



## Hop On A Hopper

A new type of bus service is driving through Northamptonshire. CommMiniBus, a social enterprise established in 2020, provides transport for people and communities which other operators are unable to serve. They specialise in minibus operation and started the Kettering Catcher flexible bus service, in October 2020. Since then new services have been introduced including two that cover the Village Link area.

The Shopper Hopper offers communities in the Brixworth area, including Cold Ashby, Creaton, Cottesbrooke and Thornby, a choice of shopping destinations: Aldi in Overstone, Weston Favell Centre, or Morrisons at Spinney Hill. Trips are on Mondays with one destination per week. The Haddon Hopper is the latest service and starts on 14<sup>th</sup> February, offering residents of Guilsborough and Teeton trips to Rugby on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, and to Daventry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

CommMiniBus believe their transport operation should be down to earth and user-



orientated, consequently, the best route and timetable for a trip are generated in accordance with passenger bookings. You can be any age to use this service and the fares are worked out based on the mileage. Bus pass holders are eligible for free off-peak travel.

To use the service you need to complete a registration form which can be found on their website: [www.cmbus.org](http://www.cmbus.org) or call, text or Whatsapp 07888 011 891 or email [bookings@cmbus.org](mailto:bookings@cmbus.org).

If you use either of these services, do let the Village Link know how you got on.

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## WHAT'S ON

### FEBRUARY

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby events

8th - Creaton WI

11th - Coffee Morning, Cottesbrooke Village Hall

11th - Creaton Walkers

16th - FOSM History Group, Creaton

20th - Art course starts Ravensthorpe

24th - Hollowell Pub Quiz night

24th - Hollowell Hopewell Cafe

### MARCH

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby events

8th - Creaton WI

11th - Coffee Morning, Cottesbrooke Village Hall

11th - Creaton Walkers

11th - Lent lunch Guilsborough

16th - FOSM History Group, Creaton

23rd-25th - GMADS drama production Guilsborough

24th - Hollowell Hopewell Cafe

### AND REGULARLY ...

Monday mornings MMM, evenings Knitwits Guilsborough; Tuesday evenings, Creaton Singers; Thursday mornings Indoor bowls, Creaton; Sunday am and Tuesday pm, Tennis Guilsborough; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Badminton Guilsborough. Thursday evening Nia Guilsborough. Last Saturday of each month, painting at Thornby.

Guilsborough Music & Drama Society

# The Three Musketeers

A comedy adventure  
by John Nicholson & Le Navet Bete

**23 - 25 MARCH 2023**  
**7.30PM**

Guilsborough Village Hall, NN6 8PT  
Bar opens 7pm  
Tickets £10 from 07899 891901 or [www.wegotickets.com/gmads](http://www.wegotickets.com/gmads)

[@gmadsociety](https://www.facebook.com/gmadsociety) [www.gmads.co.uk](http://www.gmads.co.uk)  
GMADS - Guilsborough Music & Drama Society

## Highgate House

To read the situation regarding the use of Highgate House for asylum seekers, see page 9. Full details of the correspondence sent to MP Chris Heaton-Harris stating that Highgate House will not be used currently to house asylum seekers can be found on his website: <https://www.heatonharris.com/>

# Creaton Village Shop



**OPENING HOURS**  
 Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 6.00pm  
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We stock a wide range of fresh & frozen produce, as well as all your kitchen and household essentials, drinks, magazines, newspapers and cards. We also sell fresh flowers, compost, instant BBQs, coal, logs and kindling, and have a dry cleaning service!

Our Post Office counter services are available whenever the shop is open. And there's free parking available right outside the shop.



We now offer FREE Home Delivery to the surrounding villages, or if you prefer you can call to pre-order your groceries and collect them yourself. Call us on 07789 828423 to place an order.



Creaton Village Shop is a community enterprise, run largely by local volunteers as a valuable community asset.

We source products from around 30 local suppliers!



2a Welford Road, Creaton, NN6 8NH  
[www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk)



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is a bi-monthly publication delivered free of charge to households in Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Teeton and Thornby. It is produced and distributed by volunteers. Due to restrictions of time and space there is no guarantee that copy submitted will be used. All funds received from advertising go towards printing costs.

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Wherever possible **please email** your contributions to. [editorial@villagelink.org.uk](mailto:editorial@villagelink.org.uk). This saves considerable time re-typing information! When providing hard copy materials, please post to Sarah Dalzell, Five Springs, Nortoft, Guilsborough, NN6 8QB

## Advertisements

are welcome from local businesses, charities, clubs and societies. Commercial businesses pay advertising rates. One insertion: full page £140, half page £70, quarter page £35, eighth page £20. Two or more insertions: full page £120, half page £60, quarter page £30, eighth page £15. All prices are per insertion. Colour available in some issues, price on application. Private ads are also welcome. Back page 'lineage' cost £1.50 per line. Please contact Sarah Dalzell to book advertising or email. [advertising@villagelink.org.uk](mailto:advertising@villagelink.org.uk) Cheques payable to 'Village Link'

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**  
**Wednesday 1st March 2023**

**Disclaimer:** the publishers cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. They cannot be held accountable for the accuracy of advertisements appearing in this newsletter, nor for editorial information sent to them or published by them.

### Tiny Homes from Teeton

If you hashtag #tinyhouse or #tinyhousemovement on Instagram you will see a wonderful selection of small-scale-living buildings from around the world, chiefly the USA, Australia and New Zealand. These are the places where the Tiny House Movement has taken off as a lifestyle choice offering good and interesting down-size options with ecological and financial advantages.

Interested? Well, in Teeton there is a company that make such buildings. Qube is a family-run company who manufacture modular buildings including Eco Tiny Homes. The company was started in 2007 by Mick Spittle, originally manufacturing garden offices and then moving on to buildings for schools, hotels and others places.

In 2022 Qube moved from their base in Abington out to Teeton to bring their manufacturing base together with the back office and administration. Associate Director Jordan Spittle told VL that the move was quite a learning curve, almost like starting from scratch as far as the manufacturing process was concerned.

Jordan is also a keen follower of the Tiny Homes movement and has carried out considerable research into what should go into these buildings. Qube's Eco Tiny Homes are built on a chassis so that they can be manoeuvred but unlike those in other countries cannot be lived in permanently without becoming subject to planning permission. However this does not seem to deter purchasers, especially farmers and land owners who buy them for use as Air B'n'B accommodation as part of diversification.



*Billy Canham (centre) from Teeton*

As well as making sure their products are right, it is also important to Qube that the company fits in the area where they live and work. For the business this means that materials are sourced from local merchants and that employment opportunities can be met locally – including Billy Canham from Teeton, who the firm is to sponsor his carpentry apprenticeship at Northampton College.

Jordan says that they are keen for local people to see that Qube is “not just a business plonked here!”. Come the warmer weather there are plans to hold open days and coffee mornings so that villagers may see what goes on.

Rugby has featured large in the Spittle family and the company sponsor the rugby XV at Northampton School for Boys, the ladies team at Old Northamptonians. Qube also supports the Cynthia Spencer Hospice and the McCarthy Dixon Foundation.

Writing in BBC Culture, Beverley D'Silva points out that the idea of having less space and therefore less stuff can create room in our lives for more important things, which is certainly an appealing one. These structures are a sustainable option for housing. They are energy efficient, eco-friendly and affordable. They are versatile and along with their affordability can create an environmentally sustainable building solution for a wide range of people and needs. Sustainability is the watchword and the Eco Tiny Homes are built with energy conservation at the top of the agenda. Energy can be supplied by solar/battery power, or even wind turbine, and the rainwater is harvested and stored along with grey water for reuse.

<https://www.thequbeecotinyhomes.co.uk>



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Pitsford, NN6 9AX  
[www.pitsfordschool.com](http://www.pitsfordschool.com)**



# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Everyone is welcome to join us. Please continue to support these important village facilities.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	DETAILS
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Race night	Memorial Hall	7.30pm. £5pp includes race stake money & light supper
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pool CA v Moulton WMCA	Pavilion	Open from 7:30pm
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Skittles CAVH v SFC	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Skittles CAVH v BH	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Skittles CAVH v LBFC	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Skittles CAVH v KHLB	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Social night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pool Practice-all welcome	Pavilion	Open from 7:30pm
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Film night (TBA)	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm £5 includes cheese & wine
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Skittles: Singles knockout	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Bingo and Curry night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm Bingo £1 a game Prebook Curry tickets: £5 Chicken or Vege
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Social night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7.30pm
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Pool Cav Moulton WMC C	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Film night (TBA)	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm. £5 includes cheese and wine

## ADVENT WINDOWS

Thank you to all the villagers who volunteered to display an advent window in the village in December. It was a pleasure to walk round the village and see the beautiful and artistic efforts and it really did brighten up the village.



## NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

St Denys PCC would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Craft and Gift fair in November. Special thanks to Maureen and Mick Lill for organising and Chris Sellars for serving the refreshments. A grand total of £400 was raised for church funds.

The Tree of Remembrance in the churchyard, which was lit throughout December, was again well supported. The PCC would like to thank everyone who sponsored a bulb in remembrance of a loved one.

## NEWS FROM COLD ASHBY MEMORIAL HALL

Back in late November the Memorial Hall hosted a "Play Your Cards Right" gameshow evening which was great fun for all who attended. Contestants paired up and answered questions before being able to turn the cards in the traditional style of higher/lower.

The committee would like to thank Dave Harris for acting as compere and everyone who came along and made the evening such a success. The Children's Christmas party in December was also a great success with a host of children from the surrounding area attending and having a fantastic time. Special thanks to Santa for managing to fit in a visit and take time out of his busy schedule to bring all the children a present. Special thanks also go to Katy Stuart, Rinat Matityahu and Jenny Wilson for organising and working so hard on the night.



Wendy Yvonne

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# COTTESBROOKE NEWS



## Village Weddings

Congratulations to newlyweds Tom Harris & India Harris-Sinclair and Mark & Amy Cole. Tom and India were married on 17 December at St George's, Hanover Square, London with a reception at The Savile Club. Mark and Aimee were married on 13 August on a hot sunny day at St Michael's, Haselbech. May you build beautiful lives together. Wishing both couples an amazing journey ahead!

## Village Hall

Monthly Coffee Mornings at the Village Hall, 10-12. All are welcome to come for a coffee, cake and chat with neighbours.

11 February : Random Acts of Kindness

11 March : Austrian Treats with Karin Alten

15 April : Flower/Seed exchange

Next event: Bangers & Mash Quiz Night

Are you interested in getting involved in the village? Contact the Village Hall Committee at [CottesbrookeVHC@gmail.com](mailto:CottesbrookeVHC@gmail.com)

## Tree Planting

On 10 December we planted a beautiful English Oak at the Village Hall in honour of our late Queen, just one of the many trees planted on the Cottesbrooke Estate as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. The tree at the Village Hall was planted by Mrs. Jillie Macdonald Buchanan. The tree was provided by Mr. Alastair Macdonald Buchanan, who said a few words to mark the occasion. Many thanks to Brian Davies for his help preparing the ground for planting.



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## Creaton WI

Happy New Year everyone! We are starting 2023 with two Zoom meetings, which enables us to have guest speakers from all over the UK. On 8 February we are looking forward to a very entertaining talk from Lindsey Barrell - "Burlesque, the WI and Me"!



We shall be back in our usual meeting place, Creaton United Reformed Church, on 8 March at 7.30 p.m. for our AGM. On 12 April we welcome back local historian, Roy Smart, with another fascinating insight into women who made history, this time Amy Johnson.

Non-WI Members are very welcome so please do come along to any of our meetings and find out more about our group. For more information, or to receive a Zoom invitation link, contact President, Daphne Clark, on 01604 505546, or email [wicreaton@gmail.com](mailto:wicreaton@gmail.com).

## Creaton Walkers



It might be Winter, but the Creaton Walking Group have been very active! The weather was kind for the December walk from the Swan at Lamport to Scaldwell, Old and Faxton, including a quick break to try out the swings at Old.

It was then back to the Swan for a Christmas celebration. The group were delighted to be joined by several faithful supporters and a jolly time was had by all.

For the traditional New Year's Day walk the group were joined by some old and new faces and 2 very well-behaved dogs. Despite all the recent rain it was not too muddy across the Macmillan Way and round Ravensthorpe reservoir and the rain held off until the end of the walk.

In January the walk was round Pitsford reservoir with a welcome coffee stop.

Walks are about 8 miles/3 hours with an optional pub lunch afterwards and take place on the second Saturday of the month. Meet at Creaton lychgate at 10am.

Next walks are on:

Saturday 11 February

Saturday 11 March

Saturday 8 April



## Creaton Singers

The Creaton Singers were delighted to have a very busy December entertaining many people with a variety of Christmas carols and songs. The Welford Christmas Tree Farm got the Christmas celebrations off to a good start and the Singers were very pleased to once again sing there for a weekend and also have a look round at all the lovely trees and Christmas decorations.



This was quickly followed by an invitation to help with the singing at a beautiful Carol Service in Cottesbrooke church, where the Creaton Singers also sang John Rutter's Star Carol.

The annual carol singing on Creaton Green and at various homes for housebound people took place on the Tuesday before Christmas, followed by a concert in the Village Hall. Donations were invited for Castle Hill Foodbank and £285 was raised which was a great result. Thank you very much to everyone who attended and gave so generously.

After a quick break the Creaton Singers are now back rehearsing for events in 2023. If you would like to join this friendly group, we meet at the URC in Creaton High Street on Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm.

## Creaton Community Shop

The shop enjoyed a busy Christmas, including over 20 orders that were delivered. Many thanks to everyone who supported the shop over Christmas, buying alcohol, meat, vegetables, cakes etc

Our normal bakery supplier closed for 10 days over Christmas and New Year so rather than not provide such a basic commodity we baked Wholemeal Loaves and Bloomers every morning to make sure our customers had fresh bread, which went down very well.

We held a successful wine tasting evening in November, and everyone who came was very complimentary about the wines and several people placed orders. The champagne was particularly popular!

We have been very lucky over Christmas to have several young people volunteering in the shop during the school holidays. We always need volunteers so if you are 13 or over (no maximum age limit!) and are willing to give 2 hours of your time once a week or once a fortnight, not necessary at the same time each week, please let us know. It is fun, interesting and helps your community.

And finally, do you have any ideas for what we could sell in the shop? What would make you go to your local shop rather than drive to a supermarket? Even if you just buy one extra item from the Village Shop it will make a huge difference. Do let us know. The Community Shop belongs to the Community.

# CREATON NEWS

## Village Hall Update

After lockdown the Hall returned to a busy and successful year, however it did delay our plans to replace the kitchen. We seem to have overcome the damp problem by installing wider gutters, removing plaster and allowing the wall to dry out. We are getting quotes from kitchen supply firms but you will understand that if the old kitchen is removed it will have to be done when the hall is not in use, so the earliest possible time would be Easter. Your Committee has been in place for decades and we feel that we need new blood and new ideas, so please think about joining. It is not a big commitment and the hall is really important to the village. We look forward to hearing from you!

## FOSM History Group

The next meetings will be:

- Thursday 16th February Liz Tingle: The Rev Thomas Jones of Creaton - the vicar who lived in an Inn.
- Thursday 16th March Martin Tingle: Fraud in British Archaeology in the 20th Century.

We hope you will join us for these interesting talks, in good company and with complimentary refreshments. Members free, Guests £5

## St Michael and All Angels Church

Update on progress to improve facilities:

Creaton PCC is delighted to announce that we now have sufficient funds to instruct Goodfellows Builders to commence the reordering work in St Michael and All Angels Church previously discussed in our public meetings.

We are very grateful for generous grants received or pledged from 7 charities to the value of almost £41,000 which, together with our Fabric Fund built up through local fund raising over several years, will cover the cost of this work.

The project will install a fully accessible toilet attached to mains drainage, improve the servery area, remove 6 pews to provide a level clear area for socialising and re-site the font. The work is scheduled to start on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It is estimated to take 8 weeks, so hopefully will be ready for a celebration at Creaton in Bloom on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June!

We plan that the work to remove the gas central heating system and install radiant heaters will take place during the reordering process. However, we are still awaiting a Faculty (permission) from Peterborough Diocese before the work on changing the heating system can commence. This will divert some funds as it is essential to introduce a more economic and instant heating system suitable for the additional use we foresee the church attracting in the future. It will also make us a user of all green energy. We are postponing the screen to the tower arch until we have further funds.

We hope that you are as excited as we are that these plans to improve the church for the community are finally coming to fruition. Anyone interested in acquiring a vintage pew or radiator let us know!

## Creaton URC

You are warmly welcome to join us for our Sunday Worship and Junior Church.

Sunday	February	
5th 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
12th 11am	<b>Worship &amp; Holy Communion</b>	Jon Heard
19th 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
26th 11am		Rev Tim Huc
March		
5th 11am	<b>Worship &amp; Holy Communion</b>	Rev Geoff Townsend
12th 11am		Jon Heard
19th 11am	<b>Mothering Sunday Joint Service at St Michael's</b>	Rev Geoff Townsend
26th 11am		Rev Ann Jack

Poppies coffee shop is open Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10am to 12noon. You will be very welcome.

## Creaton Playing Fields Association

Charity No. 1085011

The Village Hall lights burned brightly as 76 brave participants took part in our annual quiz with Rod once again setting a fiendish set of questions to get everyone's grey matter stimulated. A total of 8.7kg (or 19.1lbs) of mixed cheeses were enjoyed together with crackers and bread.

Over £1,200 was raised towards our funds which will be used for the maintenance and running costs of the field.

Congratulations to the winners who enjoyed a prize of festive chocolates and wine and commiserations to our wooden spoon team who collected the traditional prize of baked beans. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the event. Everyone seemed to enjoy the night and we are planning another great quiz this year. Thanks must also go to the helpers on the night, as well as the individuals and local businesses who gave raffle prizes. We are also grateful to the hard-working staff of Creaton Shop who sold all of the tickets for us.

Hopefully 2023 will be a successful year for us all.



Mark Woollven  
Treasurer



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DOGS MUST BE ON A LEAD AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON THE FIELD



## Creaton Parish Council Contact Details:

**Parish Clerk:** You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on [creatonpc@gmail.com](mailto:creatonpc@gmail.com).

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website [www.creaton.org.uk](http://www.creaton.org.uk) and are also posted on the noticeboard. We also have a Facebook page.

## Parish Council Meeting dates 2023:

Meetings will continue to be held bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The meeting dates in 2023 are:

- 14<sup>th</sup> March
- 9<sup>th</sup> May
- 11<sup>th</sup> July
- 12<sup>th</sup> September
- 14<sup>th</sup> November

## Planning Applications:

Please look on the Daventry section of the West Northants Council website for full details of all Planning Applications.:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-planning-application>

## Website

If any village groups would like to update or add information to the new Parish Council website please contact the Parish Clerk.

## Christmas Tree

The Parish Council would like to thank Welford Christmas Tree Farm for their kind donation of the village Christmas tree on the Green.

## Horses On Pavements

The Parish Council has been notified of horses being ridden on pavements and on the 'Knick Knacks'. It is illegal to ride horses on pavements and we would urge horse riders to be considerate of the safety of others when riding in the village.

## Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has decided to go ahead with creating a Neighbourhood Plan and is thankful to Richard Hollingum and Parish Councillor Chris Reading for all their hard work in researching the process and reporting their findings to the Parish Council. The Parish Council is asking West Northamptonshire Council to carry out a housing needs survey which is needed to begin the process. We will keep you updated as this progresses.

## Highgate House

We expect that by now you will all be aware of the proposed plan by the Home Office to house 400 asylum seekers in Highgate House as well as the subsequent news that the Home Office have changed the requirements for housing asylum seekers which makes Highgate House unsuitable under the new rules.

Our Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January, where we would usually expect a handful of residents to attend to listen to discussions on budget setting and mowing contracts, had the biggest turnout we had ever seen with a large number of residents of Creaton and surrounding villages attending.



Although Serco, the Home Office and our MP Chris Heaton-Harris were unable to send representatives we are grateful to the officers and councillors from West Northants Council and the police who attended to answer questions.

The Parish Council would like to thank residents for completing the public participation run by Chris Heaton-Harris MP which was passed onto the Home Office for consideration. Full details of the correspondence sent to the MP stating that Highgate House will not be used currently to house asylum seekers can be found on his website: <https://www.heatonharris.com/>

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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## DOG WALKING

An additional sign (see photo) has been erected at the Playing Field Entrance, which says that dog walking is only allowed around the Field perimeter, which supplements the existing sign that says dogs should be on leads. CCTV has shown numerous parishioners not adhering to the request, especially those who use dog ball throwers on the playing surfaces. The GPFA have a responsibility to protect children and others from infections resulting from traces of dog faeces. Some local Playing Fields have banned dogs from their playing field.



The junior section for ages 9 to 16 is thriving. The Under 13s won their league, and were Rugby District Cricket League champions and cup winners. Coaches are needed for all junior age groups.

## FOOTBALL NEWS

West Haddon Junior Football Club have based two of their teams at the GPFA venue for the 2022/3 season (September – April), their U16s and their U11s. Both teams consists of boys from West Haddon and surrounding villages. The U11s team have a couple of girls on their team. As part of the use of the venue West Haddon JFC have committed to spend £6,000 per season on the pitches for each of the next 6 seasons. The money will be spent on re-seeding, fertiliser, aeration and verti-draining. The agreement with West Haddon JFC is however not exclusive and other teams can hire the venue when they're not using it. All bookings come directly through GPFA rather than WHJFC sub-letting the pitches. With the WHJFC investment in the pitches and the improved playing surfaces, it should become a desirable venue for other teams.



U16s play their 11-a-side matches on Sunday afternoon using the large pitch at the far end of the venue. The U11s play their 9-a-side matches on Saturday mornings, using the smaller pitch outside the pavilion.

## 2022 SUMMARY

In 2022 the Guilsborough Playing Field has been used extensively for A) Cricket: senior and junior cricket for men's and ladies teams, junior boys and girls teams B) Junior football teams at under 11s and 16s, C) Local schools' sports events D) Primary school sports, E) Informal football and cricket use of the football nets and wicket nets, F) Keep-fit exercise equipment. Funding the maintenance of the facility continues to be a challenge, and the GPFA welcomes parishioners onto its General Committee who are supportive of enabling sporting recreational facilities to many, especially juniors. The GPFA also welcomes companies to provide financial support through sponsorship and advertising at the Field.

## CRICKET NEWS

A very successful season for the seniors: 4 Saturday sides. 3 midweek sides, one a ladies. The Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI were Northants County T20 Cup winners and Northants Cricket League (NCL) Division 2 champions. The Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> team also secured promotion to Division 12 of the NCL. The season was also notable for the number of junior players moving into Senior Cricket some playing at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI level. Similar sides will run in the 2023 season, with 3 or 4 junior sides in addition to the 7 adult sides across Saturdays and Wednesdays.



## Guilsborough Tennis Club

at Guilsborough Academy ●●●●

**Welcomes new and existing members  
for the 2023 season!**

**Friendly club playing social tennis.**

**For more information contact Sarah Dalzell on 07917  
608238 or Graham Metcalfe on 07894 424328.**

## WillsDirect

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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



Happy New Year! As usual, our Autumn term was non-stop and packed with many fun festive activities! We wouldn't have it any other way.

Our Nativity play by Reception, Year 1 & 2 children was a real treat and I'm so proud of all children for their first-class performances. I'd like to thank all involved in putting this perfect production together.

We are very grateful to the FOGS and parents who joined us for our Disco and organised the amazing pantomime that was enjoyed by all. The children's faces were a picture!

Santa visited us and gave a special gift to everyone which put a magical smile on all the children's faces.

The children also really enjoyed their visit from the local fire station. They all got to understand the important job that the fire service does and our younger children got to see the fire engine! Also well done to our Drama Club who performed for parents and our whole school. We all enjoyed this very much.

Our Autumn term house team winners were WATER! They had a super chocolate treat afternoon. We also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, parties, and the very magical Christingle service at Guilsborough St. Etheldreda Church. We all thoroughly enjoyed the festive carols and Christmas atmosphere.

We know that our Spring term will be just as exciting for all of our Guilsborough family and we look forward to telling you all about it very soon!

If you need any information about what is happening, we have lots of information on our website

[www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk) or you can keep up to speed via our Twitter profile -

@guilsboroughpri or our YouTube channel (Guilsborough Primary).



## GUILSBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON ONE OF OUR REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

### NIA

Thursday evenings 6pm-7pm

(non impact aerobics or neuromuscular integrative activity)  
This is gentle whole body movement with an holistic approach to fitness for mind body and soul.

It combines dance, martial arts and mindfulness. Movement to feel good about.

Fancy a go?

Contact Carol Hay - a NIA brown belt  
[carol.nia@outlook.com](mailto:carol.nia@outlook.com)

Ravensthorpe Village Hall

## Art of Scandinavia

Our next course starting in February 2023 will be an exciting look at the art of Scandinavia. From the Vikings and their work in wood and metal, through the age of the Hanseatic League and its international connections to famous individuals such as Munch. Scandinavian Art is distinctive and surprising. This course is a chance to trace those developments and to put well-loved and familiar images into a wider context.

Lecturers: Pro Artium

**Five weeks** each Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Fee: £30

Venue: Ravensthorpe Village Hall, 1 High Street, NN6 8EH


Book your place with either: Mo Cobbe at

[mo@mikecobbe.com](mailto:mo@mikecobbe.com) Tel: 01604 328822

Or Graham Metcalfe at [gm@grahammetcalfe.net](mailto:gm@grahammetcalfe.net)

Tel: 07894 424328

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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Warm Spaces

The Parish Council is covering the costs of MMM in the Village Hall on Monday mornings until the end of March to enable parishioners to enjoy some warmth and company free of charge (see this page)

### Precept 2023-24

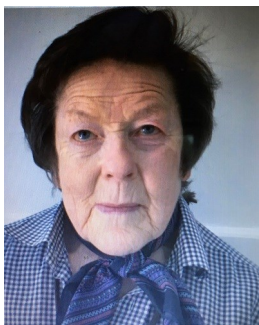
In view of the current economic climate the council has decided not to increase the levy it collects from parishioners next year.

### Vacancies

There are vacancies on the council. If you have an interest in Guilsborough and would like to be more involved with your community why not consider joining the council. It meets once a month and considers amongst other things, planning, finance and current village matters. If you are interested contact Carol, the Clerk, for more information ([guilsborough.pc@gmail.com](mailto:guilsborough.pc@gmail.com)).

### Sarah Jaggard

Sarah sadly passed away in December, she was Chair of The Council for many years and always an active and positive member of The Council. Sarah was a font of local knowledge— there was little she didn't know, which made her an exceptional asset to the Parish Council and other local bodies. She is fondly remembered and will be missed; we send our sympathies to her family.



### Katie Fulcher

Katie has recently stood down from the council after 10 years as a councillor, due to other commitments. She would like to thank all the councillors past and present who served with her over that time for their hard work and support.

### Coronation Save The Date

The coronation of King Charles III takes place on Saturday 6th May 2023. As a celebration of this very special event the Parish Council would like to invite all parishioners to afternoon tea in the Village Hall on Sunday 7th May (more details to follow in the next Village Link). The PC will also be buying a portrait of our new monarch to display in the Village Hall when one is available.

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

## CAROL SINGING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came along to Carol Singing in December and to those who listened and donated. A special thank you to Colonel and Mrs Evans who kindly welcomed us into their home to sing and gave us refreshments. We raised £150 for The Hope Centre in Northampton. The Hope Centre is a Community Charity for anyone in need, tackling poverty, housing and homelessness in and around Northampton, <https://www.northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/> They always welcome volunteers and often need donations - all detailed on their website.



# MMM



## Monday Morning Meet

Guilsborough Village Hall

9 – 11 am every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)

All welcome, baby – OAPs. Meet for a chat, knit, hot drink & cake.

Baby & toddler toys for youngsters.

**FREE TO ALL** until the end of March - the Parish Council is funding the group as part of the "Warm Spaces" initiative until the spring.

For more information contact Janet 01604 740640

Guilsborough Music & Drama Society

## The Three Musketeers

A comedy adventure  
by John Nicholson & Le Navet Be



23 - 25 MARCH

GMADS presents The Three Musketeers from 23-25 March in Guilsborough Village Hall, 7.30pm. You may think that you know this story – think again! GMADS presents its very own wacky version of this swashbuckling epic. Expect sword fights, intrigue, romance.....

Tickets £10 from **07899 891901** or  
[www.wegotickets.com/gmads](http://www.wegotickets.com/gmads)

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

Facebook: GMADS-Guilsborough Music & Drama Society



# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## STEAM & WHISTLE PUB NIGHT IN HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL

It was great to see a big turnout at Hollowell's Steam and Whistle pop-up-pub in the Village-Hall. There was a much lively debate and neighbourly banter over the table top quiz, which included puzzling logos, fiendish dingbat and an extremely tricky round featuring the silhouettes of European countries. Many familiar faces were present and we were particularly pleased to welcome some more recent arrivals to the village too. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the excellent beer from Phipps Brewery in Northampton (IPA and their new single hop variety Pale Ale called "Ernest"), along with the moreish hot nibbles. We were all too relaxed for a formal battle of Northamptonshire skittles at first, but Jez Morris had assembled a crack team of skittling pals who had come with the hope of a good contest. The one remaining member of the reigning champion team "Chequered History" quickly formed a new team and challenged Jez's four man team (named "PPOIKGE" after the most hotly debated dingbat [a pig in a poke]) to a one off, winner-takes-all, 8 round contest. Suffice it to say the trophy stayed with "Chequered History" with a whole round in hand! All played in excellent spirit and offered convivial congratulations all round. Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed their good cheer to such a lovely evening, and many thanks to all the members of the VH management committee who organised and

ran the event. Do join us again for the Pub Quiz night on Friday 24th Feb.

## HOPEWELL COFFEE AND A CHAT

We don't know if it is the home-baked cakes and pod coffee, or the conversation, but the last few Hopewell Coffee mornings of the year were particularly well attended.



Usually the last Friday in the month 10am to 12 noon in the Village Hall. The new dates for spring are Friday 24th February and Friday 24th March.

For more information please call Paul Charter on 07780 265614 or email: [wearehopewell@gmail.com](mailto:wearehopewell@gmail.com).

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



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# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## STEAM RALLY PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER

52 of our more senior local residents gathered in Creaton Village Hall in early December to be treated by the Hollowell Steam Team to a delicious Christmas dinner. Field Mushroom Soup and Roast turkey with a mouth-watering array of vegetables were followed by Christmas pud and mince pies.

Jolly seasonal entertainment was provided by Dr Busker, aka Steve Baldock who played the piano and accordion as well as singing heartily. There was a surprise visit from the glamorous Snow White with her unexpectedly large seven dwarves, as well as from Father Christmas.

A heartfelt farewell and thanks were given to Allen Eaton as he is finally handing over the organisation of the Steam Rally to the new team led by Neil Byrd.

Thank you again to Allen and Jane and to the truly outstanding team of volunteers. Their guests left with full stomachs and even fuller hearts.



**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

7.00 for 7.30 kick off!



***A great social night for everyone!***

Great Beers and Wines

Hot nibbles

Laughter and Fun is Guaranteed!

Maximum of 6 per team

£3 per person quiz entry fee

Get your teams sorted now!

If you are not in a team when you come, we can fit you into one on the night...but no obligation!

Non players are more than welcome

**It's Quiz Night!**



*All proceeds go towards the Village Hall refurbishment fund!*

# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## THE GRIGOR WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS

As in so many other parts of the country, the weeks running up to Christmas were dominated by conversations and messages on the Hollowell village WhatsApp group about lost and missing parcels. Most of these delayed packages were in the hands of Evri (formally Hermes) couriers and seemed to be stuck in their system.

Hands were wrung in despair as Christmas crept ever closer and then a tiny miracle happened. Word reached Hollowell that a young couple living in Guilsborough worked as third party couriers for Evri and were trying to deliver the back-log of parcels that were stagnating at the Evri depot.

Quick as a flash a sub committee of helpful distribution elves was formed and the couple, Grigor and Ranete, were contacted. On Christmas Eve morning, the village hall was thrown open as a collection depot and forty-one parcels were sorted and distributed to some very happy recipients.

Huge thanks to all involved especially Grigor and Ranete and to Hollowell's logistics experts, Karen and Adam Shuter, who took the lead in setting up a distribution hub and, with the help of Viv, John and Andy, had everything delivered in less than two hours. If only a donkey could have been involved!

## HOLLOWELL CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



It was a joy to have our little church full of carollers on Christmas Eve.

The 6.30pm service attracted about 55 villagers including families and babies. Aably led by James Bonser on the organ we sang favourite Christmas carols and heard the nativity story from the Bible, read by Pauline, Theresa, Gill, Claire and Amy. The service incorporated Christingles which were much enjoyed by children and those young at heart, and ended with candlelit singing of our final carol. Many lingered over refreshments afterwards so there was an opportunity to catch up with old friends and new. It felt that by sharing such a warm and meaningful experience together we had encountered the very heart of Christmas.

All proceeds went towards the work of The Children's Society who work with children in the UK in all kinds of need.

Rev Caroline



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BASED IN CREATON



## VILLAGE HALL LOTTO WINNERS

Sean Cooksley  
Chrystal Baker Bates  
John Benjamin  
Sarah Blatch  
Jan Craig  
Jan Winterburn  
Mandy Crutchley  
Julia Green

# THORNBY NEWS

## JUBILLE TREE PLANTING

In memory of our dear Queen Elizabeth, Thornby has planted two donated trees on the verge just below the Red Lion. The planting group was organised by Peter Moyes, Chair of Thornby Parish Meeting. The group had a busy hour digging out the holes for these trees. Being in such a prominent position, the trees will easily be seen and appreciated by villagers in the years to come. There is a commemorative plaque in front of the top tree.



## VILLAGE HALL MUSICAL BINGO

I'm pleased to announce we raised a whopping £305 and all enjoyed a fantastic evening full of fun, singing and a lot of laughter. Fantastic support from Villagers, we had a full table of children that kept us all entertained with their singing and dancing. Many thanks to all that supported us, donated prizes and helped to make this event such a success. A huge thank you to Michelle Booth for helping to organise and compare the Bingo. Massive thanks to Simon and Louise - The Red Lion - for donating a meal voucher for the raffle and to Holly, Alex and Lucy at [www.honeywellbakes.com](http://www.honeywellbakes.com) for donating our Bingo Prizes and Raffle Prizes. We are so thankful to you all for your generosity helping us to raise funds for our little Village Hall. If anyone would like to join our small committee please PM me.

The Village Hall Committee  
Lin, Rose, Alex, Nigel, Michelle, Russ, Sue and Mike.

## VILLAGE HALL EQUIPMENT

Residents of the village are welcome to borrow Village Hall equipment for private functions, Christmas parties or extra guests.

- 6 x small tables ( 4 seater)
- 6 x large tables (6 seater)
- 21 x covered chairs
- 48 x plastic chairs
- 2 x gazebos 3mx3m
- an array of mix sized glassware

No charges applicable however, donations would be greatly appreciated to support the upkeep of our Village Hall. Please note you will be liable for any damages or loss.

To secure all bookings and requests please contact Alex Todd, Warriner House [alex.t@trucklink.eu.com](mailto:alex.t@trucklink.eu.com)

Online Links to support the Village Hall:

For details of Easyfundraising and smile.amazon please see the village link website ([www.villagelink.org.uk](http://www.villagelink.org.uk)) or previous editions of village link



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## Thornby Village Hall

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Contact Alex Todd - 07872839199



It seems to help us get through life when we break it down into manageable portions of time. We start with the four seasons which helpfully divide up the twelve months of the year into three month stretches.

Something I noticed last September when Strictly Come Dancing came onto our TV screens once again, is that reality TV shows are another way seasons are marked out and time is divided into chunks; I heard someone say, 'You know Christmas is coming when Strictly starts.' and yes, it does track those months after our summer holidays through until Christmas. Strictly is followed in January by Dancing on Ice and along will come The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great British Bake Off and several others.

In fact there seems to be a reality TV show for everyone, cooking, pottery, woodwork - they're all out there. Some demonstrate the best in humanity with creativity and mutual support whilst others reveal the worst with backbiting and one-upmanship. But whichever ones we follow, we can find ourselves invested in the lives and concerns of complete strangers, or of celebrities we'd never heard of before, and genuinely caring about who ends up the last person standing. What these shows can do is give us a focus and a start and end date for a chunk of time, and perhaps this helps us pick our way through a life that's often complicated and sometimes painful. I've written before about the seasons that the Church keeps

and this is another way we divide up time. The Church seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter are a way to help us to experience more deeply the story of God working in the world through Jesus. If TV reality shows and Church seasons are similar in that they both serve the purpose of marking out time, there's a glaring and vitally important difference between them. Reality TV shows invariably have the format of exclusion – one contestant after another is eliminated until only one remains. There are often tears and a sense of loss when this happens.

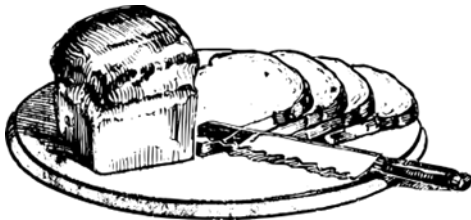
The Church's seasons on the other hand, are, at their best, about inclusion; they're about an ever-growing group of people being drawn into the story of God's love, to be supported, healed and blessed by the communities they join.

I'm not about to stop following Strictly Come Dancing or the Sewing Bee (my two favourites) but as I watch contestants going home feeling sad and a bit rejected I remember that there is another reality where no one is sent away. God's love, expressed through God's Church, is all embracing and ever-welcoming.



Rev Caroline Burnett

## LENT LUNCH



Saturday 11th March  
12 – 2pm  
Guilsborough Village Hall  
High Street  
Guilsborough

Offers of soup or cheese are welcome.  
Tickets or Pay on the door  
£6 Adults  
£3 Children

Craft activities for children

Donations of items for the Hope Centre are welcome.

Contact - Janet: 01604 740640



Guilsborough's Remembrance Tree

# CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group Of Churches – Service Planner February and March 2023										
	5 <sup>th</sup> February 3 <sup>rd</sup> Before Lent	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Lent	19 <sup>th</sup> February Next before Lent	22 <sup>nd</sup> February Ash Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup> February Lent 1	5 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 2	12 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 3	19 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 4/Mothering	26 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 5/Passion	2 <sup>nd</sup> April Palm Sunday
	Green	Green	Green	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple/Rose	Purple	Red
Cold Ashby		10.00 Group Service			9.30 BCP Communion		10.00am Group Service		9.30am BCP Communion	10.00am Group Service
Cottesbrooke	11.00 BCP Communion	Hollowell				11.00am BCP Communion				Spratton
Creation	9.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion			9.30am BCP Communion		9.30am Moth Sun Service		
Gulfsborough	11.00 CW Communion		8.30 BCP Communion	9.30am Communion	9.30 CW Communion	11.00am CW Communion	11.00 Moth Sun Brunch in church	11.00 Moth Sun Brunch in church	9.30am CW Communion	
			5.00 BCP Evensong				5.00pm BCP Evensong			
Hollowell			11.00 BCP Morning Prayer		11.00 CW Communion			11.00am Moth Sun Service	11.00 CW Communion	
Ravensthorpe	8.30 BCP Communion		9.30 CW Communion		11.00am Worship for All	8.30am BCP Communion		9.30am Moth Sun Service	11.00am Worship for All	
Spratton	11.00 Worship for All		8.30 BCP Communion	8.45am Hall School Service	11.00am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Communion	11.00 CW Communion	
Thornby	9.30am BCP Communion					9.30am BCP Communion				

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SAME MAN,  
NEW VAN!



## FOR SALE

**Firewood for sale.** Mainly solid oak timber off cuts. 1 large bag (around 20 kg) for £10. All money raised will go towards Ukraine Appeal. Free delivery only, to arrange call Paul Kuznecovs on 07939597604

## Buckby Library & Hub

Our **monthly films**: on February 28<sup>th</sup> we are showing *Ticket to Paradise*, and on March 28<sup>th</sup>, it will be *The Lost King*. You can get your tickets at the library and the Peephole in Long Buckby High Street: £6. Doors open 7-7.30pm and refreshments are available.

**Warm space:** Buckby Library & Hub is a registered warm space. We are open continuously between 10am-4.30pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; also Wednesday afternoons (self-service, 2-4pm) and Saturday mornings (10-12.30). Our usual refreshments are available until midday, and there is a free hot drink station from 12-4pm.

**E-newsletter:** we have started an electronic newsletter with information about forthcoming activities and events. If you wish to sign up for it, please phone, pop into the library or email us – see below for details. Why not join the library if you are not already a member? It's free and there are no strings attached. You don't need to be a member to come to our hub events and activities, however being a member helps to show that the library is a much needed part of our lives. And you can have a good read for free!

<https://buckbylibraryhub.org>; phone: 01327 842591; email: [info@buckbylibraryhub.org](mailto:info@buckbylibraryhub.org).

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## Village Link Christmas Poetry & Picture Winners



Congratulations!!!