

# **WHILTON AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**



**Autumn evening over Whilton village**

**SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER  
2014**

Autumn 2014

## Letter from the Editors

As the holiday season ends we look forward to the regular activities of the parish. Whilton has a population of under 300 people, living in Whilton village, Whilton Locks, Whilton Lodge and Roughmoor Grounds. Despite the small population, readers of these pages will see the parish sustains a surprising number of activities. Nearly all of these rely to some extent on support from neighbouring parishes, but the core of each organisation comes from Whilton.

This means that newcomers or long standing residents are always welcome at any event which takes place. The village organisations are an important aspect of the character of Whilton, so you will be welcome to join in or bring new ideas this autumn.

As you will read here, the community choir Whilton Warblers has been going from strength to strength, so if you enjoy singing, this could be your opportunity. Alternatively you may prefer other activities, such as helping in a Spinney work party, joining the Bell Ringers or the Gardeners' Association, attending the Local History Society or sharing refreshment at Tuesday Chat or a Social Lunch.

We would also remind you that we are always pleased to receive your articles or items of news which can be shared with others in the parish.

The Editors

## WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

### From the Clerk's Pen



What a lovely summer we're having and especially to be blessed with two in a row! I'm sure our allotment plot holders will have a bumper year if the gardens in the village are anything to go by.

It was good to welcome the usual familiar faces to the Annual Parish Meeting held in April and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all residents to attend the next meeting, also in April, so that they can meet the village groups/organisations and join in Whilton's active village life.

The Annual Parish Council meeting was again held in May and Peter Wingrave accepted the chair for a further year. He thanked the Council and Clerk for their hard work in conducting Whilton's affairs and making it a lovely, safe village to live in. The Council liaised with the Allotment Group regarding maintenance carried out at the allotments, partly funded by County Councillor Osborne, and also made a contribution to the Spinney by paying their insurance premium for the year.

I've asked the editors to publish a fact sheet about Valerian in this newsletter. Valerian's pink flowers make a lovely display as you drive down Main Street, but they damage the structure of the old stone walls which date back many years. These walls should be cherished as they add to the character and beauty of the village. The fact sheet provides guidance on how to safely remove Valerian without damaging the walls and what measure to take to prevent it spreading uncontrollably.

On the planning front, the planning application for the Long Buckby Windfarm consisting of 5 wind turbines, was rejected in April and as no appeal has been lodged yet, we hope that the developers have at last accepted defeat! Another contentious application that was dealt with, one we felt could impact on the safety of our residents, consisted of caravan storage for 350 caravans exiting on the A5 near Whilton, which was rejected thanks to the council's research and vehement objection.

Erica Fothergill  
Parish Clerk  
01327 310864

### **Closure of road at railway bridge, Whilton Locks**

Repairs to the railway bridge structure are scheduled for September and the road there will be closed to through traffic for up to five nights ( 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.) from the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

## **Walls are at risk from this pretty, destructive plant**

**VALERIAN, whether it is red, pink, or the less common white, grows in the crumbling mortar joints of old stone walls.** It seems to be everywhere, and very attractive it is, but it is also a bit of a destructive pest.

Valerian growing in soil can easily be teased out by lifting the soil with a fork, but **in a wall trying to pull it out should be avoided, as that is bound to cause more damage.**

A systemic weed-killer will do the job but, for those who want to avoid that, repeatedly chopping off new growth will eventually kill it, but it will take time and perseverance.

Plants can grow vigorously. Prevent spread by deadheading flowers before seed-set. It can also spread by rhizomes and may become invasive in the right conditions. In mild winters, valerian will continue to flower beyond its usual cut-off in early November.

Another trick for getting rid of it is to prune it back just prior to predicted hard frost or snow and the cold may just kill it. Like Buddleia, which can crack concrete as its trunk expands, valerian can do the same thing with its root system.



Should you remove the Valerian from your wall? On balance, the answer has to be yes, especially if you put longevity of the wall before aesthetics.

This picture shows the sawn off section at the base of a Red Valerian stem. The stem is about 10cm or 4" across and has forced sections of the wall apart.



# WHILTON GARDENERS ASSOCIATION



## News from Olive

Hi everyone

What a good year the gardens have had; lots and lots of rain last year certainly helped with their growth and flowering. But strong winds have almost stripped the cooking apples from the trees in the orchards, so that means no nice big juicy apples come September when they are ripe.

### **4th June**

Mr John Lee came with a talk on "Penstemons" (didn't know there were so many!). He also brought plants for us to purchase. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all.

### **5<sup>th</sup> August**

On a warm sunny evening members and guests visited the three gardens open to view in the village. A big thank you to Gillian and Steve, Agnes and Adrian, Margaret and Andrew, and also those who helped put on a fabulous spread afterwards, at the kind permission of Mr and Mrs A Jack, Roughmoor Grounds.

### **Congratulations to this year's winners:**

Best front of house: Mark and Sarah Thomas, The Old Post Office.

Best hanging basket: Robin and Anthea Bartram, Cherry House.

Thanks to Judy Gibney from Nobottle Nursery for judging this competition.

### **1<sup>st</sup> October**

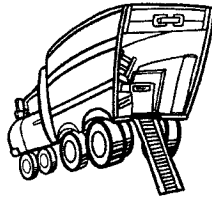
The speaker, Mr Steve Mackie, will treat us all to "The art of Bonsai."

### **3 December**

Members Christmas Social Supper.

**New members are always welcome.  
Ring: 07921429228 or 01327 209114**

## MOVING HOUSE, CHANGING TIMES...



During the summer several people have moved into Whilton and we welcome them into our community.

We have also said "Goodbye" to Kathleen Wright of 2 South View. Kathleen had lived in the village for 67 years. She and her husband, Jack, and baby son Geoffrey moved in on 28 February 1947, and she has shared some of her memories of that time.

Kathleen and Jack had been living with Jack's parents in Underhill Lodge between Norton and the A5. The house has since been razed to the ground. Jack's grandmother, Granny Courtman, had lived in Watling Lodge, also in Norton, but still standing today.

Jack had been in the forces during the war, and applied for one of the new council houses being built in Whilton. He knew priority was to be given to ex-servicemen, but the family were very relieved when they found they had been successful. Numbers 1 - 4 were allocated to ex-servicemen, and 5 - 9 to local workers. The first week's rent for Jack and Kathleen was 14 shillings and 9 pence, which increased the next week to 15 shillings.

Jack was a carpenter and joiner for the firm Holland and Marks, and he had done all the woodwork on numbers 1 and 2, including the roof, laying the floors and hanging the doors. He said the house was a good design and that good quality materials had been used.

The young family had very few possessions at Underhill Lodge, and when they came to move they were able to put them all onto a borrowed cart pulled by a pony. Jack drove the cart to Whilton where they unloaded what they had. This consisted of cases of their own clothes and linen, the baby's cot and equipment, and china, silver and glassware which had been kept in an old oak chest of Granny Courtman. There were also pots, pans and cutlery. Although it was February it was a beautiful sunny day, which made the move easier.

Having so few possessions, Jack and Kathleen furnished the house with new carpets and furniture, some being "utility furniture" as was available straight after the war. The house had been built already wired up for electricity, but there was no electricity in Whilton, and so until 1948 they continued to use candles and oil lamps for lighting. The wicks had to be cleaned regularly to prevent them smoking.

Cooking was done on a Triplex grate, which was coal fired, and which also heated the water. On Monday, which was washday, the water was heated in a brick copper, after a fire had been lit beneath it. Jack's parents bought them a roller, which was more modern than the mangle they used at Underhill Lodge. Everyone washed on

the same day, and Mondays would see rows of washing drying in the gardens behind South View.

At this date the village houses still had no indoor water supply. There were pumps, wells and a standpipe in Buckby Lane. South View, however, was connected up to a piped supply from a spring. They began life with the modern convenience of indoor taps and a flushing toilet. The flushing toilets were possible because South View had its own septic tank at the bottom of the garden of number 1. This too was a step in advance of the rest of the village. Mains sewerage came to Whilton village in 1971. Kathleen ruefully remembers how her flower beds were dug up when workmen connected South View to the new main sewer.

Over the years the Wrights made many improvements to the house, especially after they bought it. However the very first task in 1947 was to repaint all the walls, which had been coated in an unattractive blue-grey.



*The front door of 2 South View decorated in red, white and blue for the Coronation in 1953, with Kathleen's father in law dressed as a busker.*

Jack and Kathleen were the first to move into South View, followed soon after by Don and Violet Welch. As the young families settled into Whilton, the back gardens began to be dug up for vegetable growing. Flowers began to take over as the men took on allotments in the field called "Bedlam," still the site of the modern allotments. There was a certain amount of rivalry among them, especially at the time of the village produce show.

In 1947, the priest in charge was Rev William Slater-Hills, who lived in Norton. He visited Whilton on one day a week, often bringing his elderly mother with him. Granny Courtman had come to live in Buckby Lane. Mrs Slater -Hills would go and spend some time in Buckby Lane, while he carried out his visits. Kathleen remembers that he always walked, unless it was raining, when a lady from Daventry brought him in her car. Cars were still an unusual sight in Whilton. Jack and a number of South View men had motorbikes or bicycles to get to work.

The village school was nearing the end of its life when Geoffrey started there, with Miss Semper, the headmistress. Geoffrey only spent a year at Whilton School before attending the Abbey School in Daventry.

As Kathleen recalls her happy years in Whilton, we wish her well as she begins a new life with her family in Creaton.

## WHILTON WARBLERS JUNE CONCERT 2014

### C – 2R = Mild Panic

Just two more rehearsals (2R) before our concert (C). Will it all come together in time? There seems to be so much in our repertoire and we're still getting some bits wrong. Will it really be all right on the night?

Tonight we have a pianist (Martin) which means that Judit can focus all her attention on directing us without having to think about playing the keyboard too. As well as singing, this time we have to remember some simple movements plus some hand clapping.



Sounds easy enough but sometimes our poor frazzled brains just don't seem capable of this basic multi tasking. Do we move to this bit or keep still, to the left or to the right .... I can't remember, watch Judit! Can't watch Judit and read my lines. Whoops, dropped my song book again. Then I sing one of the men's lines by mistake, whoops again! Really must concentrate harder.

Apart from the mild stress of the lead up to the concert, being in the choir is tremendous fun. We're split into Sopranos (roughly half of the members) Altos and the men are all Tenors. There are a few lovely voices amongst us – sadly mine isn't one of them – but when we sing together, particularly a song where each section sings a different melody (or part), the sound can be quite breathtaking. Each weekly session starts with a physical and vocal warm up and two hours later we head for home, tunes buzzing around in our heads and I, for one, knowing I will sleep well that night and looking forward to next week's practice.

### C – 1R = Serious Concentration

The concert itself will be a combination of songs sung in one, two or three parts plus some solo and duet performances. Tonight is the last scheduled rehearsal before the concert and after a few minutes of warm up exercises we position ourselves at the front of the church in and between the choir stalls. Judit now talks us through the running order – 20 songs in all – explaining her reasoning for the order as she goes. We're to start with the Sound of Music as that is what the concert is about and our liveliest number is strategically placed at what is statistically the highest point of a concert – two thirds of the way through. We don't argue; Judit knows her stuff, she is an experienced performer and singing teacher and is blessed with a beautiful soprano voice.



There are a few minor tweaks and we're still confused in places about when to clap and when not to clap but generally the run through goes well. We also get to hear the solo and duet pieces in their entirety – though as we're sitting behind the performers we don't get the full effect. I certainly admire their bravery. They say that public speaking and spiders are two of our greatest phobias – singing solo in front of an audience must also be up there. I make a pact with a like-minded choir member: "I'll sing a solo when you're ready to sing one!" And we smile at one another, safe in the knowledge that time will never come.



After two and a half hours of rehearsals we bid each other goodnight and I'm ready for my bed.

### **C – 0R = Tonight's the night!**

We assemble early in the church for a final run through. At this stage we still have no idea how many people will come to hear us. In the event we're surprised and delighted to sing to a full church.... in fact people are trying to come in whilst we're still getting ready. We're not perfect but we thoroughly enjoy ourselves, the audience is encouraged to join in with one of the songs and we receive positive feedback. Afterwards, the audience and choir mingle whilst devouring a selection of cakes and drinks.



A medley of the songs plays in my head for days afterwards and when I'm alone (and only when I'm alone) I sing them aloud.



If you are interested in joining the choir please come along at 7.00 – 7.30 on a Tuesday during term time (starting 23<sup>rd</sup> September). If you would further information call Linda on 842034 or email [lindahalltreacy@gmail.com](mailto:lindahalltreacy@gmail.com). You don't have to live in Whilton to be in the choir and there are no age limits – anyone who is allowed to stay up until 9.30 p.m. on a weekday evening is welcome.

## The Whilton Warblers Go To Budapest

Some members of the Whilton Warblers have just returned from a trip to Budapest. The trip was organised by Judit, the choir's leader, who is Hungarian and included members of her other choir, the Judit Singers, which is based in Daventry.

Each morning Judit provided a singing workshop, followed by guided walks or excursions in the afternoon and some evenings. The workshops (and the concert) were held in a building that had once belonged to the Postal Workers Union and had previously been a private residence (palace). The lavishly decorated interior comprised a suite of assembly rooms, a bar and a restaurant with a balcony overlooking the rear courtyard.

Budapest is a city of two halves lying each side of the Danube - the hilly Buda and the largely flat Pest. We were based in Pest which is also where the Parliament building and shops are situated. There were some amazing buildings in a variety of styles: Gothic, French, Venetian plus some later replacements for buildings destroyed or damaged during the second world war and the 1956 uprising. These later buildings had an air of the eastern bloc about them. There was a noticeable lack of litter in the city, even in the Metro. Litter bins seemed to be clustered in groups of three for different types of refuse - the city obviously takes recycling seriously.

On Friday evening we gave a concert to more than 100 locals. The repertoire was made up of a variety of songs: songs from the shows, traditional African and Hebrew songs, vintage pop songs and one particularly lovely song in Hungarian, *Esti Dal* (Evening Song), which moved members of the audience to tears and to demand a reprise. We were very warmly received by the audience, few of whom could speak a word of English, but after the concert they expressed their appreciation with handshakes, kisses and at least one choir member was asked for her autograph.



After the concert there was a party: drinks followed by champagne and dinner – we were as high on adrenaline as a group of seven year olds who had eaten all the blue Smarties. Judit and her partner Laszlo entertained us with a beautiful rendition of a song from Anthony and Cleopatra.

Still on a high we spent the remaining days sightseeing and enjoying this wonderful city (and further afield) including one of the spas for which the city is famous. On Saturday afternoon we came across a large crowd outside one of the city centre hotels, they were waiting for a glimpse of Chelsea FC players who were due to play a friendly with the local team. I was tempted to call out to the crowd: “Never mind Chelsea there are members of the Whilton Warblers here!” I resisted but the thought made me smile.

English translation of "Esti Dal"  
(Evening Song)

Evening darkness overtook me near  
the woods;  
I have put my coat under my head  
I have put my hands together  
To pray to the Lord, like this:

Oh, my Lord, give me a place to  
sleep,  
I am weary with wandering,  
With walking around and hiding,  
With living on foreign land.

May the Lord give me a good night,  
May he send me a holy angel,  
May he encourage our hearts'  
dreams,  
May he give us a good night.

Zoltán Kodály

The next Whilton Warblers concert is scheduled for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

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**Update from Rochelle**

Shorthand is going really well. Before I broke up for the summer, I managed to comfortably get up to 70 words a minute and was having a fairly successful attempt at completing 80 words a minute. The 80 transcripts are a lot harder as the vocabulary gets more complicated, with more genre words coming into effect. As much as I love my lessons I really hope to be finished soon. I still have a large number of exams to sit, but once they are all passed, I hope to be able to use this skill and find the job of my dreams.

I am missing the choir a lot. Can you believe it is coming up to a year since we first formed as a group? The feedback has been beyond amazing. Thank you for all your kind comments as well, not just for me but for all of us. It gives us such a boost and makes us want to do better for our next performance. Although I fear we are going to have to start giving out tickets for standing room only, as the church was absolutely packed. Also, may I just add that I am so sorry I cried at the end of my solo. I was completely overcome by the whole experience. As Judit said, I have wanted to sing that particular song either on stage or in a concert. I first heard it back in 1998, when I first saw The Prince of Egypt, so as you can imagine it meant the world to me and it was a privilege to sing it with Jemma as well.

## NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS



We have had a busy few months! On a personal note we have been heavily involved in organising Pam's wedding to Sujan which was held at the church on Friday 25 July. We are very grateful to Sue who has been most welcoming to Sujan's relatives and fantastic in helping a very nervous bride. So many people praised the service and gave positive comments about our village church.

In July we held our **Pet Blessing Service**. The weather was not the best and we held the service inside the church but overall the attendance was disappointing. We were pleased to see the Gow family with Chilli and Bear who with Tiggy also enjoyed the dog treats on offer – human companions enjoyed cake and Prosecco.

Our next event will be **Harvest Festival** on Saturday 27 September at 7.00 in the Village Hall. We plan to follow the format which was so successful last year. A variety of hot food was prepared by volunteers and we had a very informal evening including songs and prayers to celebrate harvest. I think it is important for a village like Whilton to remember its historic roots in food production and mark the harvest. The event will also present an opportunity for new residents to meet their neighbours. More details about tickets will follow but if you want to help please let me know.

Also advance notice of one of Neil's famous quizzes as a fund raising event in November – full details nearer the time.

Finally looking ahead to Christmas we intend to follow a similar programme to last year, with village groups decorating Christmas Trees in advance of a candle lit carol service on the Sunday before Christmas.

We are always open to your new ideas and suggestions. I can be contacted on 843380 or by email [Jbrierley1@aol.com](mailto:Jbrierley1@aol.com).

Jon Brierley  
7 Langton Rise

## LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Everyone

Suddenly the traffic increases in the morning and mid afternoon, signalling, if we were not already aware, that the children have gone back to school; a new term has started; new classes, new teachers, new beginnings. Children (as well as parents) have a mixture of a sense of excitement and nervousness. What is going to be different? Will it be good?

God is always giving us new beginnings. So often we don't follow our own code of conduct, let alone that which Christ taught – do we really always love those who hate us? - but God always offers us a new start if we ask for it. We have to turn to him, like the youngsters have to turn up to school to start in their new class, but he always offers us a new start when we mess up.

So at the start of this new school year, let's make a new start with God! Lots of services available if you'd like to do that in church!

All good wishes

Sue

[suekipling@btinternet.com](mailto:suekipling@btinternet.com)

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This summer has been a quiet time in the Spinney. Please watch the notice boards for news of the next work party when all volunteers will be welcome.

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## WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The July meeting of the Society was postponed and will now be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. The subject will be the gardens of Brockhall which were transformed in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and then redesigned in the next century. Both garden designs made use of water, and this meeting will be a continuation of the Brook Project, following the stream which runs through Whilton towards the Nene.

In the First World War the Victoria Cross was won by a man who had been born, brought up and spent his early married life in Whilton. There will be a commemoration of the life and achievements of Henry Reynolds in September 2017, on the centenary of his winning the Victoria Cross. This year on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 the Local History Society will provide an opportunity to hear about his early life in Whilton and his experiences in the First World War.

**WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**“CAPTAIN HENRY REYNOLDS M.C., V.C.  
The making of a local hero.”**

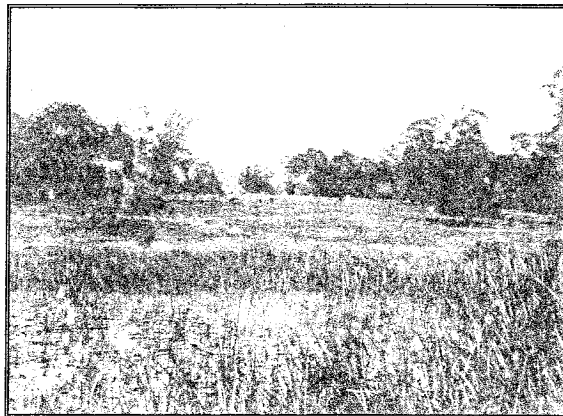


**7.30 p.m. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Whilton Village Hall**

**All are welcome.  
Entrance £1.50.**

**WATER IN THE GARDENS**

**Brockhall water gardens of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries**



**7.30 p.m. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
In the Village Hall**

**ALL ARE WELCOME.  
Entrance £1.50**

A message from Watford:

### **Watford seeks help with its history**

Residents at the nearby village of Watford have recently produced a website about the history of the area and are now seeking the help of people in Whilton who might have information about times past in the village. The new website, which can be viewed at **[www.watfordvillage.weebly.com](http://www.watfordvillage.weebly.com)** starts its story way back in the dark ages with tales of Knights, Romans, Saxons and Viking invaders. Slowly it travels through time and brings us up-to-date with more modern features, such as wartime stories of village life to the coming of the Canals, Railways and even the M1 motorway.

Dee Solomon, one of the Watford residents involved in the project, tells us a little more about what's been happening: *"Well I suppose it all started about a year ago when a few people in the village were chatting away about 'the good old days' and how over the past couple of decades the world seems to have got itself into one big hurry. 'Do you remember when?' was how each sentence seemed to start - and we soon realised that there was absolutely nowhere where the village's history could easily be found."*

After many evenings spent looking through dusty documents and also paying to join a genealogy site, some of the history of Watford began to reveal itself and some surprising facts have since come to light. For instance; how many people have heard of 'Thomas Rogers'? - a previous Watford resident who set sail on 'The Mayflower' as one of the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620. Or did you know that in the 18<sup>th</sup> century gypsy children were baptised at the church of St Peter and St Paul? - Their families resting temporarily at Watford, whilst travelling the rural roads of Northamptonshire.

*"We've had a lot of interest," Dee explains, "not only locally but from people as far away as America -with distant connections to Watford. But what we're really missing is stories and photographs of people's day to day lives, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Considering we have a big farming community here you'd have thought there would be plenty of photos of things like harvest time - at the moment we have virtually nothing about this."*

*"If anyone has old photos of Watford that they would allow us to copy, or stories and memories they could write down for us, we'd love to include them" says Dee.*

To get in touch, visit the website at **[www.watfordvillage.weebly.com](http://www.watfordvillage.weebly.com)** and use 'contact us' page, or you can email them at: **[ambtransambulance@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ambtransambulance@yahoo.co.uk)**

## Tonnes of recycling effort

Households in Whilton are among parishes across Daventry District that have helped to recycle 1,204 tonnes of uneaten food and food waste in the last financial year.

Weekly food recycling collections were introduced two years ago when residents district-wide received brown bins and kitchen caddies to help them recycle more.

Instead of being sent to landfill, the food waste collected from households is taken to a special processing plant in Kettering where it is used to generate electricity and to produce a safe compost material which can be used on farmland and gardens.

To make recycling food as easy as possible residents can line their caddies with newspaper, biodegradable bags and supermarket-type plastic bags. Remember any of the following can be put into the brown food recycling bin (even your mouldy and out of date food):

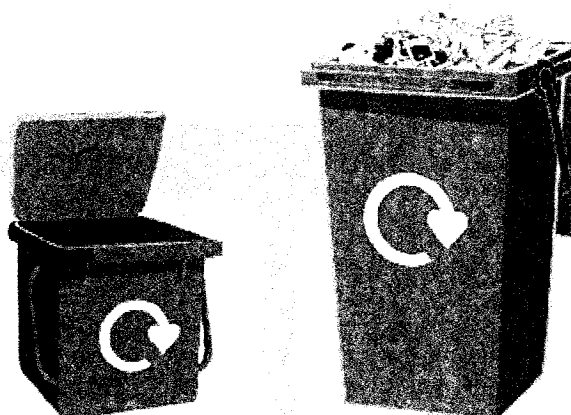
- Uneaten food and plate scrapings
- Raw and cooked meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products including egg and shells, cheese and yoghurt
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Rice, pasta and beans
- Breads, cakes and pastries
- Raw or cooked vegetables and fruit and peelings

For more details on food recycling, visit [www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling)

### Composting benefits

Don't forget that if you are using a composting bin at home, you can also include food scraps, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds and tea bags alongside your garden waste.

Composting is good for the environment and produces nutrient rich compost year after year which can keep your garden blooming. To find out more about home composting, visit [www.recyclefornorthamptonshire.co.uk](http://www.recyclefornorthamptonshire.co.uk)





## FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Alice, daughter of Phil and Jo Grant of Manor Lane. Alice has been awarded a first class degree of Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design. Well done and best wishes for your future.



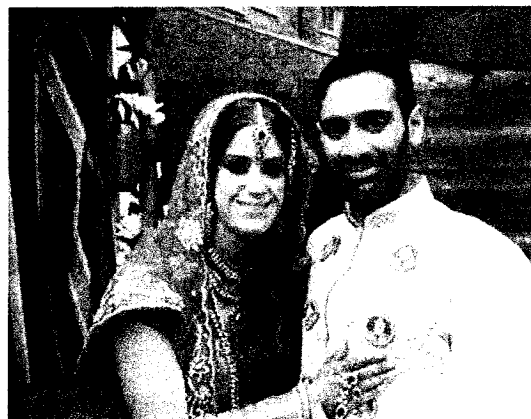
Congratulations to Pamela Helen Brierley, and Sujan Singh Minhas who were married at St Andrews on Friday 25 July. Pamela is the daughter of Jon and Helen Brierley of Langton Rise. A number of villagers took advantage of the good weather to see them off to their reception at Fawsley Hall.

The following weekend an Indian ceremony was held in Birmingham.

We wish them much happiness in their future together.



*Whilton*



*Birmingham*

*The Editors are always pleased to hear of family events and achievements. If you would like to share them, do let us know.*

## REMEMBERING TRUDY

By Roy Haynes

Mum was born on 11th April 1922 in Widnes, which was then in Lancashire. In 1974 Widnes became part of Cheshire, but mum always thought of herself as a Lancastrian.

She was the daughter of Arthur and Gertrude Metcalf. She had an elder brother, Eric, who married Marjorie and remained in Widnes all his life. Eric died in 1996 aged 82.

There was also an older sister, Joan, who sadly, died from blood poisoning at a very young age, after a seemingly trivial accident at home. Mum told me that this tragedy affected *her* mother so much that the family moved house to get away from the place where it had happened.

Mum went to Wade Deacon Grammar School in Widnes from 1933 to 1940, and from there she went for teacher training to S. Katherine's College, which was normally based in Liverpool. Because of the outbreak of war, S. Katherine's had been evacuated to Keswick in Cumbria, and mum spent a happy two years in the Lake District where she developed a love of the landscape, and of walking on the fells.

One of the subjects mum studied at college was music, something which remained an important element in her life to the end. Whilst at college she also became hockey captain for her year.

After leaving college in 1942, mum went back to Widnes and got a teaching job at Bold Heath C of E Primary School, where she remained until she married in 1950. During this time she became involved with running the cubs and became cub-mistress or 'Akela' for the Farnworth Cub Pack.

In July 1945 mum attended a harvest camp here in Whilton. These camps were intended to alleviate the shortage of labour on the farms immediately after the war. People from all walks of life were given the opportunity to have a working holiday, where they would help with the harvest and could enjoy social activities together.

The accommodation for the Whilton camp was provided at the rectory and it was here that mum was staying when she first met dad, who was a native of the village, at a dance organised at the rectory. Having persuaded mum to leave him her address, dad eventually plucked up the courage to write to her and romance blossomed! Mum and dad were married on October 28th 1950 and went to live in a cottage in Harpole which they rented for six shillings a week.

When the Plough Inn here at Whilton closed in 1954, mum and dad managed to purchase it from Phipps' brewery and dad spent many months cycling over from Harpole in the evenings and at weekends, working to make the place habitable. In the meantime I had come along, and the three of us moved into the Old Plough in 1956. I had my 4th birthday in Whilton. A year later, in 1957, mum gave birth to my brother Clive, who was actually born in The Old Plough.

In the mid 1960s, mum returned to teaching, first as a supply teacher, working for a time at two schools in Daventry, The Abbey School and St James's, before taking a permanent post at Chapel Brampton, where she remained until she retired in at the age of 57. A reference given by the headmaster of the Abbey School mentions, in particular, the encouragement she gave to the more backward pupils.

One extra-curricular activity she is remembered for at Chapel Brampton was teaching the boys traditional English sword dancing. She had a team of boys who performed at festivals and medieval fayres and the like. This last week I have heard of somebody who remembered being taught maypole dancing by her at Brampton School. She was always very keen on keeping old country traditions alive. As a teacher she was popular both with her pupils and fellow staff. This is reflected by the fact that several of her former pupils carried on corresponding with her after she had retired.

She enjoyed singing and some of you here will remember her, along with dad, as a member of the benefice choir and also as a member of The Watling Singers, where her enthusiasm and love of music made a valuable contribution. With dad she enjoyed many singing holidays with The Holiday Fellowship.

Her family meant a lot to her and she gained a lot of pleasure from watching her two granddaughters growing up, and was very proud of their educational achievements. She loved dogs, some of you may remember how she would carry little bundles of dog biscuits in her handbag, so that she could treat any of her doggy friends that she might meet.

Mum's Christian faith was a very important part of her life and she was a regular worshipper here at St Andrew's and at other churches in the benefice until her worsening mobility made it difficult for her to attend. She played a full part in church life, having served on the PCC for many years and had done her share on the various rotas for cleaning, flower arranging and so on. She tried to bring her Christian values into all aspects of her life.

Some of you have reminded me of many of the other things that she was involved with in the village over the years; the W.I., the Newsletter, The Gardeners' Association, the Book Club, the Village Appraisal and probably many more that I haven't mentioned.

The last few years were not easy for her, having to move into a care home, losing her mobility and having problems with her memory, but she never complained, and when I went to see her she always managed a smile for me.

I'm sure you will each have your own special memories of Trudy. I'd like to remember her, both as a loving mother, and as someone whose hard work and enthusiasm have been an inspiration for so many people throughout her life.

## Ivy Jane (Ginny) Clements

1912 – 2014

As August ended the village paid its last respects to a lady who was probably the oldest resident ever to have lived in Whilton. The funeral service was held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August at St Andrew's Church.

Ivy Jane Gardner, was born in Ivy Cottage, Norton, on 15 June 1912 and named after the cottage of her birth. She was known, however, as Gin or Ginny, one of a large family of 13 children. She married Horace Clements of Whilton Locks in 1938, and they moved to a little rented cottage in Whilton village. Life was not always easy for them. They had three sons, Roger, Maurice and Richard. Roger died when he was three and Richard in 1995.

After the war in 1947 Horace bought the old stone cottages of Big Entry in Whilton with 2 acres of land for £110. He sold the stone from the demolished cottages and built his new bungalow in which he and Ginny lived for the rest of their days. Later their son Maurice was able to live in the newer house next door, High Glen. He and his wife Gill have been able to care for Ginny as she grew older, still living in The Bungalow.

Ginny was always a country girl, and mostly remained at home while other members of the family took a more public role. The family chose red roses on her coffin, as a symbol of her love of the local countryside. This was also reflected in her choice of her own final funeral hymn, including the words:

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees...  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.*



Being a quiet lady did not, however, mean that she had no spirit. Only a few years ago she saw off a burglar climbing into the house, frightening him off with no booty!

There were celebrations in 2012 when she reached 100 and she is pictured here with her card from the Queen.

Two years later family and friends have gathered again from as far afield as Sussex and York in thankful remembrance of her life.

## **PETER ILSLEY RENOWNED CANALSIDE POTTER MOURNED**

A self-taught ceramic artist who achieved world fame, Peter Ilsley of Whilton Locks Pottery, died in hospital on August 25 after a short illness. He was 81 and leaves two sons, Jason and Mark -- Mark is also a potter who lives and works on a narrowboat on the canal.

As well as becoming a full-time potter in the late 60s, Peter was an actor who played minor roles in TV series including Dr Who, Basil Brush and Z-Cars. He moved to the Bottom Lock at Whilton Locks in 1986 and soon became a leading figure in the community as founder chairman of the Whilton and Buckby Locks Association. He was also chairman of the Midland branch of the Craft Potters Association.

A proud follower of the Arts and Crafts Movement inspired by John Ruskin and William Morris, he specialised in hand-thrown vases and bowls and made hundreds of experiments in his ground-breaking development of spectacular crystalline glazes.

His book, "The Challenge of Crystals," published in 1999, led to him being in demand for exhibitions, lectures and workshops in America, Canada, and throughout Europe. The Chinese government invited him to demonstrate to a huge audience of ceramicists at Beijing University. One of his overseas apprentices, Vinod Daroz, who spent several months with him at Whilton Locks, is now a leading ceramic sculptor in India.

In recent years Peter, a charismatic and convivial character who enjoyed a pint at the Norton pub, spent the winters in southern Spain, where he continued to throw pots to bring in his car when he drove back to Whilton Locks.

Tom Price.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Whilton Locks**



On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August, boaters were entertained by folk singers as part of the annual Lock Ransom Day on the canal at Whilton Locks. There was also the opportunity to buy canal crafts and locally made goodies.

This event was organised by volunteers from Whilton and Buckby Locks Association, who operated the locks for passing boats in return for donations to support their activities maintaining and improving the canal.

Further information can be obtained from their website <http://wbla.org.uk>

## Ladies' Pamper Evening Summer 2014

An evening of pampering in the church? Well, that's a new idea and Linda certainly expended a huge amount of energy and effort to ensure its success.

There were beauty therapists offering a range of "taster" treatments from Indian head massage down to pedicures and lots in between plus a Shiatsu practitioner; stalls selling a wide range of reasonably priced handbags, clothes, hand made jewellery, make up samples and greetings cards, wine and liqueur tastings plus refreshments including a chocolate fountain with strawberry and marshmallow kebabs (I shouldn't, no I really shouldn't ... oh well maybe just the one... mmmmmmm, delicious). There were also independent holiday and utility consultants on hand to offer tailor made holidays and an opportunity to combine and reduce utility bills. A raffle and tombola raised funds for Breast Cancer.

It may be a small church but it's amazing how much can be packed in where there's a will (though to be fair there was a small overspill into a nearby conservatory). The evening was well supported by ladies from Whilton and beyond with many people commenting on what a lovely idea and what a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Perhaps once Linda has recovered from this one she'll consider organising another.

A Pampered Lady

\*\*\*\*\*

### WHILTON BUS SERVICE: WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

The new **CB-Centrebus Service 63** begins on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 as follows:

#### **Norton – The Bringtons – Northampton**

Norton, White Horse	09:30
<b>Whilton, Phone Box</b>	09:37
Great Brington, Post Office	09:43
Little Brington, Nobottle Road	09:46
Upper Harlestone, Post Office	09:53
Northampton, The Drapery	10:11

#### **Northampton – The Bringtons – Norton**

Northampton, The Drapery [Bay 21]	13:00
Upper Harlestone, Post Office	13:18
Little Brington, Nobottle Road	13:25
Great Brington, Post Office	13:28
<b>Whilton, The Green</b>	13:34
Norton, White Horse	13:41

## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2014/15

### APRIL

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	R Clarke	027	£45
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	L, Morris	123	£25

### MAY

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	N Busby	099	£45
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	A Hiscock	042	£25

### JUNE

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	A Heeley	075	£45
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	J Clements	207	£25

### JULY

1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE	I Hathaway	171	£45
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE	M Clements	033	£25

**Congratulations to all the prize winners**  
**We are able to maintain the same prize money this year**  
**thanks to a good response.**

## WHILTON SOCIAL LUNCH – TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2014

This well attended event took place on one of the hottest days of the summer. The delicious menu was completely cold so it was just right for the day. We ate beautifully home cooked ham and an Italian chicken dish with all sorts of salads and accompaniments and bread rolls. There was a choice of four puddings and all could be served with ice cream. We finished with tea/coffee and mint chocolates. Cold drinks were served during the meal.

A most enjoyable event. We welcomed four adults and a very well behaved baby paying their first visit and we hope they will all come again.

**The next Social lunch will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November** when we hope you will join us. **YOU ARE VERY WELCOME.**



### TUESDAY CHAT

The next Tuesday chats will take place on **23<sup>rd</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October** at **2.30pm in the village hall.**

Why not come along and enjoy homemade cakes, tea and lots of conversation.

There is a small charge of £1.50 towards the rent.

## Sasha's Column

Hi everyone! I have had a bit of a sore couple of months, since I wrote my last column. Unfortunately during a little play session with Rochelle she noticed how red my eye was. On further inspection she realised that it might be an eye infection and the next day my dad whisked me off to the vets to have it looked at.

Many of you know, by now, that I am not awfully fond of the vets but my eye was really sore, so I put on a brave face and went to go and see the lady. It turns out that on a walk or possibly around the house I bumped into something, the knock caused my eye to become infected and I was given a dose of drops and tablets.

It was right in the middle of the summer and it was really hot outside. I tend to get a haircut around that time because my fur is so thick and because it's black, it absorbs the heat quicker, making walks very uncomfortable. I was told that I was not allowed a haircut. This then meant only short walks on the lead, so I didn't go wondering off.

It's true that sometimes mum and dad say I remind them of one of my grandfathers because of how clumsy I am. I blame it on the adventurous, wild, hunting dog in me but I don't think the rest of the family have seen it that way. I've fallen down the stairs, off the couch, off the bed, tripped over my own feet and thin air. In fact the list is pretty endless so I won't bore you.

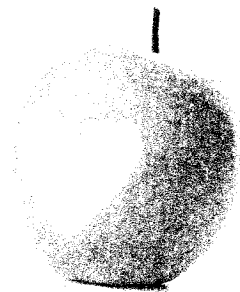
Rochelle and mum tried to reduce the amount of fur, with one of these brushes that removes any unwanted hair. They got a fair amount off and it was a lot easier but I couldn't wait to get a haircut. In the meantime dad was in charge of giving me my eye drops. Every time he said "eye-eye" I knew I had to go upstairs and sit still whilst he put the drops in my eye.

Finally, the vets gave me the all clear to have a haircut. We told the nice groomers about my eye and they cut all this thick fur off my body and left my head as it was. Mum thought I looked a bit like a rock chick- whatever that means. The other good news was that I got to go for a weigh in and I am the slimmest I've been since I started my diet, although the treats do sometimes go up when I put on my puppy dog face.

I have a few other tricks that I've learnt. Every Sunday mum and Rochelle bring back some pretzels for dad's lunch and I end up usually sharing them. Now I have to find the pretzels on my own and tell the family which bag it is in. Do they not know about a dog's nose being able to sniff out anything? Oh well, it means more pretzel for me. Also mum works really long days and dad tends to give her a foot massage. One day, as a joke, he started doing the 'this little piggy' rhyme. This went on for a few days until I thought I had the rhyme pretty much covered, so now when it gets to the part where "this little piggy goes wee-wee-wee all the way home", I join in with a howl, which the whole family finds hysterical because I am joining in.

It's getting colder again and wet, which I can't stand, so soon I will probably be playing dad up and not going on as many long walks but I am sure he can handle it. I hope to see you all soon.

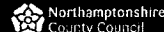




# Lunch now free for every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2!

*For healthier, happier children*

Find out how to order nutritious meals for your child.



## Lunch now free for all children in reception, year 1 & year 2

It's true - government has made lunch at school free for ALL children in reception, year 1 and year 2, starting this September term.

### Why?

To improve the nutrition, health, and wellbeing of children across the country. The School Food Plan has recommended that children eat a school meal for lunch. This is because school meals:

- are good quality
- meet tough nutrition standards
- introduce children to new foods and food education
- teach children table manners and to sit down to a meal together as a social activity

Areas that have piloted free school meals for everyone have even reported improved attainment and attention in afternoon lessons.

Of course, there's also the added benefit of savings passed directly on to families.

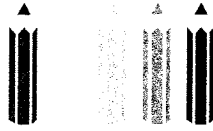
### How do I order?

Most primary schools in the county use catering provider Nourish, which is taking online orders now.

If your child's school does not use Nourish, speak to them directly about how to sign up for school meals.

### Free School Meals for older children

School meals are free for children in any year group if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Even if your child is in Year 2 or below and would receive a free meal anyway, please apply through Free School Meals as you child's school will receive additional funding.



# Brington and Whilton Pre-School

During this term we have enjoyed our time at Forest School. For six Fridays we have been outside the whole morning – rolling down hills, looking for mini beasts, blowing bubbles and lots more. We enjoyed the good weather and had great fun learning in a different environment.

We have also had plenty of walks around the village and have been going down to use the spinney more, enjoying the good weather we have been having.



Rolling down hills and  
Hiding in the long grass



Blowing Bubbles



Making Potions

We still have places in September, so if you know any children in the surrounding villages/areas whose parents are looking for a small friendly pre-school, please recommend us. We take children from 2 years old and offer excellent individual education and care. We are led by very well qualified and caring staff that engage with the children and get to know and support the children in their learning and development.

**New for September** – the local spinney now has a garden area where the children can dig and plant vegetables/flowers.

Our sessions are at Whilton Village Hall:

Monday 9.30am – 1.00pm including lunch

Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm including lunch, afternoon session for children over 3 years old – 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Friday 9.30am – 1.00pm including lunch

If you would like further information or would like to visit the pre-school please contact Jenny Holman 01604 770083, Mobile 07948724415.

# All About Me!

This year we are remembering the start of World War One, which began in 1914, 100 years ago. However, we are also celebrating a special 100<sup>th</sup> birthday - for Brownies, who also began in 1914.

## Whilton Brownies

I am one of three girls from Whilton who go to Brownies at the moment; the others are Georgia and Maria. As there is no Brownie group in the village we go to the 1<sup>st</sup> Flore Brownies with some of our other friends from school.

To celebrate the 'Big Brownie Birthday' we have done lots of things. A few weeks ago we had a big birthday party at Towcester Racecourse with Brownies from all over Northamptonshire. I really enjoyed that because I saw one of my old friends from nursery there who I haven't seen for a long time. There were some bouncy castles and rides there, and we got to take part in drumming and dancing.

After the party we had a Stay Away Challenge – where Brownies slept in all different places for the night. Flore Brownies slept at The Deco theatre in Northampton, but some other Brownies stayed at leisure centres and one of my friends slept at an aquarium. We stayed up late and had a midnight feast, I enjoyed it but my feet ached.

In April we went to Silverstone race track to take part in a Star Quest Challenge, where we had to go through different zones and collect stars.

I've got lots of different badges to celebrate all the different things we have done for the Brownie Birthday.

**Louise Whitcombe (8)**

## The Big Brownie Birthday

### Did You Know?

Brownies were first called Rosebuds, but changed their name in 1915 after the girls said they didn't like it. The name Brownies comes from a book written in 1870 called "The Brownies"



# Fun Stuff

One hundred years ago; in 1914 World War 1, also known as 'The Great War' started. In this issue of the newsletter, we've given you different ways to help mark the anniversary.

P  
O  
P  
P  
Y

We use poppies to remember soldiers that have gone to war. These were the flowers which grew on the battlefields after the war finished.

Use the letters from the word 'Poppy' to create a poem about WW1, or Remembrance Day.



Maybe you could make another poem from the letters of the word Remembrance?

## WW1

### Wordsearch

See if you can find these 15 words all relating to World War One.

1. Somme
2. U-Boat
3. Trench
4. Soldier
5. Poppy
6. Land Army
7. Bayonet
8. Flanders
9. War Horse

W	H	A	R	B	Y	N	D	M	Y	F	L	C	S	N
F	E	I	T	L	E	A	W	C	P	O	P	P	Y	W
H	N	O	M	A	N	S	L	A	N	D	U	S	Z	E
A	S	D	L	P	F	M	S	O	F	H	B	C	P	S
B	O	T	F	L	D	W	H	B	A	Y	O	N	E	T
F	L	A	N	D	E	R	S	F	Z	E	A	P	N	E
R	D	W	L	A	N	D	A	R	M	Y	T	G	F	R
O	I	A	H	C	S	R	F	T	G	M	S	O	N	N
N	E	Y	B	L	T	N	R	T	R	E	N	C	H	F
T	R	E	N	I	L	E	P	P	E	Z	S	G	R	R
L	M	A	D	L	N	C	R	W	A	Z	P	L	A	O
I	C	O	N	S	C	R	I	P	T	I	O	N	W	N
N	N	F	T	B	H	T	E	E	W	F	Z	P	G	T
E	R	W	E	S	R	O	H	R	A	W	L	A	U	O
S	O	M	M	E	G	V	U	P	R	B	G	S	N	T

10. Great War

12. Conscription

14. Zeppelin

11. Western Front

13. Front Line

15. No Man's Land

**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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**We would be very happy to welcome another member on to the editorial team. If you are interested, please contact any of us.**

**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 2014 to February 2015. The last date for contributions will be 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

**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 comprehensive Picture Gallery. It also has latest news and updates on parish events.**

**If you would like to advertise your local business, flyers can be delivered to every household in the parish with the Newsletter at a small charge. For information please contact one of the editors**

## WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON? AUTUMN 2014

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sun	7 Sept	10 a.m.	Brington Church	Benefice Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
Wed	10 Sept	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council
Fri	12 Sept	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society: The making of a local hero.
Sun	14 Sept	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Sun	21 Sept	9.15 a.m.	Church	Worship for all
Tues	23 Sept	2.30 – 4 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Village Hall Church	Tuesday Chat New term starts for Whilton Warblers
Sat	27 Sept	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Harvest Festival
Wed	1 Oct	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Whilton Gardeners Association. Steve Mackie: Bonsai
Sun	5 Oct	10 a.m.	Norton Church	Benefice Eucharist with Sunday School
Sun	12 Oct	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Praise with Communion
Sun	19 Oct	9.15 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Tues	21 Oct	2.30 – 4 p.m.	Village Hall	Tuesday Chat
Sun	26 Oct	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Sun	2 Nov	10 a.m.	Brampton	Benefice Eucharist with Sunday School
Sun	9 Nov	6 p.m.	Church	Remembrance Service
Wed	12 Nov	7 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council
Fri	14 Nov	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society Brockhall Water Gardens
Sun	16 Nov	6 p.m.	Church	Holy Communion with hymns
Sun	23 Nov	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Tues	25 Nov	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Village Hall	Social Lunch
Sun	30 Nov	6 p.m.	Norton	Benefice Advent Carol Service and Eucharist

### Other 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 Wed 1 – 3 p.m.

Bell ringing at the Church:

Mon: 7.15 p.m. 7.45 p.m. For further information please contact Justin or Theresa Baker: 844263 or e-mail: [j.t@oneline.net](mailto:j.t@oneline.net).

Whilton Warblers Choir in the Church: Term time: 7.15 p.m.