friday 8th October at Hunsbury Hill Centre when representatives from Whilton will be in attendance

This is an achievement and we can all be proud of our success.

Thank you all for your continued effort and support.

Derek Brown
Parish Councillor

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

For the information of recent residents of the village, daily newspapers (Monday to Saturday) are delivered to a central collection point in the village. These are supplied by Oxford Street News of Daventry and if you are interested and would like further information, please contact me.

Derek Brown- 842968
Parish Councillor

WHILTON WI

Our September gathering was not a meeting in the Village Hall, but an outing to Hellidon Windmill and Vineyard. By chance our visit coincided with the publication of a two page spread on the vineyard by the Chronicle and Echo.

Ten WI members were joined by four visitors and we were given a fascinating tour of the vineyard, learning about the different types of grapes, the problems of dealing organically with pests, and of the geological reasons for growing vines on this site. We then visited the winery, where wines were being made both from the grapes grown in the vineyard and from local fruits. After this we proceeded into the windmill for a relaxed wine tasting, before having the opportunity to purchase wines, cider, vinegars and honey produced by Mr and Mrs Hillier.

Frances Drake gave a vote of thanks and we drove back to Whilton after a most enjoyable evening.

The October meeting will be in the Village Hall as usual on Wednesday, 13 October at 7.30 p.m. This will be our AGM, but anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome to attend. Our November meeting on 10 November, will be a "hands on" Christmas Craft workshop.

Anthea Hiscock
Secretary

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM 1999

Congratulations to all Whilton residents!!

Hard work and extra effort have resulted in our village being placed second in the competition which covers the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. We enter in the small village section - other sections being large village, town and city. We have received a certificate and £30 worth of Unwins seeds.

As well as this award, we have also received the David Hawkes Trophy (a silver rose bowl on a plinth) for the most improved village which covers both small and large villages which we keep for one year and also a Certificate as a permanent record of our achievement.

WELL DONE WHILTON

Note - now there is only one step upwards to 1st placing - can we do it in 2000?

Janet Bowers
Co-ordinator

SERVICES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WHILTON

OCTOBER 1999

3RD	NO SERVICE AT WHILTON	
10TH	11.00 AM	FAMILY SERVICE
17TH	6.00 PM	SUNG EUCHARIST
24TH	11.00 AM	FAMILY SERVICE
31ST	6.00 PM	SUNG EUCHARIST

NOVEMBER 1999

7TH	10.00 AM	UNITED BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT <u>NORTON</u>
14TH	6.00 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG
21ST	9.30 AM	FAMILY SERVICE
28TH	11.00 AM	SUNG EUCHARIST



There has recently been a number of people moving into the village who may not be aware of the wonderful gift to the parish by Joan and Griff Davies of Roughmoor Grounds. The ownership of the spinney at the south east boundary of the village was transferred officially in December 1998 to the residents of the parish as Joan & Griff's millennium gift.

Over the next few issues of the Newsletter there will be a series of articles on different aspects of the spinney starting with the history which has been researched to date. We are grateful to Anthea Hiscock and Derek Coates for their interest and time.

See elsewhere for information regarding "Seed Gathering Sunday" (10th October). We hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend from the village. Trees that are grown by families can be eventually planted in the spinney. Derek Coates has also arranged a "Seed Gathering Day" on Saturday 16th October at High Wood, Nr Preston Capes - *please see village noticeboard for this and details of next Spinney Working Party - Sunday 17th October.*

SPINNEY NOTES

PAST TIMES



Since Mr and Mrs Davies' gift of the Spinney at Roughmoors, the responsibility for its future management is vested in the Spinney Management Committee. This is made up of volunteers from all aspects of village life. The members of this decided it would be both useful and interesting to find out about its history. It is hoped that we shall be able to report on our findings from time to time, as this will be an on-going project.

Our aim is to find out any information about the dates of different plantings, the types of trees grown in the past and how, when and why the trees were harvested. We hope to discover the age of the Spinney and who were its previous owners. If possible, we will try to find out about the use of the land there before it was a spinney.

MEMORIES



Already our researches have begun to reveal information and to pose new questions. There are a number of people in the parish who have memories of the Spinney in this century. Howard Tooley, for example, can remember the felled trees lying in the Spinney in the 1950s. This would have been the last harvest. Harold Haynes can remember being taken to play there by his older brother. If you have memories of the Spinney, any member of the Management Committee would be interested to hear them.

The current crop species is a fast-growing hybrid black poplar, probably planted for use in the match stick industry. Although this market no longer exists, these days the timber is mainly used for pallets. We are not sure if the entire wood was clear felled in the 1950s. There are no 'old' trees present in the understorey, but there are several examples of coppiced ash. This was a form of woodland management widely used to produce firewood, fence posts, poles and building timber in bygone times. These have grown to a height of 40 feet or more.

GOING FURTHER BACK



Although the Spinney has been given to Whilton, it actually falls within the boundary of Brockhall Parish and is part of Roughmore Grounds. This name seems to have caused problems to people for centuries; some of the many variants include "Roughmer, Ringmore, Roomer and Rumer". For many years this belonged to the Thornton family of Brockhall before it was sold in about 1920. Their records, now in Northamptonshire Record Office, are beginning to solve some of our questions.

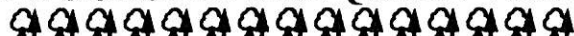
WHEN WAS IT PLANTED?



The 1884 Ordnance Survey shows the Spinney as woodland, with the footpath across it and the bridge over the stream. An older map shows that the Spinney was in existence in 1839, when it was known as "Roughmer Plantation". The landowner was Thomas Reeve Thornton of Brockhall. The boundary of stream and fences was the same as today and its measurements were described as 2 acres 17 perches. In 1821, although the area was fenced off separately from the rest of "Ringmore Grounds", it is not clear that it was used for tree growing, and so it is possible that the Spinney was first planted between 1821 and 1839.

There is evidence that the Brockhall estate had an active tree management policy and was planting new plantations during this period, but as yet no detailed evidence for the planting of Roughmer Plantation has been found.

WORK IN THE WOODS BEFORE QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN



The plantations of the Brockhall Estate provided a great amount of work for local people, which was recorded in the Labour Account Book. With the use of modern machinery we sometimes forget how many hours of back-breaking work were involved in the past. Managing the plantations provided work which varied with the seasons. Some of those paid have familiar local names, such as William Adams, John Townley, George Meacock, William Thorney and John Dunkley .

For all this work, most men were paid 1 shilling and 8 pence a day in the 1820s and 30s. George Meacock, who clearly had hedging, fencing and ditching skills, received 2 shillings a day. Young men and boys were paid less. What we cannot tell is whether the work in the plantations was preferable to other jobs, such as threshing, keeping fowls from the turnips, throwing up dung, drawing docks or "spuding thisell"!

Although no direct mention of Roughmore Plantation has yet been found in the Brockhall Labour Account, it may well have been included in much of the work referred to as "in the plantations". The following shows some of the many plantation tasks for which payments were made in the 1820s and 30s:

WORK IN THE PLANTATIONS

January

Thorning and weeding

(work carried out by George Meacock, his man and "the little boy").

Planting in the spinney.

Trenching the spinney.

"Falling timber".

Stopping gaps at the spinneys.

February

Digging at the plantations.

Planting in the spinney.

Cutting down timber.

March

Planting thorns round the young trees;

also described as "quicking round the new plantations".

Hedge cutting.

Cutting poles.

Digging in the plantations.

Hedging and stakehedging.

Mounding young trees.

Gathering ash plants.

Digging up trees for planting.

April

Digging in the plantations.

Mounding young trees.

Cutting poles.

Thorning young trees.

"Garding the yong Quicks".

Cutting and pruning in the plantation.

May

"Quicking".

Cleaning the plantations.

June

"Scowering the diches round the plantations".

Mowing the plantations.

Weeding quicks (quickthorn / hawthorn)

Clipping hedges round the plantations.

July August September

There is little record of work in the plantations when most

labour was concentrated on haymaking and harvest.

October

Weeding quicks.

*Carrying wood out of
the plantations.*

November

Mounding the young trees.

December

Making a ditch in the plantation.

Raking leaves in the plantations

WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The meeting on 2nd August was held in the village hall and attended by 19 members and 3 visitors.

The discounts from seed orders placed earlier in the year were distributed and members were informed that Dobie's Bulb and Fruit Catalogue was now available with a discount of 20% on each order placed.

The programme for 2000 was still to be finalised. Details of the outing to Barnsdale were given and prize vouchers were presented to the winners of the hanging baskets, tubs or window boxes (see separate entries for both of these)

Following the business meeting we had a very interesting and entertaining talk by Mrs Janet Cropley of Evenly on Plant Portrait ranging from bulbs to climbers and herbaceous border plants. These were accompanied by beautiful slides and all plants shown were from Mrs Cropley's own garden which we hope to visit next year.

HANGING BASKET, TUB OR WINDOW BOX

This competition, organised by Whilton Gardeners' Association as a suggestion from a Britain in Bloom judge two years ago, was won by Jean & Kerry Davies of Langton Rise who received a £10 voucher. Runners up were Diane and Brian Beaumont also of Langton Rise and Alice and Don Welch of The Old Shop who received £5 vouchers.

W.G.A. BARNSDALE OUTING

Saturday 4th September: sunny morning: minibus: 18 members and friends: destination Barnsdale Gardens, home of the late Geoff Hamilton.

Arriving shortly after 11.00am at these gardens near Rutland Water, we were able to spend a leisurely three hours wandering through the various demonstration gardens that Geoff Hamilton had created for the TV series "Gardeners World," from the town courtyard garden through the wild gardens and all the varying garden designs in between all linked by lawns or grass paths. The whole area comes across as extremely pleasant and tranquil.

The memorial garden to Geoff Hamilton was particularly moving with the bust created by a family member set amongst the plants, the memorial seat for quiet thoughts and the tree planted on the grave of his beloved dog.

After enjoying the wanderings, we were able to refresh ourselves in the tearooms and purchase plants from the nurseries.

Barnsdale is certainly a good place to visit and have a pleasant day.

Janet Bowers
Secretary

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

Congratulations to the Winners of the 200 Club

AUGUST 1999

1st Prize	027	R Clarke	£40
2nd Prize	079	M Whelan	£20
3rd Prize	142	M.Redding	£10

IN BRIEF.....

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucy and Craig Bolton on the birth of their baby son, Christopher Edward, born 20th July 1999, a brother for Sophie.

WEDDING BLESSING - A service took place on Saturday 14th August to bless the marriage of Stuart Crossland and Samantha Stead.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jenny Houghton and Stephen Knibbs who were married on Saturday 21st August 1999 at St Andrew's Church, Whilton

BAPTISM The Family 11.00am Service on Sunday 22nd August included the Baptism of Harry, son on Emma and Tony Smith.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE / WALK 1999 - This event took place on Saturday, 11th September and we thank the recorders for attending during the hours from 10.00am - 4.00pm. The number of visitors to the church was down again this year and it was disappointing that only one person in the parish took part by walking around Northampton. (See Janet's article)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES SPONSORED WALK 1999

Having left cycling days behind (no bike), I decided to see how many Northampton churches I could visit. In two hours minus four minutes I walked to 14 and raised £103 of which 50% is donated to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% to St Andrew's, Whilton and I enjoyed the walk.

Janet Bowers

W E L C O M E T O W H I L T O N

The amended cascade telephone lists have now all been delivered and we would ask you to retain this in a safe place for easy reference if required.

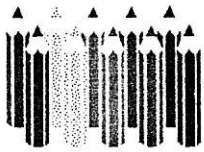
Fortunately there has been no reported crime in Whilton in the summer months.

Christine Bilsborough

COPPER MILE UPDATE

Progress has been slower since the last report, we have slowed to a steady walk from our initial gallop. Coppers have continued to come in and our thanks go to all those who have already donated their spare change. Hopefully everyone is still collecting their 1p and 2p coins and will hand them in to Janet Bowers or Gill Denbigh in the coming weeks. We have managed to reach 1/10th of a mile mark which is a large amount and weight of coins already so keep the pennies rolling in and the coin line advancing.

G.D.



Brington & Whilton Pre-school

A Registered Nursery Education Provider and a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance

The autumn term has commenced with healthy role numbers, and a happy group of children from the villages of Whilton, Great Brington, Little Brington and Norton.

This term will be focussed on the topic of Autumn. Whilst the weather is fine we shall take walks through the village to look at the changing fields and hedgerows, collecting leaves and conkers etc.

We will continue to reinforce colours, shapes, days of the week and weather in a simplistic and fun way, to encourage the learning of these basic concepts. Group sessions will also incorporate mathematics, writing skills, and physical development.

Should you wish to enrol your child for Pre-school, please telephone 01327 843543 for further information.

Sara Mitchell

SEED GATHERING SUNDAY

A FAMILY DAY FOR TREES OF TIME AND PLACE

DAVENTRY COUNTRY PARK
10TH OCTOBER 1999
11:00AM TO 4PM

WITH SPECIAL CELEBRITY GUEST

A partnership between Daventry District Council, Northamptonshire Canal Partnership and The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers supported by Biffaward have got together to give you a day full of activities for all of the family.

FREE PLANTING PACKS & GREEN COMPOST from Biffa Waste Services & Planting pots are RECYCLED Council cups & MAKE A PLEDGE to plant a tree & Nature awareness ACTIVITIES & STORYTELLING & EXHIBITIONS & Northants 96.6 BLACK THUNDERS.

For more details please contact Marieke Hirst, BTCV, Planning Department, Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry, NN11 5AF. Telephone 01327 302592 or email mhirst@daventrydc.gov.uk



Supported by



Christingle

You are warmly invited to our Christingle celebration

Please come and help us to reach out to children who live in the poorest communities and whose families are struggling against enormous odds. Children who are cold and hungry on the streets. Children who are excluded from school and are missing out on an education. And young teenagers who are in prison on remand.

If you believe every child deserves a decent chance in life, you believe in everything we stand for.

Light up
a child's life

"In a darkened church the lit Christingles shine the Light of Jesus over all present."

Dr George Carey
Archbishop of Canterbury

at: ST ANDREW. WHILTON

on: SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER

time: 4.00pm



The Children's Society

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales
Edward Rudolf house, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL
Tel: 0171 837 4299 Fax: 0171 837 0211
www.the-childrens-society.org.uk

Summary of Events

Mon 4 Oct 7.30pm Gardeners' Association - Winter Tubs and Baskets - Mrs Beckwith
Sun 10 Oct Seed Gathering Sunday
Wed 13 Oct 7.30pm Women's Institute - A.G.M.
Sat 16 Oct Seed Gathering (High Wood - Nr Preston Capes)
Sun 17 Oct Spinney Working Party
Mon 1 Nov 8.00pm Parish Council Meeting
Sun 7 Nov 10.00am United Benefice Sung Eucharist - **Norton**
Wed 10 Nov 7.30pm Women's Institute - "Hands-On" Christmas Craft Workshop
Sun 14 Nov 6.00pm Choral Evensong For Remembrance Sunday
Sat 20 Nov Newsletter Deadline for December Issue

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:

Harold & Trudy Haynes - The Old Plough, Main Street
Derek & Shirley Brown - Cherry Orton, Main Street

Contributions to the newsletter to any of the above **BY THE DEADLINE DATE, PLEASE**
