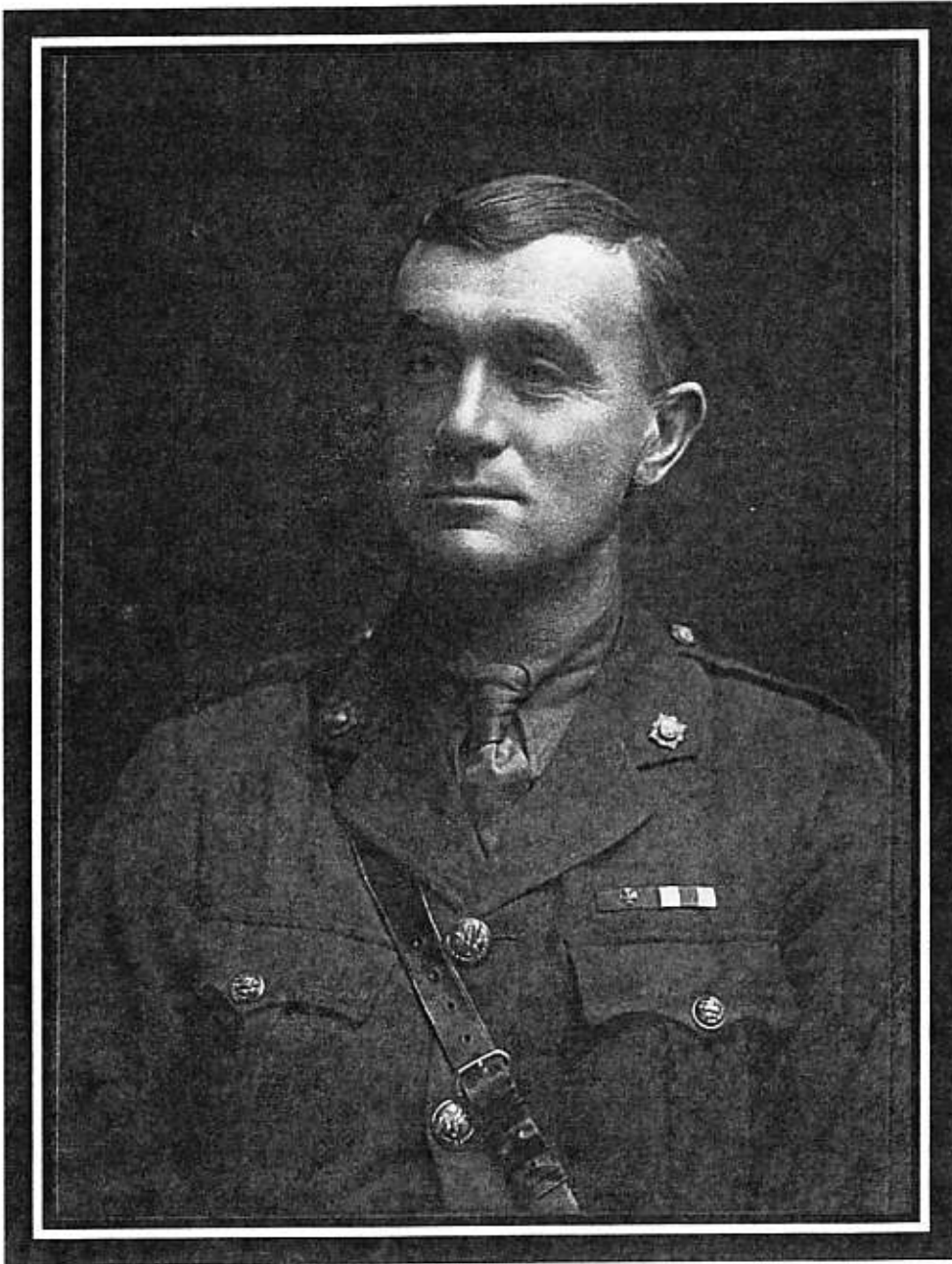


# Whilton

## Autumn Newsletter



Captain Henry Reynolds VC MC

**September – November 2017**

## AUTUMN 2017

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. Our cover photograph features Capt Harry Reynolds as the village prepares to commemorate one hundred years since his courageous deeds won him a Victoria Cross. Anthea and her committee have done a tremendous amount of work in planning the events. We do hope that all goes well and on your behalf thank them for the time that has been spent.

It is interesting to try to imagine what life in this village would have been like one hundred years ago. The farmers would have been completing the harvest although they would have been much more reliant upon manual labour to complete the work - nothing like the mechanisation that we see up and down the lanes today!

Many of the villagers would have worked on the land and would also have kept and reared their own livestock in order to provide food over the winter months. It is encouraging to see that this tradition is being maintained albeit on a smaller scale with a number of villagers keeping hens - one group of which have proved to be prize winners!

Sarah Thomas will be standing down as editor after this edition. We are grateful for her help. She will continue to contribute her children's pages in the future.

This presents an opportunity for one of you to step in to this vacancy and help us with future Newsletters. It is a good way of becoming involved in village life and really does not take up too much time. If you would like to help please let Anthea or Jon know.

Enjoy the Autumn events!

The Editors

The Whilton Parish Council have once again had a busy period working for the Parish to try and make this a better place for all. So what have we been up to?

- **Allotments.** The initial rejection by the Daventry District Council (DDC) was challenged by the Parish Council for the transfer of ownership of the allotments to the Parish Council. After many e-mails and debates between myself and the Leader of the DDC, the transfer has now been agreed, and we are currently in a series of legal processes and procedures (that need to go to the Secretary of State for agreement) to finalise the deal. However, the latest hurdle thrown in the way is the ownership of the ramp area outside No 9 Main Street which is used by allotment holders to get up onto the allotments. This is currently still owned by the DDC and is separate to the allotments, and only became apparent when we confirmed the boundaries of the allotment land. The Parish Council is now pursuing to secure legal permission to use this small portion of land.
- **Broadband.** A very contentious subject area, and I am aware that there are many rumours and misunderstandings circulating around the village. So what are the facts?
  - **Broadband Speeds.** According to BT, we **ARE** connected to a fibre broadband network, albeit that the fibre only runs to the exchange in Long Buckby. That connection then comes via copper cables through Whilton Locks and into Whilton village, and gradually slows down from about 20Mbps at the top of the village, down to about 4-5Mbps at the other. These speeds are dependant on who your broadband provider is.
  - **Fastest Broadband Providers.** There are independent websites that will tell you who the fastest broadband providers are in your area, and these are driven by who has their equipment in the local exchange. So don't believe the hype of most providers who claim they can provide 'up to XXMbps' speeds, because the fastest providers for the Parish are BT, TalkTalk and Sky who are the only operators who have equipment in the local exchange at Long Buckby. Go with anyone else and you will experience slower speeds.
  - **The Right Broadband Package.** There are effectively two BT broadband packages that operate within the Parish – an older fully copper wire based package, and that connected to the faster fibre network. When BT installed the fibre connection to the exchange in Long Buckby a few years ago, many on the older copper based broadband network assumed that they would get a massive speed increase. However, this was not the case because you needed to take out a new fibre based broadband package agreement with BT or your provider in order to access that fibre network and get the higher broadband speeds.

- **Gigaclear.** Hopefully you will have heard of Gigaclear, who WILL be coming to the Parish as part of the Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband Scheme ([www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net/Pages/home.aspx)). The plan is that they will install a fibre network through the Parish between now and the end of 2018, and each resident can then opt to be connected directly to that fibre network if required (fibre to the home) to provide a much faster broadband speed. They provide a variety of packages and speeds of 50Mb plus. Full details at [www.gigaclear.com](http://www.gigaclear.com). Of note, it is also worth while to register your interest on the site to try to give the Parish more precedence to get connected sooner.
- **Other Options.** We are currently reviewing a number of other options to get faster broadband within the Parish, which will hopefully provide an alternative to Gigaclear. One of these is to try and get a BT fibre connected cabinet installed within the village at Whilton. However, this is a low priority for BT since we are seen as already being connected to a fibre broadband network, and hence satisfy their, and the Government's initiative to have everyone connected to fibre broadband. Hence, the possibility of partially self-funding this option is being discussed with BT. Another option being considered is a satellite based system, and one such provider who has approached myself is SugarNet. Again, discussions are being held with this company to see what they can offer.
- **Community Speedwatch.** Our village has nine trained Speedwatch volunteers, who you may have seen at various places in the village over recent weeks. They work in partnership with Northants Police, recording vehicle speeds through the village. Those found to be exceeding the speed limit are reported to the Police to take further action. Four more villagers are being trained and the speed gun equipment will be with us in future weeks too. We will report back fully in the future about the outcomes of the programme. We are most grateful to the team of volunteers who are giving up their time to help make our roads safer.
- **Defibrillators.** The Parish Council have purchased 2 defibrillators and these are now mounted and ready for use. One is outside the Village Hall in Whilton, the other is on the wall next to the BT phone box on the canal bridge in Whilton Locks. Each cabinet is locked with a code. When and if required, dial 999 and the emergency services operator will give the caller the location of the nearest defibrillator, together with the code to open the cabinet. Note that there is an alarm on the cabinet when the door is opened. This is normal. The devices are very easy to use with an audio guide given as you use the device. However, we will also be arranging for a quick training course to be given in the Whilton Village Hall at a future date to all those who wish to attend. To back all this up, the Parish Council will also shortly be distributing 'aide memoir' cards to each home in the Parish to provide details of the defibrillators and what to do.

- **Whilton and Whilton Locks E-Mail Distribution List.** The e-mail distribution list continues to grow for the villages of Whilton and Whilton Locks, where many notices such as a warning of thefts in the area, road closures etc have benefited from a quick widespread distribution via the list. If you are interested in adding your e-mail address to the list (don't worry, only the Whilton Clerk will see it, and you won't get any marketing e-mails etc), please send your e-mail address to [clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk).
- **Dog Waste.** This is still a growing problem within the villages. There is a dog waste bin located in the village at the end of Buckby Lane, but on a recent dog walk, I counted 14 dog mess piles in the 100m stretch of fenced pathway across the field within a few metres of the bin at one end. We've also been informed that dog mess has been found on the church path and across many fields. Walking along the pavement in Whilton some irresponsible owners see fit to allow their dogs to poop on the path, and seem quite content to leave it there. We have now put up many signs in the area asking dog owners to clean up after their dogs do their business. Children play in the area, and there is nothing worse than lazy owners who cannot be bothered to clean up after their animals. So please do your bit and be a responsible dog owner. (Please note photos sent to the Newsletter.)
- **Whilton Parish Council Website.** The Whilton Parish Council also do have a website at <http://www.parish-council.com/whilton/> which details all the work that they are doing for the community, together with any notices of interest for the Parish. There is also an e-mail address should you wish to contact the Parish Councillors about any matters relating to the village and this is [councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk).

Randal Smith, Chair of the Whilton Parish Council

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**Pathfinder II Project – Risk of Surface Water Flooding in the Parish**

I was recently approached by the Resilience Team from the Northamptonshire County Council regarding an important initiative they are operating called the Pathfinder II Project. The aim of the Project is to facilitate community led improvements in resilience and preparedness amongst communities who are at risk of surface water flooding in Northamptonshire.

Now you may wonder how a village such as Whilton is in danger of flooding when we effectively live on the side of a hill. But they are talking about surface water flooding from excessive rainfall, and looking on their website, it is surprising the areas that the Environmental Agency have identified in Whilton and Whilton Locks that are at risk from such flooding.

Hence, the Resilience Team have asked if any of our community members would like to become Flood Wardens for the Parish. This will be an important role, checking that natural waterways are clear, and helping the community prepare and deal with any surface water flooding. Details available are:

- The Pathfinder II webpage is here with full details of the Project and maps of the surface water floor risk areas. [www.floodtoolkit.com](http://www.floodtoolkit.com).
- There is also a Pathfinder Facebook page where the team can update communities and you can ask questions to Pathfinder communities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northantspathfinder/>
- If any community members would like to be Flood Wardens there is a training event on the **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 10:00 – 16:00 at the Nene Whitewater Centre**, Bedford Rd, Northampton NN4 7AA which they are welcome to attend. Please let myself Jo or myself know by 10<sup>th</sup> September if anyone plans to attend so we have an idea of numbers.

If anyone is interested in taking on this important role and intending to attend the training session, please let myself know by 10 September so that I can let the Team know.

Randal Smith, Rose Briar  
Chair of the Whilton Parish Council

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## DOG MESS – AGAIN

**The top photo was sent in by a concerned resident in June. This dog mess was left outside their home in Whilton.**



- Please remove your dog's mess.
- The rest of us do not wish to step in it.
- Leaving it there is anti-social.
- It is smelly and it spreads disease.



**Despite the messages, notices and bins provided, this mess was photographed by another resident in August. It was on the pavement in Main Street .**

## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2017/2018

### APRIL 2017

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	B Eyton-Jones	044
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	P Morris	004

### MAY 2017

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	M Clements	208
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	A Healey	075

### JUNE 2017

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	R Haynes	030
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	A Clarke	144

### JULY 2017

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	E. Clarke	113
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	M Walsh	071

**Congratulations to the winners**



### SOCIAL LUNCH 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017

Another very warm day and a cold two course meal was served with fruit juices which proved very refreshing. On offer for the main course was lovely poached salmon or spinach roulade with potato salad, green salad, red salad and other vegetable based salads. Very colourful to look at and delicious to eat.

The desserts were also cold and very popular:- Pavlova, cherry berry fruit salad, ice-cream & chocolate pie. As usual, second helpings were taken with very little encouragement from the cooks. Whilst the 200 Club draw took place, tea, coffee and mints were served.

Another enjoyable social event in Whilton. If you would like to join us at the next Social Lunch, you will be very welcome. This will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30 for 1 p.m. Soft drinks are included but you are welcome to bring other drinks to share.

## NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

Following the resignation of Sue Kipling, we are now being looked after by David Painter. For those of you who have not yet met David, he has written a short article about himself, which is published elsewhere in this newsletter.

We expect our Service Schedule to change slightly in coming months to accommodate services at other churches in the Spencer Benefice as we manage without a full time Rector. At the time of writing these have still to be confirmed but it looks as if we will have a service on the second and fourth Sundays plus the Benefice Service on rotation. As soon as we know these, they will be published on the Village and Church noticeboards.



We will be hosting the Benefice Eucharist Service on Sunday 3 September. The service will start at 11.00 and as an experiment we will be serving coffee and teas before the service at 10.30. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Our churchyard continues to be maintained to a very high standard, thanks to the efforts of Roy Haynes. We have recently laid fresh gravel by the church porch and were very grateful for the team of volunteers (pictured here) who made light work of this task.

There continue to be a number of thefts of lead from church roofs throughout the County. We had a roof alarm installed over 12 months ago to help protect the property. The alarm will trigger an audible alarm and an automatic call out if it detects movement on the roof. However, we are also reliant upon the vigilance of our neighbours and villagers to keep an eye on the property. If you do see anything suspicious please report it to the Police.

The church clock is a central feature of our village and we are grateful to the Parish Council who support the annual maintenance costs. For many years Maurice Clements has taken responsibility for adjusting the timekeeping of the clock and altering the hour as BST starts and finishes. We are now looking for a volunteer to help Maurice with this. If you are interested please let me know.

We look for your support as we develop our ideas to bring more villagers in to church life in the coming months. We are always interested to hear suggestions and get your help. Our contact details are

Jon Brierley 843380

email [Jbrierley1@aol.com](mailto:Jbrierley1@aol.com)

Linda Treacy 07752 885900

email [lindahalltreacy@gmail.com](mailto:lindahalltreacy@gmail.com)

Jon and Linda



## FROM DAVID PAINTER

I am grateful for the opportunity of introducing myself to readers of this newsletter. Since last November I have been assisting the Reverend Sue Kipling in the parishes of the Spencer benefice, and it has been a pleasure to get to know a number of you who are regular worshippers.

Following Sue's decision to resign with effect from the end of July, the Bishop has asked me to take responsibility for ongoing worship in each of the churches, and to be a pastor and spiritual leader to the community. This I will do most willingly, and if there is any way in which I can be of service to you in the coming months I hope you will not hesitate to let me know.

A few details about myself for any who may be interested. I was born and brought up in Devon, though most of my adult life was spent in London. For eleven years I was Vicar of a large post-war housing estate parish in south-west London, and then I served as the Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of Southwark, interviewing and assisting people who were seeking to discern whether they had a vocation to ordained ministry in the Church. Then in January 2000 I came to the Diocese of Peterborough as Archdeacon of Oakham, with an area of responsibility which included the County of Rutland, as well as East Northamptonshire (Corby, Kettering, Oundle and the neighbouring villages), and the City of Peterborough itself. I retired from full-time ministry at the end of 2011, at which point I moved to my present home in Towcester.

I look back on a lifetime of service within the Church, and I am greatly blessed to have known the love and support and encouragement of countless numbers of people throughout my life. As an institution the Church has many faults, and I am certainly not blind to them; however, it is also a place where much joy can be shared, where much growth can take place, and where much healing can be experienced. I pray that this will prove to be the case in the parishes of the Spencer benefice, and I look forward with keen anticipation to the journey which we shall take together in the future.

May God bless you all in whatever lies ahead.

David Painter

[dsptow@gmail.com](mailto:dsptow@gmail.com)

01327 438392

## WHILTON IN NEED CHARITIES

### ARE YOU IN NEED OF SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

The Whilton Charities exist to provide basic requirements or relieve debt or stop the incursion of it in circumstances where it will assist those with insufficient resources. Some will be starting new training or university courses this autumn and may wish to consider applying.

Others may be seriously affected in various ways and by rising prices for commodities, lighting, or heating fuel while trying to manage on a fixed income.

If either you or someone known to you has one of these concerns please contact Ann Gilbert or Keith Hiscock to see if the Charities can be of some help.

These are the grounds on which the Charities may be able to help:

- i) The Trustees are prepared to give up to £900 in grants in sums usually not exceeding £300 and limited to one application per financial year.
- ii) These would be given on receipt of a written application to the trustees, in confidence, given to one of the trustees explaining the need and difficulty in financially meeting it, or if preferred, an interview with one of the trustees which they would record.
- iii) The need may be for a piece of equipment or an experience that anyone with reasonable means could be expected to acquire e.g.. A replacement mattress, TV licence, small house repair, musical instrument, evening class/skill giving course, pre-school fee, taxi fare to visit relative/friend in hospital, holiday break or significant school trip/DofE expedition, which would help fulfil potential. It could be help with fees for, or transport costs including insurance, to further training.
- iv) Eligibility
  - a. for an older or disabled person is defined as someone living mainly on a basic state pension or benefit.
  - b. for a family, living on an income half the national average wage.
  - c. for young people in their own right, in a situation where it would not be expected a parent would fund the expense required.
  - d. The payment may be requested to avoid consequences of a loan or the incurring of further debt.

Permanent notices remain on both the Village and Locks Notice Boards.

This note is published now to remind those about to embark on university study or new work training and as a reminder that there are safeguards for the confidentiality of applicants. We are able to discuss 'What If' situations before any name is mentioned, if you or an agency approach one of us, either on your own or another's behalf.

This fund is for anyone normally resident in the Parish Boundaries and we would urge you to mention the possibility to those who should benefit from the forethought of previous wealthier generous parishioners.

The Trustees

**Remembering** Remembrance Day on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017** will once again be marked by the wearing of poppies. The first official Legion Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11 November 1921, inspired by the poem, "In Flanders' Fields," written by John McCrae. Since then the Poppy Appeal has been a key annual event in the nation's calendar.



Some of the bloodiest fighting of World War One took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France. The poppy was the only thing which grew in the aftermath of the complete devastation. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, deeply inspired and moved by what he saw, wrote the poem beginning:

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

**On Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September** Whilton will be remembering **Captain Henry Reynolds, VC, MC**, a man of exceptional courage and leadership, who fought in France and Flanders. The Captain was wounded, but did not die, but we remember that many thousands did.

#### **Experience and involvement**

As part of the project to celebrate and remember, an audio-visual presentation has been made in Whilton. Fifteen local voices have been used to accompany images and music, which aim to capture not only the life of Captain Reynolds, but also the experience of many others who fought at the Battle of Passchendaele. This is a unique, local Whilton production, but has no bounds to its message.

The presentation lasts half an hour. It will be shown as required in Whilton Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September from about 4 p.m. and again through the afternoon of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

There is no charge for the community events on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, which include singing by Whilton Warblers, bell ringing in St Andrew's and tea and cakes, as the event is supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund, Daventry District Council and our own fund-raising. The exhibitions include decorations in the church, a photographic record of Captain Reynolds, project work by children from East Haddon and Brington Schools, and first World War artefacts.

All from Whilton and the Locks are invited to come, as are residents of East Haddon, where Captain Reynolds lived for a short time before going to war.

## FLORAL DESIGNERS REQUIRED

As part of the Henry Reynolds celebrations we are decorating St Andrews church in Whilton with flowers and vegetables, and are asking for anyone with flower arranging skills to help us. Is anyone is willing to provide an arrangement suitable for windowsill placement, using any type of flowers etc - garden grown is fine - we are expecting plenty of Michaelmas daisies! - although we do have a small fund for the purchase of flowers if required.



If like me you can only plonk a few flowers in a vase, any flower donations for display would be appreciated - we have plenty of vases so just the flowers is fine. We would also appreciate any donations of vegetables especially home grown.

Please contact Tricia Wood at Wychwood, Brington Lane, Whilton 01327 844673, mobile 07767211097 or at [royandtricia@btinternet.com](mailto:royandtricia@btinternet.com). Alternatively I will be in St Andrews church on Tuesday September 19th from 10 am to 12.30 and also from 2 to 4 pm.

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### CELEBRATING COURAGE

#### CAPTAIN HENRY REYNOLDS VC, MC

**September 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> mark special ceremonial and community events for the parish, as we remember Captain Henry(Harry) Reynolds, born at Whilton Locks in 1879, who won both the Military and Victoria Crosses in 1917.**

The ceremonial events on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September include a procession starting at 11.30 a.m., followed by the unveiling of the Memorial Stone on the Green. After the Thanksgiving Service in the church there will be a meal for invited guests at the Locks.

From about 4 p.m. the church will be open to all for viewing the audio-visual presentation, and the exhibitions in the marquee and village hall will be open.

The community events will be on the afternoon of Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

On both days, we hope to provide an experience for all the senses, as we interpret and become involved in this centenary event.

**CELEBRATING COURAGE  
20 AND 23 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**CAPTAIN HENRY REYNOLDS 1879 – 1948  
AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS AND THE MILITARY CROSS IN 1917**

**Immersing our FIVE SENSES  
as we interpret and become involved in this event.**



**SIGHT**

Words to read in the biography, the exhibitions and other written material, costumes to see, project work by children, pageantry and ceremony, visual presentations, photographs, reminding and informing us of one man's life and deeds a century ago.



**HEARING**

Words and presentations, music, battle sounds, singing and poetry, reminding us of the progress of the war and its effect on the nation.



**TASTE**

Cakes made from old recipes –“ trench cake” to “kitchen garden cake” - reminding us of how to manage with fewer ingredients.



**TOUCH**

World War I artefacts to handle and costumes to wear, reminding us of clothing in 1917 and the reality of war.



**SMELL**

The scent of flowers and the smell of fruit and vegetables, reminding us of produce grown by Captain Reynolds working with men suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the 1930s.

## Celebrating Courage and Celebrating Community



As we remember our local hero, it is also a time to celebrate our current community and the many residents of Whilton, who are contributing to this event, from making a cake or providing some flowers, to taking minutes, editing photographs, practising the music, researching the past, keeping the accounts or making generous donations.

So far we have a list of 48 Whilton parishioners who have helped or are helping in some way. When we consider the fact that at the last census the parish population was 271, this is a major achievement, and perhaps there are still more to join in. In addition the Pre-school children will be producing art work in September, and East Haddon and Brington Primary Schools will be working on related projects.

The Henry Reynolds Work Party would like to thank everyone from Whilton who is making an effort towards this event, and several supporting from other villages too.

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### COFFEE MORNING

Following the successful quiz to raise funds for the Henry Reynolds events, we thought that we could contribute by organising a coffee morning which was scheduled for Saturday 15 July.

The plan was to hold it in the garden but this being July in England the morning dawned dull and wet so we moved to Plan B.

You always worry before these events as to whether anyone will turn up and if they do, will there be enough cake! On both counts we were very well supported. The conservatory was full of people and cake - it is amazing how many bakers we have in the village. Too many to mention although we did enjoy Mary Emery's recipes from World War One .

Everyone had a good time and the proceeds from cakes and raffle were over £130, so thank you.

Jon and Helen Brierley

We thank Jon and Helen for their hospitality, and also Neil Phillips, who has organised 2 quizzes for the same cause. Tickets for the second quiz on 1<sup>st</sup> September have sold out.

# Aperture Photography Group

A lot has happened over the last couple of months for the group. The biggest event was the opening of our permanent exhibition at the Saracen's Head in Little Brington. Everyone in the group was invited to submit an image and we then organised for them to be printed and framed. The walls in the bar and restaurant now feature work by most of the group's members and more will be added soon. We hope to change the photos on a regular basis, so if you are in the pub, look out for our images.

We are also now pleased to announce that our fantastic new website, is now live. Take a look for yourselves at:

[www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk](http://www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk)

The site contains more of our work, tells you when we are meeting and you can also learn more about the group, our photography training and outings.

The photos this time all come from our recent outing to Birmingham. Ten of us explored the city centre, taking photos in the Bull Ring, Gas Street Basin and Brindley Place. We will be having more outings in the next few months to provide opportunities to learn and practice.

We now have nearly 30 members with various levels of knowledge and experience and more interest is coming through as a result of our exhibition and website. People really enjoy the mix of activities that we offer and the friendliness of the group. So, if you want to learn more about photography, feel free to come along.

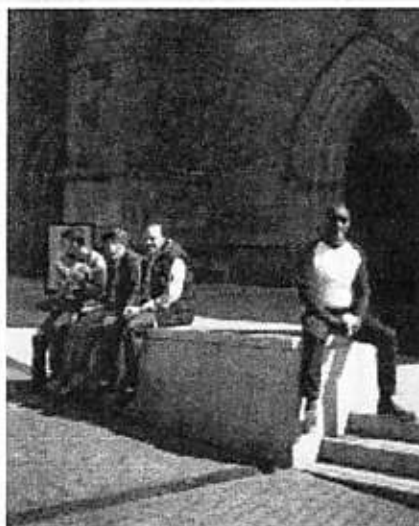
Meetings are held in the back room at the Saracen's Head in Little Brington at 8pm. The dates of our forthcoming meetings are:

September 14th and 28th  
October 12th and 26th  
November 9th and 23rd  
December 7th and 21st

Call or email me if you want any further information.

Neil Phillips

Tel: 01327 844182  
Email: [neilp.apg@gmail.com](mailto:neilp.apg@gmail.com)





## THE POULTRY SECTION

It so happens that we have a number of poultry-related contributions for this issue, and so we have created this section for them.

Harry Reynolds, the winner of the Victoria Cross would have been familiar with poultry, especially as during his youth, his father managed the farm of John Craven at Whilton Lodge.

The stock was sold up after John Craven's death in 1893, when Harry was 14. It included:

### ***Poultry:***

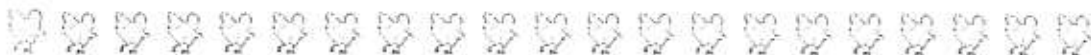


- 52 pure-bred Minorcas and 3 cockerels***
- 20 ditto silver-gray Dorkings***
- and Indian game cockerel***
- 20 various and 1 cockerel.***

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Several people keep poultry in the parish, but can anyone compete with Mr Butlin of Whilton Locks?

In July 1912 he claimed that he had a hen who laid 26 eggs and hatched 21 chickens from them.



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In 1920 you may have acquired more stock by going down to the Locks. On 10<sup>th</sup> September 1920 William Kirkham of Whilton Wharf was advertising as follows:

*"COCKERELS May 1920.*  
*White Leghorns from 5 shillings.*  
*Cam's Extra Special Pen 1 from 20 shillings.*  
*Anconas, Rev Wilson direct from 15 shillings.*  
*All from 200-egg hens."*





## OPERATION HEN RESCUE

### A poem by Stan Henniker of Whilton Locks

My Anne said, "Do you think it would be nice to have  
Half a dozen hens? Not just any old hens, my lovely one,  
But rescued from the battery farm in Carlisle, at fifty pence a time.  
And could you make a coop, with a little door to let them in the run?"  
(Of course, my love.)

In a flurry of concrete, nails, hammer and wood,  
A hens' hotel appeared, enough to make any hen's heart glow.  
The strength of this construction  
Would survive the Alamo.

Off to the battery farm with six cardboard  
Boxes stuffed with hay.  
Six bewildered featherless chickens loaded up,  
They can't tell night from day.

We put them in the run with a liberal scattering of corn and a hopper of water.  
Poor things, they don't know what to do. What a sorry sight.  
So at dusk we pick them up  
And lock them in the coop, secure for the night.

Next morning we reverse the procedure  
And put them in the run.  
This goes on for several days. Then one looks out,  
Walks down the ramp, her fear is overcome.

Others quickly follow and they all begin to scratch.  
What a pleasure they prove to be.  
They gurgle contentedly in the coop at night, and their feathers are growing back.  
They are now acting as they should – a lovely sight to see.

They are now fully feathered, and roaming free by day,  
And egg production fully flows.  
You should see the smile on my Anne's face  
As they follow her wherever she goes.

The conclusion of this tale is...  
Happy Stan...  
Happy Hens...  
Happy Anne.

## The Smiths' Chickens' Winning Streak



Some of you will be aware that we keep a number of chickens at Rose Briar. At the last count, we think we have 23, 24 or 25, but they won't stay still for long enough to allow us to count them as they chase each other to get a worm, or race after a fly, or some leaf blowing across as they roam free around the garden, applying their own peculiar landscaping skills to the lawn and flower beds. All different breeds, they lay a kaleidoscope of egg colours which we sell off outside our home via an honesty box - £1 per half dozen (got to get the advertising in when we can!!) and the girls are working hard to keep up supply to meet the demand.

Back in July we thought it might be fun to enter some of our girls into the Poultry Competition at the Nantwich Show. We later discovered that this is apparently quite a major competition – some 700 to 800 entries, including an impressive display of eggs, but we thought – why not? It'll be a bit of fun and an experience. So we selected 3 of our Orpington chickens (actually the only ones we could catch at the time) and a handful of eggs and proceeded on our way. Now some things should really not be together, and excited chickens in straw and sawdust in a cage in the back of a clean Land Rover was one of those things. We tried our best to ignore the bits of sawdust flicking past our ears as we drove up the M6, and I really didn't mind the lump of straw that landed in my coffee when we stopped at a services. But all was forgiven when one laid an extra egg in the cage just in case we were short of entries for the Egg Competition – very thoughtful girl.

When we arrived, we booked in and were told where our show cages were in the giant marquee. As we looked around at the other chicken owners to 'size up' the competition, it slowly dawned on us that we might have made an error of judgement here in entering the show. Everyone else seemed to be carrying their birds in very expensive cages and cases, and all appeared to have entire make-up bags and kits to spruce up their chickens to make them look their best. Hairspray for the feathers to give them that extra shine, baby oil for the crests to make them red and glowing. Some other strange liquid rubbed on the legs to give a glistening appearance, baby wipes a plenty to keep them clean, and gentle brushes of all sizes were being used to smooth out the feathers of these extremely pampered hens. Anthea and I looked at each other and thought, what we have we let ourselves in for?

However, we were here now and our girls were very excited. So we bought the chickens in in an old cardboard box from their cage in the back of our sawdust strewn car, held our heads high, grabbed our chickens out, brushed the sawdust from their feathers and put them in their respective show cages.

We ignored the quizzical looks and sly smirks from the other competitors, and proceeded to then lay out our handful of eggs to be judged in the Egg Competition. Again, people seemed to be taking this part very seriously, with sightings of weighing scales and measuring devices all around as people tried to identify and enter their best eggs, laying them out in precise measured angles to try to draw the judge's attention. We just put ours down in the sand on the plate amongst the numerous other plates on a number of very long tables of countless eggs, and left to enjoy the rest of the show.

A few hours later when we came back, we were quite shocked to see that whilst the other pampered and preened chickens had not won anything, our girls had their cages proudly displaying a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> award in their category. We double checked to make sure that they were our hens, and it was true, we had been awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We rushed around to see if any of our eggs had won anything, and again were totally amazed to see two 1<sup>sts</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup> and two 3<sup>rds</sup>. Our girls had done well all round, and we had only entered for a bit of fun!!



**The Winning Girls**

So now we can now proudly boast that we sell free range award-winning eggs, laid by our award-winning chickens in our garden, for only £1 per half dozen. The girls have asked if you could direct any media interest requests through their agents – Randal and Anthea Smith at Rose Briar, but they are open to offers of interviews, chat shows, personal appearances and selfies if required.

Randal and Anthea  
Rose Briar  
Whilton

## Precious eggs, hungry times and a sad tale

During the Second World War country people were less seriously affected by some aspects of food rationing as they could be more self-sufficient. In the towns life was harder.

In 1945 Frederick William York from Northampton was seriously tempted by Whilton's apparent plenty and stole a sack worth a shilling from William Higgs of Whilton and then a hen, pullet, and two hen eggs from John Samuel Townley. The poor man had seven children to feed in Northampton, and he explained when caught that he took them because "they would provide some "grub" for his children."

There was no mercy. York was fined £1 for stealing the sack, the fowls and eggs, and ordered to pay 1 pound 18 shillings and 4 pence costs, a total of £6 18s. 4d.



### Whilton Poultry



South View was built after the Second World War, but before that the site was part of a field rented by the Townley family.

They used this area to keep hens, pictured here with Rose Briar in the background.

We hope someone can tell us the identity of these two ladies feeding the hens.

**The chicken farmer died under mysterious circumstances.**

The police suspect fowl play



# WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



The speaker at our June meeting was Caroline Tait, who talked to us about 'Winter into Spring at Coton Manor'. Having worked as a volunteer there before going to university, Caroline told us how she eventually decided that gardening was what she really wanted to do and she returned to work at Coton Manor and has now been there for 20 years. She is in charge of the plant nursery, which she has developed from small beginnings, growing a few hundred plants, to today's operation where many thousands of plants are produced, both to stock the gardens and to sell to the public.

She also finds time to run a business doing garden design, garden maintenance and floristry. Her passion for her work was reflected in the talk she gave us which, accompanied by some beautiful slides, kept us captivated for an hour.

In late July, twenty-six of us visited Cottesbrooke Hall Gardens where we were given a guided tour by the head gardener, Craig Rudman. Craig had only been at Cottesbrooke since January this year but had already made an impact and had plenty more ideas up his sleeve to further improve the gardens. His knowledge was extensive and his presentation articulate. We all enjoyed the afternoon and many of us will be tempted to pay a return visit to monitor the progress of the gardens under Craig's stewardship.

August 2<sup>nd</sup> brought our annual Whilton garden visits and buffet supper. Despite the unfavourable weather, which seemed to get progressively worse as the evening wore on, we had a good turn-out. We began by visiting the allotments, before going down to Manor lane to look at Lynn and Maurice's courtyard garden at Manor Lodge and Phil's garden at Westcombe House before finally going to Wychwood in Brington Lane where thirty-one of us enjoyed the buffet, lovingly prepared by Jane and her team.

Thanks are due both to those who opened their gardens and to all those who helped with the catering and contributed to making it a very enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in the village hall, when Andrew Mikolajski will give us a talk entitled 'Pin Me to the Wall' which is about how to choose and manage climbers. Guests will be welcome for a fee of £3.00.

The winners in our annual competitions for the best tubs and baskets and the best front of house garden, went to The Old Post Office and Dormer Cottage respectively. Congratulations to them both.

For further information about WGA contact Maurice Archer on 843081 or Roy Haynes on 844673.

## WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Nearly all the members of the Society have had some involvement in preparations for the VC centenary, and have willingly given their time and talents for this. There have been unexpected results of our activities. Some of us have had to learn new skills or develop old ones. The Society is publishing the biography of Henry Reynolds, available from 20<sup>th</sup> September, and we have also been able to create a website. This is in its early stages, and it will be improved, but this has been made possible by the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was not in our plans, but we have been allowed to transfer some of our grant for this.

Once we are more confident, we shall be able adjust and alter our material as we learn and share more. If you are interested you will find it at: [whiltonlhs.org](http://whiltonlhs.org) .

There is a change of date for our next meeting, as follows:

### WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

## “MELCHIZIDEK MYNARD ET AL”

an opportunity to explore why some Whilton people acquired their names  
and the influences they reflected.

There is no charge for members. Visitors are welcome – entrance £3.

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## O Happy Day

The title song of the Whilton Warblers' summer concert seemed such a lovely and appropriate choice.....until we started to learn it and realised how complex the arrangement was. Well known as a hit gospel song in the late 1960s as recorded by the Edwin Hawkins Singers we struggled with both tuning and timing. As always, however, we placed our faith in Judit our Musical Director and did our best.

The remainder of the concert programme was a combination of our favourite songs from previous years (nominated by members) and a sprinkling of new songs plus solos and duets. Once again we performed to a full church of friends, family and local supporters. A raffle raised £130 for a charity to be decided by the members.

## Perfect Day

JuditSingers and the Whilton  
Warblers English choirs  
Mješoviti pjevački zbor Roženice

Prilivamo vas na koncert zborova na kojem  
ćete moći uživati u najvrednijim skladama  
mjuzikla poput Luch King, Les Miserables i  
Sister Act, pjesmama Elvis Presley-a, grupe  
ABBA i The Beatles te u izbornoj i  
tradicionalnoj glazbi iz Hrvatske i Engleske.

Nedjelja, 13. kolovoza 2017.  
19:00 sati  
Spomen dom, Pazin  
Koncertna dvorana „Istra“

Radujemo se vašem dolasku  
UVAZ JE SLOBODAN

We then turned our attention to the summer trip to Opatija in Croatia. Seventeen members and one partner plus members of the Daventry based Judit Singers spent a week in this lovely town in August. We attended daily singing workshops / rehearsals culminating in a concert in the town of Pazin hosted by the local Roženice choir.

This was the fifth English Choir summer trip organised by Judit and Laszlo, previous destinations being Budapest and Varna in Bulgaria. Each year the choir has learnt and performed a song in the local language. This year it was a well known Croatia lullaby *Ako Si Legla Spat* (When You Lie Down To Sleep) which was received by the Pazin audience with rapturous applause.



As well as singing the choir members and their partners had free time to explore the local area of Opatija and two full day trips to the beautiful Italianate town of Rovinj and the stunning lakes and waterfalls of the Plitvice National Park which was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979.

Judit and Laszlo are already considering venues for the 2018 trip – so far diverse locations from Portugal to Transylvania have been mooted.

There is no let up for the Warblers who are now preparing to entertain at the Celebrating Courage event on 23<sup>rd</sup> September with a programme of songs from the World War 1 era. We are also pulling together outfits to wear that will reflect those that Whilton villagers may have been wearing 100 years ago. We will be bringing out the songs and costumes again in December when we take part in the East Haddon commemoration for Henry Reynolds.

From the end of September rehearsals will focus on the programme for the Warblers' Christmas concert. The concert date has provisionally been set for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December subject to confirmation.

Teresa Leadbetter



# Brington and Whilton Pre-School

Whilton Village Hall NN11 2NN

[www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk)

Another school year is coming to an end and once again we have had another amazing year, lots of excited children and exciting activities. Six of our children will be leaving us to go to school and we wish them all the very best in their new schools. We shall still have lots of children staying with us and we shall be welcoming a few more in the new school year.



During this last term we have been very busy, we have visited Brington Primary School on Wednesday afternoon and have had a teddies bears picnic, watched the school children's play and enjoyed



playing with the reception class. We thank the school for their warm welcome and allowing the pre-school children a glimpse of what is to come. We had our family trip out to a very hot, but enjoyable day at Gullivers Land, very few children were there so we managed to have a go on lots of rides. We have also just enjoyed six weeks at Forest School, cooking marshmallows, playing dens, making potions, whittling sticks, blowing bubbles through tubes and much much more. This is always a highlight in our pre-school calendar and we thank Brington Chantry Trust for supporting children to attend these sessions.

We still have a few places left for September and we are able to take children from 2 years upwards. If you have a child and would be interested in sending them to a small friendly pre-school, please get in touch with Jenny 01604 770083 or email through our website, so we can arrange a visit and give you more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Did you hear about the chicken who could only lay eggs in the winter?**

*She was no spring chicken.*

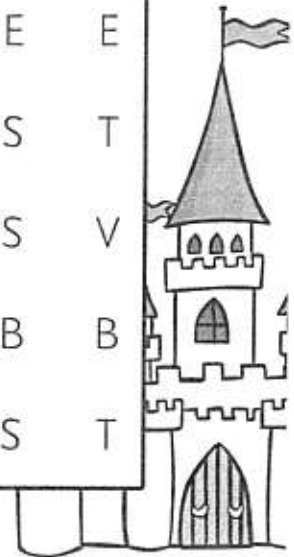


## Fairy Tale Jumble

Can you identify the seven fairy tales by rearranging the letters?



# Fairy Tale Wordsearch



FAIRY TALE	GOOD
MAGIC	CURSE
CASTLE	WISH
KISS	PRINCE
EVIL	PRINCESS

The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated free to every household within the parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council.

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❖ The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter. If possible, please send your contribution by e-mail. If you do not have a computer, the editors will be happy to type handwritten articles for you.

❖ The next issue will be the Winter Edition, covering December 2017 – February 2018. The last date for contributions will be 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The Newsletter is published quarterly, but Whilton also has a website: [www.whilton-village.net](http://www.whilton-village.net). This contains details of the organizations in the parish, previous Parish Council Minutes and Newsletters and a Picture Gallery. It also has latest news and updates on parish events.

**WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON**  
**AUTUMN 2017**

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Fri	1 Sept	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Quiz
Sun	3 Sept	10.30 a.m. 11 a.m.	Church	Coffee Benefice Eucharist
Sun	10 Sept	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for all
Wed	13 Sept	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun	17 Sept	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Tues	19 Sept	10 a.m. – 12.30  5.30 p.m  7.30 p.m.	Church	Flower and veg prep and delivery Procession and service rehearsal Warblers rehearsal
Wed	20 Sept	11.30 – approx. 6 p.m.	Village and Locks	Ceremonies to mark the centenary of Captain Henry Reynolds winning the Victoria Cross
Thurs	21 Sept	7.30 p.m.	Church	Whilton Warblers practice
Sat	23 Sept	2 – approx. 5 p.m.	Village Hall, Church, Wadd Close	Celebrating Courage: Captain Henry Reynolds VC Community event
Wed	4 Oct	7.40 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association "Pin me to the wall"
Tues	17 Oct	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Village Hall	Social Lunch
Fri	10 Nov	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Whilton Local History Society "Melchizidek Mynard et al."

**Regular weekly events include:**

- **BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL** in the Village Hall:  
Term time: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Mon, Wed 1 – 3 p.m. for over 3's.
- **BELL RINGING** at the Church: Mon: 7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
For further information please contact Justin Baker 844263 or Janet Bowers 842851
- **WHILTON WARBLERS CHOIR** in the Church: Term time: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.
- For **CHURCH SERVICES** after September please see notice board.