

# Whilton Autumn Newsletter



**Flying high**  
Oliver and his plane over the Trig Point on Whilton Hill.

## September – November 2021

## Autumn 2021

### Letter from the Editors

As we come to the end of summer, this edition reflects the uncertainty of the season, both in weather and Covid-related concerns. Meetings have been more limited than usual, but some hopes are raised for the coming autumn.



Climate change has brought us unpredictable weather, a challenge for farmers, gardeners and allotment holders as mentioned in the Allotments article.

Whilton's rainfall is measured by Martin Emery. Unusually heavy rain in July this year raised the measurement to 70 mm, compared with 44mm in 2020.



Some of Whilton's organisations are changing their patterns or their venues, partly as a response to new circumstances. These include the Church, Whilton Warblers Choir and Aperture Photography Group.



Our Heritage Open Day, organised by the Local History Society, is on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. We hope that in the coming months there will be more activities to bring the community together and develop common interests,

We are always ready to welcome Newsletter contributions from parishioners, so please do get in touch if you would like to offer something for the next edition.

Meanwhile we wish everyone a healthy and fulfilling autumn.



The Editors.

## WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Whilton Parish Council have been busy working behind the scenes via a series of virtual meetings to keep in line with the mandated Covid rulings. As these rulings lift, and some form of normality returns to the Parish, we will be returning to our usual meeting venue in the Village Hall to carry on with our work to support the Parish.

So what has your Parish Council been up to?

- **New West Northamptonshire Councillors for our Parish.** With the recent formation of the new West Northamptonshire Council, the Ward of Long Buckby (of which the Whilton Parish is part of) has been allocated 3 new Councillors. These are:
  - Councillor Daniel Marc Lister (daniel.lister@westnorthants.gov.uk)
  - Councillor Philip John Bignell (phil.bignell@westnorthants.gov.uk)
  - Councillor Andrew Charles Morton (charles.morton@westnorthants.gov.uk)
- **New Process for Planning Applications.** At the last Parish Council meeting, it became clear that there was some confusion over how the Planning Application process worked. Another issue was that the process had also recently changed with the formation of the new West Northamptonshire Council.

The new process is:- anyone in the Parish who plans to alter their property in some way that will require planning permission will need to raise a Planning Application. That then comes before the Parish Council to consider for approval or rejection, and members of the public may attend such a meeting to voice objections, support or clarifications. The Parish Council do not have the authority to approve or reject the application outright, but act in an advisory capacity to the West Northamptonshire Council for such matters.

If the Parish Council raise an objection to the Planning Application, they can then seek the support of one of the 3 new Councillors mentioned above who can then decide if a West Northamptonshire Council Planning Committee Meeting needs to be held. If that Planning Meeting is held, members of the public may once again attend to voice objections, support or clarifications, and it is the West Northamptonshire Council who have the final say to approve or reject the application, taking into consideration the advice of the Parish Council. They may, or may not agree with the recommendations of the Parish Council.

To slightly complicate things further, there is an alternative route through the West Northamptonshire Council where Planning Applications can be approved or rejected via someone with Delegated Authority, where it was decided not to hold a Planning Committee Meeting. Members of the public may write to this individual to voice their opinions, but will not be able to meet in person.

I hope this clarifies the new 'simpler' process for Planning Applications.

- **Irresponsible Dog Owners Around Whilton Village – Again!!** Whilst the dog fouling incidents around the Parish now appear to be on a downward trend, we are still hearing of occasions where dog fouling has occurred in residents' gardens who don't even own a dog. It is believed that these incidents are being caused by dogs that are being allowed to roam free around the village, and this matter has been reported to the Daventry Dog Warden to address and take action accordingly with the owner.

As a reminder, a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place across the district, which states that people in charge of a dog **must**:

- **Pick up after the dog.**
- **Carry the means to pick up after the dog.**
- Prevent the dog from entering a fenced-off children's play area.
- Put the dog on a lead when requested by an authorised officer.
- Keep the dog on a lead around the cafe area at Daventry Country Park.
- **Put their dog on a lead in graveyards, cemeteries and memorial gardens.**
- Put their dog on a lead near schools (when the school is open).
- Walk no more than six dogs at one time (six dogs per adult).

Anyone failing to comply with this PSPO faces a £100 fixed penalty notice if caught, with a potential £1000 fine if the matter is taken to court.

If anyone sees evidence of a dog fouling, please report it to the Daventry Dog Warden on 01327 871100. The more cases that are notified, the more likely the Dog Warden is to impose the PSPO terms and start to issue fines to irresponsible dog owners.

- **Village Litter Pick – Saturday 12 June 2021.** After the long Covid lockdown and various rulings, we finally managed to get a group of volunteers together from the village to do a litter pick through the village, which coincided with the 2021 Great British Clean Up. So a big thank you to those who came out to help. The Parish Council will be looking to do another litter pick later in the year when the verges have died back slightly, and this will be announced through the usual channels. Any volunteers to help will be very welcome.
- **Gigaclear.** Superfast broadband is here in the Parish, and there is a growing number of residents connecting to the network. Generally the feedback that I receive from people who have connected is that the connection and the service for many has been great with no problems, and everyone appreciates the greater speed offered.
- **Connecting to the Gigaclear Network – Hints and Tips.** It's probably worthwhile reiterating the following for those who have yet to connect to the network.
  - **Packages.** The packages that Gigaclear offer can be found at [www.Gigaclear.com](http://www.Gigaclear.com), and they now seem to have recently added a new cheaper 200 Mbps package alongside their current 300 and 900 Mbps packages.
  - **Discounts.** Through social media, there have been various discount offers from Gigaclear seen. So always worth checking what the latest offers may be on Facebook etc.
- **Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) Service.** The Parish Council worked jointly with the Brington Parish Council early last year to successfully establish a DACT bus service for residents to provide regular trips to Daventry and Northampton. However, with the current health crisis, the decision was taken to cancel the service until further notice. Further updates will be notified on the village notice board and through the Parish e-mail distribution list.
- **Defibrillators.** There are 2 defibrillators located within the Parish - in Whilton (by the Village Hall) and Whilton Locks (next to the BT phone box on the canal bridge). Each cabinet is locked with a code, which can be obtained from the emergency services when you dial 999 should they be required.

- **Whilton Parish E-Mail Distribution List.** The Parish e-mail distribution list is a closed list to keep people informed of the latest issues and information concerning the Parish. If you are interested in being added to the list to find out what is going on in your Parish, please send your e-mail address to [clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk).
- **Parish Council Website.** The Whilton Parish Council also do have a website at [www.parish-council.com/whilton/](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 are also details of who your councillors are, and how to contact them about any matters relating to the Parish. Of note, the e-mail address is [councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk).
- **Parish Council Meetings.** The Parish Council hold a regular meeting in the Whilton Village Hall every 2 months, which is open to the public to attend and raise any issues.
- **The Spinney.** Some of you may be aware that that we have a special place towards the bottom of Whilton village known as The Spinney, comprising of 2.25 acres of mainly wet woodland, with several walkways throughout the area. It was gifted to the people of Whilton as a millennium gift and is free for anyone to visit. The management of the area now comes under the Parish Council, where a separate work party of volunteers are responsible for the general maintenance of the area and the completion of safety checks on a monthly basis. However, following periods of inclement weather, there can be occasions where trees or branches may have fallen and have yet to be cleared away. Hence, I would urge you all to visit and enjoy the Spinney, but also to be vigilant of any hazards that may be in the area. If you do notice anything that may be a danger, please report it to the Parish Council clerk at [clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk).

Randal Smith

Chair of the Whilton Parish Council, Rose Briar, Main Street

**Your other Parish Councillors are:**

Jane Melling, (Vice Chair), 3 South View  
 Jonathan Hanslip, 'Rustlings,' Brington Lane  
 Keith Hiscock, Langton House, Main Street  
 Ann Gilbert, Langton Cottage, Main Street  
 Adrian Lee, The Little Rectory, The Green  
 Mark Hampson, Ash Lea, Brington Lane.

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**WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SUMMER WINNERS:**

**MAY 2021**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE</b>	<b>B Eyton-Jones</b>	<b>044</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE</b>	<b>T Baker</b>	<b>126</b>

**JUNE 2021**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE</b>	<b>T Hebb</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE</b>	<b>T Treacy</b>	<b>084</b>

**JULY 2021**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE</b>	<b>L Morris</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE</b>	<b>I Woods</b>	<b>047</b>

# *The Mystery of the Whilton Stone*

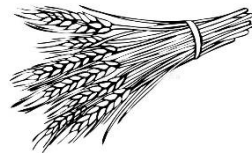
*Whilton's Heritage Open Day  
Saturday, 11th September 2021*



*The Local History Society is working with other groups and societies in the parish to plan for a Whilton celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> September as part of the national scheme of Heritage Open Days.*

*This is an opportunity for all of us to see the stone ploughed up by Martin and Gordon Emery before it is moved to Rugby Museum and Art Gallery.*

*The stone will be on display in the church, and we are using this occasion to find out about our Rector, Rev Randolph Skipwith, who brought the stone to Whilton, and how the village celebrated Harvest Festival in 1866, 155 years ago.*



*Weather-permitting we shall begin with a procession at 10.30 a.m.*

*There will be a Victorian theme to the decorations in the church and there will be an exhibition, talks, bell ringing and refreshments.*

*The sponsored "Ride and Stride" between parish churches will be taking place on the same day, and there may be other visitors too from outside Whilton.*

*Car parking will be in Wadd Close by courtesy of Gordon Emery.*

*Come and celebrate part of Whilton's heritage.*

## LUNCH IN FRANCE....DINNER IN FLORE.

Shortly after we moved into the village – about 7 years ago now – I remember noticing a small aeroplane making what I assumed must be an emergency landing in the Trig. Point field above the Emery farm. Since I heard no loud noises or any flames I carried on about my business as you do..... however being an aeronaut for most of my life I made sure I gradually learnt more about this little plane that hopped around the village. Then a few weeks ago, whilst on a local history walk with Anthea, I got chatting to Gordon Emery who said something along the lines of “...well if you’re interested come up and talk to Oliver the owner, I’m sure he’ll be pleased to see you”. So being me I wrote down my contact details on a business card and put it in the car to drop off at Gordon’s as soon as I got a round tuit. Gordon beat me tuit by a year or so, knocking on my door soon after to tell me that Oliver was at the field and had time for a chat. I’m not saying I was out of the house like a shot but I set the alarm, locked the front door and left the rear bifolds wide open. DO NOT GET OLD!!



Just so we know what we are talking about here is a photo of Oliver with one of the loves of his life, the other is Shirley his wife of more than 55 years who often takes the passenger seat! I don’t know if the registration number G-OASA is a “cherished number” as both of their initials are there!

As I arrived at what I could now see is a small hangar Oliver, having just recently landed, was wiping down the aircraft to remove dead flies etc. (there are sheep in the field!) and Shirley was sweeping the hangar floor. The aircraft is compact

and the body has a distinct “Tadpole” look to it, but it is just so beautifully constructed and feels really substantial – far from the lightweight sticks and string Microlight that you might imagine. I’ll describe it in more detail later but there is a lovely story behind all of this.

Many moons ago Oliver left Agricultural Machinery sales and became firm friends with the Emery family, without whose support the rest of this story could not have happened. He was already ensnared by lightweight aviation - the only inexpensive way to do this was via a very simple single seat Microlight (there were no two seaters at that time) which he taught himself to fly. He then advanced to a Flexwing Microlight however not really satisfied with that form of aviation he went to Sweden to learn to fly Paramotors then back to Whilton where he taught others to fly them too. Finally through a close friend, who was an experienced pilot, he was able to gain his full Private Pilot’s Licence at Sywell in a light aircraft – the Beagle Pup.

Then an opportunity came along to combine aviation with a job. A friend’s company was importing these ultra light aircraft in component form from the Ukraine then assembling, testing and obtaining CAA certification in the UK before selling them on. Oliver decided to join this company and Gordon Emery was able to provide the work and storage space, together with a good adjacent field which could accommodate a small grass runway.

Back in the 90’s these aircraft were very popular – annual sales would exceed 20. Obviously they had to be demonstrated to potential customers so Oliver had unrestricted access to one. Happy days!

The day before I met Oliver he had made a trip to the Lake District to bring back a friend who was delivering a similar aircraft to a new owner there. Getting there took one hour and forty five minutes – not a bad journey time from Whilton to Windermere!

Over the years Oliver and Shirley have flown to the south of France many times - they would set off in the afternoon, overnight in northern France at a small airfield with hotel and restaurant facilities and then carry on down after breakfast. However, if only lunch was needed then they would set off in the morning, cross the channel and land at Abbeville for a nice lunch before returning via the Normandy Beaches for late afternoon tea. Sounds great fun to me.

### **The aeroplane.**

It has history – when the aviation business was winding down Oliver could have bought the demonstration aircraft he was flying, however it just so happened that an earlier sale had gone wheels-up on its owner and he wanted to part company. Oliver was able to make a successful offer and G- OASA was soon his - albeit in need of some repair and general TLC. Currently you could be forgiven for thinking it has just left the factory whereas in truth it is now 11 years old and has 120,000 miles under it's wings.

As I said before, when you are up close everything seems so substantial, but this belies the amazing all up weight of less than 300Kg resulting from using moulded composite structures of Foam, Kevlar, Carbon fibre and Epoxy. Everything is incredibly light and very stiff.



You can easily recognise this aeroplane as it flies over due to the

distinctive tadpole shape of the fuselage, the wings come in separate halves and are semi permanently bolted to the fuselage. They have the usual ailerons for roll control on the outboard third and powerful flaps across the inboard section – these help trim the aircraft for efficient cruise and also when fully let down generate extra lift and drag for short landings. The tailplane is, surprisingly, of the all moving kind, not the usual separate tailplane and elevator, with a trim tab across the back to maintain the trim of the aircraft at various power settings.

The aircraft is powered by a flat four cylinder Rotax engine which drives a remarkably small but incredibly tough 3 bladed carbon fibre propeller. The engine is mainly watercooled but in emergency can run at low rpm air cooled for a short descent. Speaking of descent it's always nice to know that you have a Plan B when flying over water in a single engined plane. Between the seats is a large red handle, pull it and a parachute is rocket propelled out of a rear fuselage hatch. When deployed this will give you a survivable vertical landing speed of about 14mph, the undercarriage may not survive – just saying!



The range of this small craft is phenomenal, over 1200 miles – not that you would want to push it that far perhaps! The front inboard section of both wings contain the fuel tanks and versions have been built with additional wing tank capacity to greatly extend the range - things start to become a little heavy at this point though!! Cruising speed is about 120mph but this can be increased at the expense of fuel economy to about 140mph.

The cockpit has 2 comfortable seats, each with full joystick controls and rudder pedals: although space is at a premium you are not cramped at all and visibility all round is fantastic. The electronics are impressive too, this is no fly by the seat of your pants machine, you have full colour artificial horizon and information displays for all aspects of the aircraft. GPS not only tells you where you are and your heading but full ground information and all your recent flight details. Two way radio and transponder keeps you in touch with all air traffic systems on any frequency. The real surprise for me was when Oliver showed me the Auto Pilot System this looked like it had been built into the original aircraft but was in fact a recent retro fit.

Oliver's log book contains over 3,600 flying hours and 320,000 miles, landings just short of 6,000 locally and around UK/ Europe.

So next time you see G-OASA you know a little of its past and what is possible!

Or perhaps it's a sister aircraft based at Norton – not a lot of people know that!



Footnote.

Auto Pilot Systems have always been called George and I didn't know why - but we now have Google. The answer is not definitive but 2 theories exist. The most likely is that they were simply named after the guy who patented the system in 1931 George de Beeson, the second being that they were named after the notional "owner" of all military aircraft in WWII - King George VI. Would I lie to you?

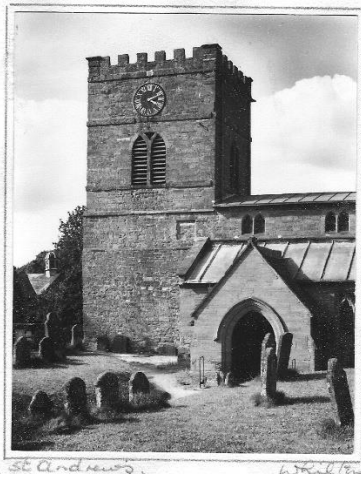
Tony Hebb

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## **St Andrew's Church**

Our schedule of services will change from September. This is a start to re-opening after Covid, although the number of services in the Benefice has been reduced in order to deliver one service each month to all churches. There will be a Benefice Service on the first Sunday of each month which will rotate. The lay team of service leaders is no longer operating.

In future we will have one service a month which will be a Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month. The first service will be on 12 September.



## CHURCH UNDER THREAT – HELP NEEDED

Following our Annual Meeting, the church no longer has a churchwarden as neither Linda nor I stood for re-election. I have been doing the role for 8 years, which is long enough, and Linda Treacy has not lived in the village for some years now.

There are currently no volunteers to take on this role and the result has serious implications for the continued viability of the church.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is made up of myself, Linda, Tricia Wood and Phil Grant. We have legal responsibility for the church building, organise events and activities and work with the Rector. This is too large a task for just four people to deliver effectively and what we need is more people to come forward to help with the PCC's responsibilities.

We hope that there is enough goodwill around that even if you are not a practicing Christian or active church-goer, villagers would want to see the church remain open and available for use both for religious and other purposes.

There are three alternatives:

- 1) **New Churchwardens.** There may be people who would be willing to be churchwardens or PCC members.
- 2) **Festival Church.** A Trust which would take responsibility for the fabric, finance and services and be made up of a team of lay volunteers and a leader from the village, willing to help out. They would undertake a number of tasks including opening the building as required, setting up for services, maintenance and keeping the village informed about events. The church would probably be open for a limited number of services. This is the most realistic practical solution.
- 3) **Closure.** If the local community decides that there is no need for a place of worship, the Church Commissioners would seek a new use for the building but if no one takes it on, the building and churchyard could fall into disrepair.

**What the church needs is for a number of people to take responsibility. You do not necessarily have to become a member of the church or attend services in order to help.**

**Too much is taken for granted, but if you want to have the church open for christenings, weddings, funerals and other activities, we need you to step forward now in order to safeguard its future. It would be awful if after so many years, this generation is the one which allows the church to close due to lack of support.**

If you are concerned by this and would be willing to volunteer, please send an email to [Jbrierley1@aol.com](mailto:Jbrierley1@aol.com).

Jon Brierley on behalf of the PCC.



# Aperture Photography Group

## How To Improve Your Photography

It is only too easy to get sucked in by the marketing hype to believe that buying the latest all singing, all dancing camera is going to make you a better photographer. It won't. A camera is just a tool for taking photographs, it needs the person behind the camera to make a great photo. I can just imagine some of the artists in the village going out to buy some new brushes, coming home and then creating the next Mona Lisa; it just doesn't happen that way. So here's five things you can do to help improve your photography, courtesy of Canadian photographer David DuChemin.

### 1. Get Pickier

Not everything in every light and at all moments will translate into a great image. There is a tendency when you first start out to shoot everything in sight. Do it. Shoot it all. There are shots we all need to take to get out of the way; they help us learn the basics and go towards the first 10,000 frames that it takes to get better at this craft. Eventually most of us have to slow down, take a breath, and get picky. Once the initial thrill of using a camera begins to wear off in exchange for the thrill of creating great images, and you've got all the requisite shots of children, cats and your own feet out of the way, start getting pickier, more selective. Don't waste your time shooting stuff that doesn't quicken the heart.

### 2. Better Contrast Creates Better Stories

Better visual and conceptual contrast makes for better stories, and better stories make for better images.

Visual Contrast is the contrast between tones or colours and our eyes are drawn to areas of high contrast. It pulls us into an image and usually makes elements in an image more immediately interesting and identifiable. One of the common features of images made by beginners is flat contrast. You can begin improving this by getting better at exposure and your post-processing techniques. Look for contrast in the frame. Sometimes it's too much, like a portrait taken in mid-day sun, in which case you'll want to take your subject into shade or wait until the sun goes behind a cloud. Sometimes it's not enough. But paying attention to contrast in both your capture of the image and the post-processing, will improve your image.

Conceptual Contrast is the contrast between elements within your frame. An old man holding the hand of a young child is a contrast of ages. Young vs. Old. The sea hitting the shore is a contrast of Wet vs. Dry or Hard vs. Soft. All of these kinds of contrasts create interest and draw on themes that storytellers in other mediums have been using for millennia. Watching for these and incorporating them into your image can give your image meaning beyond just the obvious, make the image more engaging.

### 3. Pay Attention to the Moment

Most photographers at some time or another come across Henri Cartier-Bresson's notion of the "decisive moment." Without diving in too deep, what matters is this: 'the moment is important'. Shooting a scene in which there is action, whether at a wedding or a Formula One race, there are some moments that are "better" than others. There are moments when the emotion or the action hits an apex, and that coincides with the best composition within the frame and, well, those moments are golden and rare. And they differ from photographer to photographer. The moment I chose might not be the one you chose, but the moment matters.

What makes a good moment? That depends. Sometimes it's a moment of revelation like the relaxation that happens after a forced smile in a portrait. Sometimes it's a moment when action is at its apex - like a cricketer hitting a six. And other times it's more subtle - a look, a glance, a gesture as a woman reaches for her lover to touch his arm. Whatever it is, the moment itself is no mere detail in the image. It's vital.

#### **4. Pay Attention to the Light**

I still don't know why it took me so long to learn this. I spent years focussing on how much light I got into the camera. Years worth of perfectly exposed images recording unexceptional light. If there is one thing that could improve your photos, it's the ability to see the light. There're a lot of photographers that talk about photography as "painting with light" and I think that's a lovely way to look at it. But no painter in their right mind would pay more attention to the brushes than to the paint. No, a painter would study the subtle differences in colours of paint, and how they play on the canvas, how they interact with other colours.

Photographers, too, need to learn to see light. What colour is it? From which direction is it coming? Is it hard? Soft? What kind of shadows is it creating and where are they falling? And more importantly, once you begin to see the light - I mean to really see it, and you'll know you're there when you start saying, "Wow, look at the light right now!" at inappropriate times - is that light appropriate to your vision or is it not?

I believe that there is no such thing as bad light. Only light that works with you or against you to accomplish your vision. Yes, put in the time you need to work with your fancy new lens or to memorise the features of your new camera, but neither of those will improve your photography more than taking the time to study light. All you have to do is be observant. Actually look at what different light does in different situations, shoot it, then review the images.

#### **5. Put a Great Foreground in Front of a Great Background**

A great story, it is said, has a beginning, a middle, and an end. More accurately, a great story has a great beginning, a great middle, and a great end. So it is with photographs, only our equivalent is a great foreground in front of a great background.

What makes a great background will mean different things to different photographers and will depend

on the image being made. Sometimes that means a background that's been simplified through a shallow depth of field and does not distract. For others, like landscape photographers, it might be a perfectly sharp mountain range at first light. But make no mistake, if you have a spectacular foreground its impact will be reduced by a poor background. Same with a great background with a lousy foreground. If it's in the frame it's because you allowed it to be there.

Great foreground with a lousy background? Do something about it. Walk around your subject and find a better angle. Lie down, stand on a ladder or move in some other way to change your point of view and therefore your background. Put on a wide angle lens and push it in closer. Foreground will be just as large but the background - because you're maximising your knowledge of the de-compressing effect of a wider focal length will be less significant. Or use a much longer focal length and take advantage of the narrower angle it captures. Sure the background will be closer but there will be much less of it there. Use a wide aperture on your lens and it should all look like a dreamy blur.

If you want to learn more about making better photographs, then the APG could be for you. We go out of our way to help our members improve their photography and we have now added a new monthly feature, 'Talking Pictures', where we examine how and why pictures work. We have run two sessions so far and the response has been very positive and will hopefully help us to compose better photos.

And finally, after what seems like an age, we are returning to face-to-face meetings from Thursday 2nd September. Plus we have a new home - we will be meeting in one of the functions at Long Buckby Rugby Club. So if you are interested in coming along and seeing what we do and meeting a bunch of really friendly and enthusiastic amateur photographers, then drop in at one of our Thursday meetings.

Find out more about the APG by visiting [www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk](http://www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk), or emailing Neil Phillips ([neilp.apg@gmail.com](mailto:neilp.apg@gmail.com)).

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## **Roughmoor Spinney Update and Development**

Hopefully you have been down to the Parish Spinney during the summer. I know the Preschool group have and are making good use of it. I look forward myself to introducing it to my 5 year old granddaughter as one of the most memorable play areas of her older cousins!

Work parties have continued on a monthly basis to ensure all is kept as safe and accessible as possible, in line with the monthly risk assessments. The stream is at its lowest at the moment and the pond shallow, but there is a depth of mud below so needs to be ONLY viewed from the platform. This time we have renewed a support for the raised walkway and cleared the upper path of encroaching grass. There is another work party planned for early September.

However, such a living, growing area never stands still, so after 20 years, the Parish Council has had a tree specialist consultant look at our trees and, after considering his recommendations to remove a number of older trees and reduce the height of others -11 in all - we have given a tree surgeon a contract to do this during September. The actual date is not yet fixed as weather and other work affect when they can start, but notices will be posted on the notice boards of both Spinney and village, and of course the Pre-school group informed. It will take about a week to complete, with log piles for insects dotted about the Spinney.

Brash from the trees will be chipped. Some of this will be used to firm up the paths when too muddy.



There will also be a small amount of logs from one ash tree. If you would like a share of this, please let me know.

After this we are hoping to have a group to put together a development plan for planting of both young trees, shrubs, and some woodland flowers. If you would like to be involved in this, or have suggestions from things you have seen or valued elsewhere, please let me know.

Keith Hiscock- Parish Councillor. 19.08.21

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## **WHILTON WARBLERS**

The choir will be meeting this autumn mainly at Flore, but sometimes at Long Buckby.

For further information, please contact Linda at: [lindahalltreacy@gmail.com](mailto:lindahalltreacy@gmail.com)



# WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



At long last, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, we managed to hold our first meeting since our AGM in February last year. BBC Radio Northampton's gardening expert Johnnie Amos gave us a talk on 'Late Flowering Plants for August and September'.

Phil and Jo Grant had kindly offered to host the meeting in their garden, providing an open-sided marquee for the purpose.

Johnnie told us how, with the right planting, this can be the most colourful time of year. A colourful display can be achieved, not only from flowers, but also from shrubs and trees, with autumn leaves and fruits adding to the mix. Acers can provide fiery autumn foliage. He recommended *Acer palmatum dissectum*, *A. palmatum osakazuki* and *A. palmatum shindeshojo*.

Any gaps left when summer bedding plants are over can be plugged with autumn flowering plants that will still have time to establish and provide a display for the current year and, possibly, for many years to come.

Johnnie had many suggestions for plants and planting themes. Red and orange combinations mirror the hot summer days e.g., *Phygelius x rectus* 'African Queen' with Dahlias like 'Hillcrest Royal', punctuated with red-hot pokers. A white theme can provide a luminous quality at dusk.

After the talk we finished the evening with tea and cakes on the patio – a chance to socialise once again.

We have Stuart Phillips booked for our 6<sup>th</sup> October meeting to talk to us about pruning. We hope that the restrictions imposed by the pandemic will have eased sufficiently for us to resume our normal meetings in the village hall.

Roy Haynes,

Chair WGA

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## PARKIN

### An autumn recipe from Whilton WI's 1989 cookery book.

10 oz self raising flour  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons ginger  
1 teaspoon cinnamon

8 oz demerara sugar  
6 oz treacle  
2 eggs  
¼ pint milk

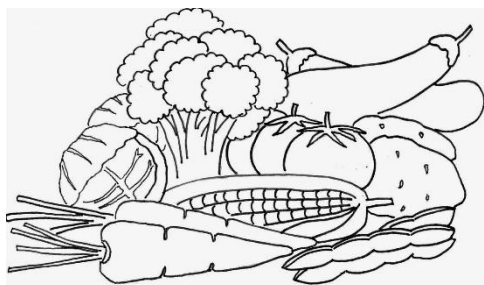
- Sift dry ingredients, add sugar.
- Melt fat and treacle.
- Stir in dry ingredients with beaten egg.
- Add milk and stir until smooth.
- Pour into a lined tin.
- Bake 50 – 60 minutes at 325°F.

This was contributed by Angela Hall, who lived in Shaftsbury, Brington Lane.

## WHILTON ALLOTMENT GARDENS – Summer 2021

As we approach the end of the School holidays we might expect some warm and pleasant weather in the rest of August . However, last year we had one week of settled warm ,even hot days followed by showers and longer spells of rain .The end of August brought with it very wet and windy weather including Storms Ellen and Francis creating flooding in many parts of the UK.

Why do I bring this message of doom and gloom now? While many of us have not been abroad to guarantee clear skies and sunshine outside these shores the local weather throughout the peak growing season has been “up and down”.



Kale which I planted in the later Winter did nothing for me, whilst in 2020 I had a bumper crop which lasted through to late Spring in 2021. The currants were plentiful as our freezer can prove but some bushes produced very little of swollen ripened fruit. The two weeks when we should have had a bumper crop of strawberries was disappointing. Too dry when the fruit should have been swelling and then too wet when they were ripening.

However, our pea crop was the best ever, lasting over several weeks and so too were the broad beans which did not suffer at all from black aphids . So far my main crop of potatoes are proving plentiful and of good size . The runner beans are producing sufficient and we have a late flourish of Autumn raspberries which brings me to the point. It is difficult to know what to expect from sowing, planting and nurturing plants and crops to eat.

All we can do is follow the instructions on the seed packet or the label which comes with the raspberry canes and follow “the seasons”. Even if the weather is unsettled and unpredictable, day length increases and decreases throughout the calendar year. Hopefully ,we may experience a settled Autumn and enjoy the remaining fruits of our labours on the allotments and in our gardens and make preparation of the soil for next year.

No two weeks are the same. It would be unusual if they were. Don't be discouraged. Just enjoy what we have and be grateful in these difficult times that many have somewhere to go whether it is plot or garden to get away from the “ news”.

Brian Melling

### Whilton's Pop-up Pub: Version 2.0

After our last attempt at resurrecting the Plough failed owing to the lockdown, we are trying again! It's a village social opportunity, celebrating (we hope) the permanent easing or end of the restrictions that have affected the lives of so many for so long.

The Village Hall has been booked for the evening of Friday 29 October and the doors of the New Plough will be open 6.00 - 10.30 pm. All villagers welcome and no need to book, so put it in your diary now!

We plan to offer gravity-fed beer from the barrel, wine and some soft drinks. And if strong demand is expressed, we can get some bottled cider and lager too. Hope to see as many as possible there at some time during the evening!

Anyone wanting to help with staffing the bar, please email me.  
Richard Bunce: [richardbunce54@gmail.com](mailto:richardbunce54@gmail.com)

## 50 YEARS AGO

In 1971 the parishioners of Whilton were looking back on the life of a much-loved rector, who had been part of Whilton life for a decade.

Bishop Otter-Barry was nearing retirement when he came to live in Northamptonshire. Born in 1887, Hugh Otter-Barry had graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1908. He was ordained in London in 1910, and after a London curacy he served as a missionary priest in Queensland in Australia for five years. He returned to England in 1920 and became vicar of Brill in Buckinghamshire, but in 1926 he offered for work overseas. He went to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean as archdeacon there, becoming bishop in 1931, and having a strong interest in education. A school in Mauritius is named after him.

After 34 years he came back to England in 1959, to serve as Assistant Bishop in the Peterborough Diocese, and to be priest in the parishes of Norton and Whilton. Whilton Rectory had been sold, and he lived in Norton with his housekeeper.

He usually walked between his two parishes, occasionally surprising passers-by as he blew his nose loudly on a large red and white spotted handkerchief. Here he was particularly remembered for his pastoral concern, his interest in the people of the village and his willingness listen to them and to visit their homes. He would bring communion to anyone unable to get to church - and particularly liked to visit at a time when it was appropriate to offer him a glass of sherry.

In his eighties, he occasionally lost his place in the service. On one occasion he was reading about the crossing of the Red Sea: "and the Lord said..." Then he lost his place and carried on, ad-libbing: "The Lord said: FORWARD".

The same could happen in hymns and as his singing voice was very strong this could worry the organist. Sometimes he carried on singing another verse after the congregation had stopped and she had played "Amen"!

These idiosyncrasies combined with his sincerity endeared him to his flock. He was well-known in the wider area, and when he retired he was interviewed by BBC Radio in the Daventry Community Centre. In the audience was Jim Souyana, a confirmation candidate from the Seychelles, whom the Bishop had not seen for 25 years.

The local newspaper reported: *Everyone in the audience that night must certainly have felt a sense of conviction, when during his heart-warming farewell speech to them, the Bishop said: "Finding the love of people is the most wonderful thing."*

*"Sometimes when you have laid hands on people and prayed for them you talk to them afterwards and see something in their faces and you say to yourself, "It is true, Christ is risen and is living for evermore."*

The Bishop died in 1971, soon after retiring. As one parishioner wrote: "The Bishop was a splendid person and we all missed him when he was no longer with us."





## Brington and Whilton Pre-school



The children of Brington and Whilton pre-school had a fantastic last summer term travelling around the world learning about lots of different countries, starting with France, India, Africa, Australia and finishing with Japan. Each child got their own passport stamped in each country and had their own little planes which flew to each far away destination.

The children made their own French pastries and learnt how to say 'hello' and 'goodbye' in French. They tried some delicious Indian and Japanese food, listened and danced to some Indian and African music, learnt about the Olympics and we had a visit from Rev. Kathryn who showed us her didgeridoo and boomerang and told us all about Australia. She finished her visit by reading the children a story called 'Wombat stew' and singing a song about a Kookaburra, which they really enjoyed.

This term the children enjoyed our 6 Forest school sessions at Foxhill farm on the edge of Daventry. They made sun potions, played games, climbed trees, made tree guardians and necklaces, went on some bug hunting, enjoyed swinging in hammocks, whittled wood and roasted marshmallows on the fire.



The children also loved our Friday afternoon fitness sessions learning more different sports including Basketball and Tennis. They were also taught some relaxing afternoon Yoga with Pamela, learning new poses and lots of different calming techniques.



The children enjoyed picking our cabbages, spring onions and strawberries at the pre-school allotment and helped to cut our herbs and Lavender flowers to make little bouquets to take home(which smelt so beautiful).

The children raised a fantastic £30 on The Big Toddle for Barnardo's. They dressed up as wild animals and walked 3.49km around the Whilton countryside.



Do you have a child aged between 2-5 years old and looking for a small nurturing pre-school?

If you would like more information about our lovely little pre-school see our website- [www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk) or contact Trisha on [managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com) or ring us on 07546440572

If you are on Facebook please like our Facebook page- **Brington and Whilton preschool.**

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## Whilton Local History Society



The Society has not held its regular meetings since January 2020. However, this summer we held two **Woad Walks** in June and July, when we found how woad was grown here for over a century, beginning in the late 1600s, and helping to provide dye for the cloth industry.

As a biennial, woad did not fit into the open field system, but it did suit the old enclosures, where it could be used after years of grazing. Centuries of grazing and animal droppings made the land very rich and land owners considered that a woad crop helped to get rid of soil pests before introducing cereal crops for a few years and then returning to pasture. The land could then be ploughed again for woad in another 15 to 20 years.

Woad was profitable for land owners, who could charge higher rent for suitable land, and for woad managers as it could yield 4 or 5 crops of leaves a year, but it was labour intensive. Whilton could not produce the amount of labour required, although some locals may have earned a little extra at busy times. The main work was carried out by the itinerant woad people, involving whole families who came, stayed a few years and then moved on. Inevitably some became integrated into the community, especially if they married into local weaving families, but they mainly were a travelling people.

After the initial stone-clearing, “paring of the sward” and sometimes burning, cultivation began with ploughing and sowing. Then the plants had to be kept carefully weeded. From June the leaves were picked mainly by women and children and could yield four or five crops a year. Because all the leaves were ready to harvest in all the parishes growing woad, this was a peak time for extra labour to be brought in, some probably coming from Daventry. Woad belongs to the brassica family and in its second year throws up a stem of yellow honey scented flowers. Some plants were left to go to seed in the second year in preparation for the next crop either in Whilton or in the next location for the woad people.



*Left: Some Local History Society members are seen here in Wadd Close in June.*

In Whilton we have two fields named Wadd Close and Second Wadd Close. This seems to be nothing to do with the processed wads, but rather a corruption of Woad Close. Wadd Close is an old enclosure, and so was not controlled by manorial regulations. It was part of the lord’s demesne and so private land of the Freeman family, who could let this field to a woadman for a few years.

Second Wadd Close is a newer enclosure, taken in after the 1778 Whilton Enclosure Award. This suggests that woad growing was still expanding in Whilton in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, woadman, James King, was in occupation of the Dove House field in 1778, when part of it was staked out for fencing. That must have been growing woad too.

The effect of a field of woad in flower may have been rather like modern fields of oil seed rape. However, woad processing into wads for blue dye was very smelly and unpleasant; there is no evidence that the processing happened in the village, but rather in the isolated area of Glassthorpe near Nobottle.

Although the workers were smelly too, those who managed them belonged to a higher class of society, known as “woadmen”. These men were acceptable in society, brokering deals with land owners, lords of manors and rectors. They were entrepreneurs with status. Some of them also negotiated with dyers and craftsmen to sell the woad on, but their job still involved an itinerant lifestyle. Woadman John Lawson and his wife Penelope with their young family rented and lived in the White Hall, now Holly House, between 1737 and 1741. While here Lawson negotiated a two year lease of three closes in Roughmoor, then in Brockhall, in 1738.

The ordinary woad labourers lived either in wooden cabins near their processing plant in Glassthorpe or else in village cottages. The Essen family who lived in Whilton until the last century could trace their roots back to the woad people. Janet Essen was buried in our churchyard in May 2021, a link with our rural industrial past.

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**We shall be hosting the Whilton Local Heritage Open Day on 11<sup>th</sup> September, remembering a Victorian harvest and the stone brought here by our Victorian Rector, Rev Randolph Skipwith. (See separate notice)**

We are making tentative plans for a meeting in November and our Annual General Meeting and meal in January, and members will be notified in due course if these are possible.

## **TOM PRICE OF WHILTON LOCKS**

**1927 – 2021**

### **The Misshapen Pearl**

**Written by Noah Price**



Dad instilled in all of us a deep love and fascination for words. He was, as Mum called him, “a walking dictionary”; if we ever came across a word that we were unsure of or unfamiliar with, there was a great likelihood that he would not only know the meaning of it but also its exact spelling.

Trying to find the right words – the appropriate words, is not easy. Frankly, it can be a kind of agony at times, but it is, ultimately, an agony worth undergoing. Dad said to me on many occasions: “Words, words, words... worry about them, my boy.” And I do.

My worry was always safe in his hands. Having a Dad who was a former newspaper editor was a gift to me as an aspiring writer. Amongst everything else about him... I will miss how he would always be more than happy to look over my work... and I will miss his unwavering support in my pursuits. I speak on behalf of my siblings when I say: there was still so much I wanted to ask him and show him. But, in a way, that voice of his – the voice of the editor – is still there; embedded in my conscience. While I was writing this, I could almost feel him hovering over my shoulder, saying things like: “Noke! What the bloody hell is that comma doing there!?”

His ability to comb through passages of text and spot the errors, typos, clumsily phrased sentences and misplaced punctuation – even when his eyesight was failing him and he could only read with the aid of a magnifying glass – was second to none.

As for his ability as a writer, I was always in awe of his complete mastery of plain prose; how he was able to write with such ease, and I loved the way he would find little moments to pepper his writing with his unique brand of wry and whimsical humour; he was a natural – gifted. But would you believe it – I had heard him, one too many times, dismiss himself as a “hack.”

Contrary to the general impression that he would leave on most, he was actually quite a shy person, and modest; often to a fault. He would swat away compliments as being mere flattery and take criticism as being the truth. But to say that his work was in any way “hackneyed,” would be far from the truth.

His style of writing was much like himself -- robust, clear and no-nonsense. It favoured brevity and simplicity over the ornate and the decorative; and yet it possessed a beauty all of its own. With this in mind, I have tried to distil – succinctly and accurately – the way I feel about Dad, in a single sentence. Far from an easy task. But I have settled upon something... something which I feel – and I hope you will all feel – is a fitting description and conclusion: however, you will have to forgive me because – ironically – I have to go the long way round, first, to explain the reasoning behind it:

I think it is fair to say... Dad was easy to underestimate. That brusque, Black Country character would initially make people assume certain things about him. But their assumptions would always be proved wrong. He was worlds within worlds; he contained multitudes; fathomless depths – it would never take too long for someone to realise that he was an extremely intelligent, well-read and cultured individual. But he was never a show off. Just a glimpse into his mind would be enough to put you in your place.

Two of his favourite artists – if not his all-time favourite artists – were Bach, the composer, and the other was Rembrandt, one of the great Dutch masters. A painter who I think Dad shared some affinity with.

Rembrandt, by all accounts, was temperamental, stubborn and prone to sudden fits of rage, but he was equally capable of being gentle and compassionate. His work showed the broad spectrum of the human condition – the light and the dark – and, away from the canvas, he was an unfiltered, “warts-and-all” expression of it. In other words: he was authentic. A rare and admirable character trait, when so many of us go through life inhibited; blindly following contrived social pleasantries. Dad never resigned himself to the path of least resistance and his values never grew to be conservative – certainly not with a capital ‘C.’

Dad also had a similarly cheeky and all-knowing smile, the kind that Rembrandt had painted for himself in his own portraits.



Both these artists are noted for their ability to make the complicated simple – awesomely simple – and they are regarded as two of the main figureheads of the Baroque era. The definition of the term “Baroque” is chiefly used to describe this period of the arts, but its original meaning derives from the French word for “misshapen pearl.”

Dad... like a misshapen pearl... was rough around the edges, but he shone brightly, and he will continue to shine brightly in all of our memories.

# THE BELL-RINGERS

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW RECRUITS

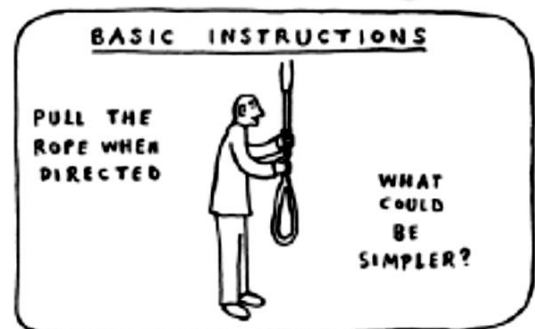
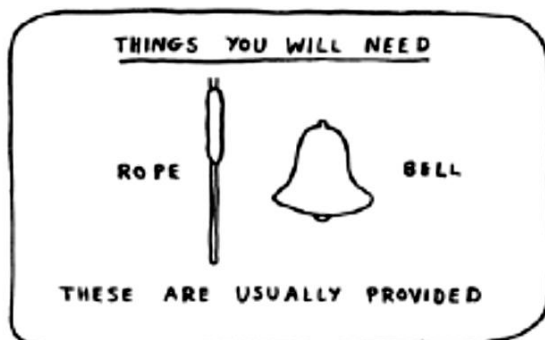
FED UP WITH THE SAME 4 WALLS?

FED UP WITH REPEATS ON THE TV?

NEED A BREAK FROM MONOTONY?

COME AND JOIN US TO TRY  
SOMETHING DIFFERENT, MAKE NEW  
FRIENDS, AND SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL COMMUNITY

NO COMMITMENT... HAVE A GO...  
YOU MIGHT LIKE IT!



If you would like to learn to ring or just see what happens, then please contact Justin to arrange a date to come along.

Alternatively, if you hear the bells on a Monday evening from approx. 19:00, then just walk in to the Church and join us.

Justin & Theresa Baker, 01327 844263/07788 184 574 or [j.t@lineone.net](mailto:j.t@lineone.net)

The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated to every household within the parish boundary.

The costs are met by the Parish Council,  
and we thank all who contribute information and articles.

The Newsletter is delivered by volunteers who willingly give up their time to bring this to your door, and we thank them for their help.

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The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter.

The next issue will be the Winter Edition, covering December 2021–February 2022.  
The last date for contributions will be 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

#### USEFUL WEBSITES AND CONTACTS

Aperture Photography Group: 844182 or via email. [neilp.apg@gmail.com](mailto:neilp.apg@gmail.com)

Brington and Whilton Pre- School: [www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk)

St Andrew's Church: *Rector: Rev Andrea Watkins and Curate Rev Kathryn Evans:  
Spencer Benefice: [spencerbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:spencerbenefice@outlook.com)*

West Northamptonshire Unitary Council: <https://westnorthants.gov.uk>

Whilton Gardeners Association: [royandtricia@btinternet.com](mailto:royandtricia@btinternet.com)

Whilton Local History Society: <https://whiltonlhs.org> or 843319

Whilton Locks Garden Village: [www.wlgv.co.uk](http://www.wlgv.co.uk)

Whilton Parish Council: [www.parish-council.com/whilton](http://www.parish-council.com/whilton)

Whilton Village Website: [www.whilton-village.net](http://www.whilton-village.net)



***A flower from the Victorian reredos in St Andrew's church.  
On 11<sup>th</sup> September, the church will be decorated  
in the spirit of the 1866 harvest festival in Whilton.***

**WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2021**

**Although there is still much uncertainty about the future,  
the people of Whilton are beginning to make plans once again.  
If you are unsure whether or not an event will take place,  
please contact the organisers by email or phone as below**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Thurs	2 Sept	Evening	Long Buckby Rugby Club	Aperture Photography Group	neilp.apg@gmail.com
Wed	8 Sept	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council	clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk
Sat	11 Sept	10.30a.m. – 4 p.m.	Church and surroundings	Heritage Open Day The mystery of the Whilton Stone	843319 anthea@hiscockfamily.co.uk
Sun	12 Sept	9.30 a.m.	Church	Holy Communion	spencerbenefice@outlook.com
Wed	6 Oct	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association: Stuart Phillips: Pruning	royandtricia@btinternet.com
Sun	10 Oct	9.30 a.m.	Church	Holy Communion	spencerbenefice@outlook.com
Fri	29 Oct	6 - 10.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Pop up pub	richardbunce54@gmail.com
Wed	10 Nov	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council	clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk
Sun	14 Nov	9.30 a.m.	Church	Holy Communion	spencerbenefice@outlook.com



