



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS FOR ALL

King Charles III will be crowned on Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey and readers will have plenty of opportunity to join in the local celebrations. Highlights for you here, in chronological order, and more information can be found on the village pages.

Hollowell

Friday 5th May

7pm - 10:30pm

Steam & Whistle Pub Night, Skittles & Quiz

Ring for the King!

On **Saturday 6th May** bell ringers will be joining forces around the country for a coordinated peal of bells to celebrate the Coronation. The team at St Etheldreda's are taking part and will be back again for Church services on the Sunday. Let's hope they've had their Weetabix!

Thornby

Sunday 7th May

Farm Walk with refreshments 10am
Songs of Praise 5pm

Cold Ashby

Sunday 7th May

Big Lunch & Right Royal Knees Up, times to be confirmed



Cottesbrooke

Sunday 7th May

Fun, food and drinks at the Village Hall, details to be confirmed

Creton

Sunday 7th May

from 12 noon

Picnic on the Green

Bring your own everything!

Singalong with the Creton Singers at 3pm

Guilsborough

Monday 8th May

12 noon to 6pm

Coronation Picnic at Guilsborough Court

Bring your own everything!

Photo booth, ice creams, live music.

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WHAT'S ON

APRIL

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby events
7th Easter MMM Guilsborough
8th Creton Walkers
10th SSPPG Health Walk, Great Oxendon, see back page
11th Guilsborough Tennis Club AGM
12th Creton WI
13th Friends Talk Guilsborough
15th Plant & Seed Exchange Cottesbrooke
19th SSPPG AGM, 6:30pm Brixworth Surgery
20th - FOSM History Group, Creton
22nd Hollowell Big Breakfast
29th Village Tidy Up Guilsborough 10am
29th Free Creative Workshop at St Andrew's Spratton, see back page.

MAY

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby events
5th Hollowell Coronation Pub night
7th Open Gardens Guilsborough 1-5pm
7th Coronation Picnic, Creton
7th Creton Singers on The Green, Creton
8th Coronation Picnic Guilsborough 12:00
11th Friends Outing Guilsborough
13th Creton Walkers
24th Hollowell Hopewell Cafe

AND REGULARLY ...

Monday mornings MMM, evenings Knitwits Guilsborough; Tuesday evenings, Creton Singers; Thursday mornings Indoor bowls, Creton; 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.

BROWN OWL TO VISIT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

On 3rd February, a letter arrived for me from the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson. This was an invitation to His Majesty The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 9th May. As you can imagine, I was so surprised and honoured to be nominated. Amanda Lowther put forward my name in recognition of my 45 years as a Brownie Guider, with 41 years as Brown Owl with 1st Guilsborough Brownies.

I have had so many Brownies in our unit over the years, including all three of Amanda and Hugh Lowther's daughters.

I have always enjoyed Brownies. They have great enthusiasm, learning new skills and gaining badges, which they love!

My husband Graham is to accompany me to the garden party and we are looking forward to a memorable 'once in a lifetime' experience.

Mary Fowler, Brown Owl



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VILLAGE LINK

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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Cheques payable to 'Village Link'

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
Main copy by Monday 1st May 2023 and Coronation event photos by Tuesday 9th May

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Climate Change and Community Groups

The connection between climate change and community groups might seem a bit tenuous, especially when the groups in question are not 'about' the environment! But one of the unexpected benefits of the Covid lockdown in many of our villages has been the formation of community support groups, and in Guilsborough, that includes two community groups that have reduced waste, reduced car journeys, saved money, built connections and skills, and even launched new careers! Village Link spoke to some of the people involved to find out more ...

It started with a 9ft Eucalyptus Tree ...



In October 2021 an elderly resident who Gary Ashworth was supporting during lockdown asked for help with getting rid of a large Eucalyptus tree in a pot. Gary says: "At the time, I thought, well that's too good to throw away, surely someone local will want it? So, I set up a recycling WhatsApp group named after Noel Edmonds Swap Shop programme from the 1970s". It's

grown by word of mouth, with members asking other people to be added. Today the group has over 100 members and since it started an estimated 800 items have been offered for free (or low charge) within Guilsborough. Items don't have to be 'swapped' as such, they range from kitchenware and furniture to jigsaw puzzles, books, exercise equipment and clothing. Members can also put out requests for specific items before buying new or looking further afield. The group has a few basic rules, and it's mostly self-policing: "Please allow everyone to have an opportunity to say they would like something. If you think a relative or friend would like something, please ask them before commenting on the post. Gary also advises new joiners: "If you want money for something, be upfront about it, 99% is FOC though. It's first come first served. Once you have agreed the swap, take it offline so that everyone doesn't have to read your delivery messages."

Agony Aunt for all things 'plant'

Another Guilsborough community group that came out of lockdown is the WhatsApp Gardening Group, where Gay Webster is the resident Agony Aunt. Says Gay: "I was approached by Ruth Harper back in Spring 2020. Ruth wanted to create a supportive group where people could share knowledge and cuttings and the like. I was happy to join and be on hand to advise and support if needed. Today it's my neighbour Sue McGlasson who does the admin role, adding people to the group on request. There are 48 of us currently, and new people are made welcome." Members of the group save money and waste by sharing seeds, purchasing in bulk, and getting better at what they do. In 2020 they bulk bought one hundred and forty 60 litre bags of compost saving themselves £2.30 per bag. Adds Gay: "Growing things from seed can be so hit and miss, with germinations ranging from 3 to 100, the group has enabled us to experiment without committing to a whole packet of seeds, and to share things easily. Repurposing success stories include the former Guinea Pig hutch that became a cabbage planter or the loo rolls cores that housed sweet peas." A couple of members of the group have even decided to explore careers in horticulture! Perhaps the biggest benefit of the group has been social. Says Gay: "The group has been a way of getting to know people and been very supportive. We all feel better connected with people in the village." To join the Guilsborough Gardening WhatsApp Group contact Sue McGlasson on 07816 789556.



Sue McGlasson with her swap shop gym mat and plant pots!



Once a home for Guinea pigs, with the top removed it becomes a planter for cabbages ...

The average UK household spends £177 a year on plants, flowers, seeds, fertilisers and insecticides for their gardens.

Source: Office for National Statistics



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COLD ASHBY NEWS



COLD ASHBY SKITTLES

Congratulations go to the Cold Ashby Skittles team, now based at the Memorial Hall, on a great winter season. They have been playing twice a week during the winter and finished runners up in The Pytchley League on Wednesdays and third in the Welford and District League on Fridays. They also went on to win The Loake Cup in a very close contest with The Knightley Arms.

A thank you goes to both teams who played and have ensured the long tradition of Northamptonshire skittles continues in the village. We wish them the best of luck for the summer season which restarts in May.

THE KING'S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Cold Ashby Village Coronation celebrations will be taking place on Sunday 7th May at the Memorial Hall. Everyone is invited to join us for the Coronation Big Lunch and Right Royal Knees up.

We will be hosting the celebrations, inviting you to bring your own picnic and join us at the Memorial Hall for fun, games, and live music. More information will be delivered round to each household in the village nearer the time.



THE WALTON'S CHARITY QUIZ

Pete and Jo Walton would like to thank everyone who joined them for their annual charity quiz back in February. It was a fabulous evening with 14 teams taking part. It was a close finish but the team "Simon would have known" were crowned champions and took first place. Over £450 was raised and will be shared between St Denys Church and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR APRIL AND MAY

Everyone is welcome to join us for the following events and residents' support will ensure that we are able to keep these important village facilities open and provide opportunities for entertainment, social interaction and keep the village pool and skittle teams going. The skittle team summer fixtures will be published in May once they are finalised.

Date	Event	Venue	Details
Sat 8 th April	Children's Easter Egg Hunt Social Evening and Easter Raffle	Memorial Hall	TBC Open from 7.30pm
Sat 22 nd April	St George's Day Celebration: Beef Stew and Bullseye gameshow	Memorial Hall	£5 for beef /veg stew and dumplings. Free entry for Bullseye. Open from 7:30pm
Mon 24 th April	Pool CA v Crown	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm
Tues 25 th April	Film night	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm £5 includes cheese and wine
Sun 7 th May	Village Coronation Celebrations	Memorial Hall	TBC Open from 2.30pm
Mon 15 th May	Pool: CA v Moulton WMC B	Pavilion	Open from 7.30pm
Sat 20 th May	Merry Comrades May Day Reunion Tea and Social Evening	Memorial Hall	£5 for May Day Tea. Open from 5pm
Tues 23 rd May	Film night	Pavilion	£5 includes cheese and wine. Open 7.30pm

SAVE THE DATE!
 Cold Ashby Open Gardens will take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July from 2-6pm. More information about the event will follow in the next edition.

EVENTS AT COLD ASHBY MEMORIAL HALL

Thank you to everyone who attended the popular village quiz at the end of January and made it such an enjoyable event. Special thanks to Dave Harris who designed and hosted the quiz.

February saw the return of our ever-popular Race Night where great fun was had by all betting on pre-recorded horse races using a stake of Monopoly money. Congratulations goes to John Stokes who was our champion gambler. Special thanks go to our brilliant bookmakers Steve and Kenny Roper who did such a great job as always and ensured that everyone had an enjoyable evening.

COTTESBROOKE NEWS

BRILLIANT BINGO, BANGERS & MASH QUIZ NIGHT

On 3 March, the Village Hall hosted the popular Bingo, Bangers & Mash Quiz Night. With a lively atmosphere, over 50 attendees and delicious food provided by Chambers Butchers in Brixworth, Maria's Pies & Catering in Moulton and Spratton Hall catering, the event was a resounding success.

Many thanks to all who attended. Our village events are always such a success due to our wonderful community of people who are so kind, fun-loving and always willing to help when needed.

CORONATION PLANS

Save the date for our village Coronation Event on Sunday, 7 May. Fun, food & drinks! Leaflets will be distributed with further event details.

For any questions or to RSVP, please email
CottesbrookeVHC@gmail.com

Upcoming Community Coffee Mornings

April 15 : Plant and Seed Exchange

May : World Bee Day - local honey available to purchase on the day, £5 per jar

June : King Charles' Birthday Party

MIKE ROBERTS

On Friday, 20 January, All Saints Church hosted a Service of Thanksgiving for our dear friend and neighbour Mike Roberts. The standing room only service was conducted by The Reverend Allison Twigg. A beautiful eulogy was delivered by Mike's son-in-law and readings made by his grandchildren. Mike touched so many lives with his humour, generosity and genuine interest in people. He was an important and supportive member of our community and is sadly missed by all who knew him.

The following is a poem written and read by Mike's grandson, Archie Sale at the service. We have been given permission to print his touching words.

A Poem for Gramps

In Cottesbrooke, the flowers grow,
Between Summer gardens, out on show;
Slow dog walks, card games, Granny Sue,
Sky spirits special, Sunday crosswords, much laughter too.

Across Northampton he is known,
As Mr Potter, Turk and Skip, but most of all - Gramps.
These are phrases we've heard as we've grown- Cheerio!
Cheers! Shall we open a bottle? To your good health! Now
then young lad, what mischief have you been up to?
From young kids to young adults, to first time parents and
first time grandparents.
Under Gramps, oh how we've grown.

Travel now to the Malvern Hills.
And from Worcestershire Beacon, look out and you'll see,
the County which raised him, where he loved to be.
You'll see Bromsgrove College, Malvern, tanneries and church
spires.
You'll see cricket pitches, hockey fields, friends and adventures,
fill your heart's desire.

And through all this sadness, remember:
If you can laugh and smile,
If you can chuckle and grin,
If you play for the fun of it and not just to win, If you can fill
the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds of friends, family,
good cheer and fun,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and-
Which is more-you'll be like Mike, my son.

So in Cottesbrooke the flowers will grow.
And on the Malvern Hills time will slow.
These are the places where he now rests.
These are the ways to remember him best.

COTTESBROOKE HALL & GARDENS



National Garden Scheme
Sunday 23rd April 2pm - 5.30pm


Hall & Gardens open 1st May to 28th September


May & June: Weds & Thurs 2pm - 5.30pm
July, Aug & Sept: Thurs only 2pm - 5.30pm
Plus Bank Holiday Mondays (May - Sept) 2pm - 5.30pm
Coronation Bank Holiday: Monday 8th May - CLOSED
5-18th June: Hall and Gardens CLOSED

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**Please visit our website for the
latest information & updates**

www.cottesbrooke.co.uk 01604 505 808

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cottesbrooke.estate 



Creaton WI

On 12th April we are looking forward to welcoming back local historian, Roy Smart, as our guest speaker. His presentation will be about the amazing aviation pioneer, Beryl Markham, who, in 1936, became the first person to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic from England to North America. She was also one of the first "bush pilots" in Africa.

This promises to be a fascinating talk, please do join us in Creaton United Reformed Church at 7.30 p.m.

Other exciting events we are planning this year include a visit to a donkey sanctuary, cheese and chutney tasting, and belly dancing!

For more information contact President, Daphne Clark, on 01604 505546, or email wicreaton@gmail.com.



Creaton Singers

Plans for the Coronation and Creaton in Bloom are in full swing, so the Creaton Singers are busy practising for 2 concerts!

On Sunday 7th May at 3pm the singers are putting on a free concert, hopefully on The Green after the 'Picnic on the Green', or if wet in the URC. There will be lots of opportunities to join in with familiar songs from across the UK so do come along.

Sunday 4th June is Creaton in Bloom, so, as per tradition, the Creaton Singers will be entertaining visitors having tea in the URC. We will sing for about 20 minutes at 2:30pm and then again at 3pm, allowing visitors to come and go, as this is not a concert, just some entertainment whilst enjoying a delicious cream tea.

If you are interested in joining this friendly group of singers, we meet at the URC on Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm. Newcomers always welcome.

Creaton Walkers

Spring is in the air and the Creaton Walking Group have been enjoying the burst of flowers, starting with snowdrops, progressing to daffodils and now a full explosion of colour!

The March walk, kindly led by Barry, took in the villages of Little Brington, Whilton, Long Buckby and ended at the newly refurbished pub in Great Brington.

April's walk is a foray over the border into Leicestershire to sample both their well-marked paths (we love the yellow signposts) and their local fayre.

If you enjoy exploring the local countryside, do join this friendly group. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at Creaton lychgate at 10am for an 8 mile walk followed by an optional pub lunch. Well-behaved dogs welcome.

Next walks are on:

Saturday 8th April

Saturday 13th May



St Michael and All Angels

Update on progress to install a toilet and improve the server: After 4 years of consultation and planning we now have a date for the reordering project to commence! This is Tuesday April 11th with completion by end of May 2023. The Church will remain open for services and private prayer during the building work. Works outside of the Church will start on 15th March. The PCC's plan is that the works will all be completed for Creaton in Bloom on Sunday 4th June when there will be a Flower Festival in the Church and a celebratory Songs of Praise service in the evening. So do put this date in your diaries!

We will have 6 Victorian oak pews for sale. If you are interested in buying one please contact Ruth Davies on

ruth@creaton.me.uk

FOSM History Group

St. Michael's church is undergoing building work so the next meeting is at the United Reform church on the High Street. Thursday 20th April: The Battle of Edgcote - a battle, a betrayal and a barmaid.

Do come and join us for a fascinating talk followed by complimentary refreshment.

Members free. Guests £5

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CREATON NEWS

Over The Counter

Creaton Village Shop is delighted to announce that they have appointed Adam Perrins-May as their Manager. Adam joined the team last year as a Management Trainee and is studying part time at the University of Northampton. We are especially pleased that Adam grew up in Creaton, so is truly local!

We were also very sorry to hear that Sue Tew broke her ankle whilst on holiday. We all wish her a very speedy recovery.

The thank you party for staff and volunteers, which included a presentation to Bev French, was a great success and much fun was had by all. Many thanks to the organising and catering team and especially to those who came along. It was a good opportunity to chat informally and let our staff and volunteers know how much we appreciate them.

Always on the lookout for new local products, our range is always changing so do pop in and have a look. The in-house bakery range now includes Apple Crowns and Chocolate Chip cookies, and over Easter look out for hot cross buns, Easter eggs and seasonally flavoured ice cream. Well worth a try!

With summer holidays approaching and no school, if you are 13 or over please consider volunteering. It is great fun and you learn lots of new skills, as well as it looking good on your personal statement!



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Creaton URC

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

Sunday 2nd 11am 9th 11am	April Palm Sunday Easter Sunday Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend Jon Heard
16th 11am 23rd 11am 30th 11am	Joint Service at Kilsby May Worship & Holy Communion	Vaughan Griffiths Rev Geoff Townsend
7th 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
14th 11am 21st 11am 28th 11am		Andrew Howes Lindsey Cole Rev Tim Huc

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

Reg Thomas

You may already have heard that Reg Thomas died peacefully in his sleep on 13th February with two of his sons by his side.

He and his wife Jean became members at Creaton URC in 2003 when they moved from Northampton. Reg had been an active member at Broadmead Baptist Church.

Reg had run the Northampton branch of TORCH at Bethany Homestead until the last few months and had served on the Creaton Parish Council until recently. His wife Jean died in 2022. He was a much loved member of the church and community who will be sorely missed.

**No room in the garage
or the attic?**



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Creaton Parish Council Contact Details:

Parish Clerk: You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on creatonpc@gmail.com.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website 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:

- 9th May;
- 11th July;
- 12th September
- 14th 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>

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 9th May. Village groups are welcome to attend to give a report on their activities or can email a copy of their report which we will add to the website. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow at 7.30pm.

Reg Thomas

We were extremely sad to learn of the passing of former long serving parish councillor Reg Thomas. Reg joined the parish council in March 2007 and stepped down in May 2018. He was well known in the village due to his kind friendly nature and willingness to help a variety of village groups.

Reg continued to support the parish council long after he stepped down and would regularly post notices on the noticeboard, carry out checks to the defibrillator and check the street lights. He was also a volunteer driver for DACT and a supporter of the playing field, regularly emptying their bins for many years and collecting litter. He was also a member of the URC.

Nothing was ever too much trouble for Reg and he always had a practical solution for everything. Once on arriving at the village hall for a council meeting to find it had been double booked by dancers he didn't hesitate to open the URC for them and made a number of trips to drive them there, leaving everyone happy with the outcome!

Reg's dedication to volunteering his time to both the parish council and the village was recognised in 2019 when the Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils awarded him an invitation to the Queen's Garden Party. He thoroughly

enjoyed the experience with his wife Jean, who was his mainstay.

Reg brought a big smile and a sense of humour to any parish council meeting he attended. To show their appreciation the parish council was pleased to gift him with a falconry experience to share with Jean when he retired as a parish councillor. Below is one of the many photos he shared expressing what fun they had. He will be greatly missed.



CREATON
in bloom

Open Gardens

Sunday 4th June

Open Gardens, BBQ, Beer & Pimms Tent,
Cream Teas, Live Music, Fire Engine,
Classic and Sports car display, Craft Stalls,
Flower Festival and more!

£6.00 to view all gardens
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Proceeds to St. Michael and All Angels Church and other local charities

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GENERAL NEWS

The GPFA is delighted to announce its new Chairman, Freddie de Lisle, who has recently moved into Nortoft. His predecessor, Simon Smith, is stepping down after 5 years, and was thanked sincerely at the recent Annual General Meeting for his stewardship and especially his fundraising contribution. He is to continue as a corresponding GPFA committee member. Other General Committee members for 2023, are: Vice-Chairman: Mike Edwards, Treasurer: Milly Plant, Secretary: Graham Byars, Health & Safety: Gary Wakelin, Cricket: Jim Houghton, Football: Marc Garrett, Corresponding members: Mark Webster, Stephen O'Connor, Sam Darbyshire, Ged Lowry, Kit Woolridge (Guilborough School).

The GPFA were nominated for 'The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service' but although not successful, our work in the community was very much admired by an independent National Assessment Committee. If the GPFA had been successful, the award is the highest accolade given to volunteer groups across the UK, and Sir Martyn Lewis, Chair of the QAVS National Assessment Committee said the nomination represents a tremendous achievement for the GPFA. He also said that the excellent work the GPFA does and the enormous benefits from it were very much admired by the assessors and said it was very clear that the GPFA plays a vital role in supporting the local community.

The GPFA needs to raise funds for its annual fixed costs of £12,000, and will soon be launching an appeal to parishioners and others.

A meeting was held in early February between West Northants Council's Highway (WHCH), Guilborough Parish Council (GPC), the GPFA, Guilborough Academy, and the Northants Police. The outcome was that the GPC were to make proposals to WNCH for why resolutions are needed to a) the damage done to the verge from the Academy to the Guilborough Playing Field by parents parking their cars whilst delivering and collecting their children and b) The traffic jams on the West Haddon Road at school start and finish times and c) why an improved footway to the Playing Field is needed. The GPC



Club night on **11th April** is free for new players, and all villages are welcome! The AGM takes place afterwards at The Witch & Sow.

STOP PRESS: Special low price membership offer, just **£10 per household** for 2023

For more information contact Sarah Dalzell on 07917 608238, Graham Metcalfe on 07894 424328 or email guilboroughtennis@gmail.com



needs to consider whether it will contribute to any project cost. The WNCH would then assess these proposals, prioritise them against other submissions, and subsequently decide if and when to investigate potential traffic management schemes in the vicinity,

including additional parking areas, plus an improved footway to the Guilborough Playing Field.

CRICKET NEWS

Preparations for the 2023 season are in full swing at Haddon CC which is based at Guilborough playing field and at grounds in East and West Haddon. The club runs 6 senior men's teams across the Northamptonshire and Rugby District Leagues as well as a ladies team ("the hombies"). We offer both competitive and social cricket to suit all abilities and experience, our first XI were Northamptonshire Division two champions in 2022 and will compete in Division 1 this year. We also run junior sides across U11, U13 and U15 ages as well as popular All Star and Dynamo programmes for the ages 5-9. We are always looking to welcome new players or supporters of all ages, please contact jim.houghton72@outlook.com or on 07748920176 for more information.


MISSING TREES

Neighbours may have noticed that two fine trees (an Ash and a Beech) have disappeared from the roadside as you leave Guilborough towards Hollowell.

Sadly, both were felled because they would have presented a hazard if left standing. The Ash tree revealed significant fungus growth following hedge trimming last Autumn; and the Beech was tested using a "Picus Tomograph", which revealed a "dramatic increase in decay since the previous test", with the recommendation that "it should be removed by felling as soon as possible".

Very sad but hopefully compensated by new planting elsewhere.
John McCall, Guilborough House

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Merrick Bowles, DSA ADI
01604 740138
Towing instruction also available.

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Spring Term has been filled with lots of exciting activities and learning. We were very proud of our children who took part in all of our sporting events and tournaments this term ... we added

to our trophy cabinet so much that it's now overflowing!! Thank you to Niall our Pacesetter Sports Lead for supporting these events and also for the super PE sessions that have taken place throughout the Spring Term.

We had a very special visitor to our school in February, GB Olympic Swimmer Joe Roebuck! We all had a fantastic time getting to know him and his inspiring journey to competing in Commonwealth Games, World Championships and the 2012 Olympics.

Our visit to St Etheldreda Church put a smile on lots of children's faces for our end of half term service. The children sang beautifully and listened so well to Revd. Allison during the service. We were very proud of them.

Year 5 completed their trip to the Rock UK Frontier Centre for an exciting PDET Maths adventure day. They took part in many challenges and all came back to school bursting with problem solving strategies. It was a super day enjoyed by all. Our Safer Internet day was full of information and all classes shared their learning of how to stay safe online in our assembly worship.

We also enjoyed another super World Book Day on 2nd March where we got to celebrate the wonderful world of books, authors and adventure (photo below). A special thank you to Jenny Wilson for our super Matilda drama workshops across the whole school.

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

www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk or you can keep up to speed via our Twitter profile - @guilsboroughpri or our YouTube channel (Guilsborough Primary).



Coronation of King Charles III

GUILSBOROUGH VILLAGE PICNIC

May 8th 2023, 12pm until 6pm

On the lawn of Guilsborough Court,
NN6 8QW



Live Music

Photo Booth

Ice Cream

Bring your own picnic and drinks

Bring your own chairs, tables or picnic rug

Parking available through the gate near the allotments on Cold
Ashby Road, (look for bunting) toilet facilities available

If you would like to run a stall at the event, contact Amanda: 01604 740791

Many thanks to Hugh Lowther for providing the beautiful setting

Please ensure that you take all your litter home with you

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Village Tidy Up - This annual event will take place this year on Saturday April 29th at 10am, meeting at The Village Hall. Many hands will make light work of this! Please bring brushes and shovels, we'll provide bags, litter pickers and HV vests.

Coronation In the last edition of Village Link we reported that we would be inviting everyone to an afternoon teaBUT...due the date clashing with the village Open Gardens and with a splendid sounding event being organised on the Monday (details above) **we will no longer be holding** the afternoon tea.

You may have noticed that we've replaced a further three litter bins recently so please do make good use of them.

We now have **vacancies for two councillors**. If you have an interest in helping shape our future then this could be for you. The only qualifications needed are that you have either lived within three miles of the Parish or your main place of work is within the Parish and that you are over 18 years old. Contact the Parish Clerk on Guilsborough.pc@gmail.com or the Chairman, Tony Hart, on 07917101008 for more info.

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

VILLAGE HALL

Can you help with a new/updated website?

The Village Hall needs to update its website and we are looking for help – ideally on a voluntary basis, but a “mates rate” charge would be considered. We can supply the information and pictures but need someone with IT skills to make the website really interesting and informative. If you are able to help, please contact Sue O’Neil on 07713 622 127, or sue@nortoft.co.uk.

Social artists – new group?

The Village Hall used to host an art group once a week which was an opportunity for people to get together, share skills and enjoy a coffee. A number of people have expressed to the village hall team that a new group meeting during the day time would be a “good idea”. If you think you might be able to help organise an art group for a couple of hours a week, please feel free to explore the idea with us.

Early risers exercise session?

There seems to be potential for an early risers exercise / fitness session(s) in the village, as it is known that several people drive off to classes elsewhere to fit in exercise before work/school. The village hall has space every day before 9am, so if you might be interested in running a class, please get in contact.

Party on

The hall is a great place for a party, whatever the celebration! Do give us a call to chat through whether we can offer what you are looking for.

The contact details for the hall are: Sue Needham on 07342 382706 or info@guiltsboroughvh.uk. The hall is able to offer a subsidised rate to give new groups a chance to establish, so whatever your ideas are, we are happy to chat through.

GUILSBOROUGH FRIENDS

Are a local friendly group for ladies and gentlemen, usually meeting at 7.30pm, at Guiltsborough Village Hall, the second Thursday of the month.

Social activities include guest speakers, garden visits, meals out, visits to local places of interest and much more.

£3 per meeting, which is used to cover refreshments, costs and make charitable donations.

We are really keen to welcome new members.

Our Programme for the next 3 months:

Thursday April 13th, Talk by Alan Eaton, Working on the Railways.

Thursday May 11th, Visit to the Country Museum at Lamport.

Thursday June 8th, Garden visit Ravensthorpe.

The Charity Supper in February for Northamptonshire Search and Rescue raised £330

For further information contact:

Janet Minney 01604 740640 janetminney1@internet.com

Rachel Humphrey 01604 770009 ianandrachel@gmail.com



MMM



Monday Morning Meet Guiltsborough Village Hall

9 – 11am every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)

All welcome, baby – OAPs.

Meet for a chat, knit, hot drink & cake.

FREE TO ALL until the end of March

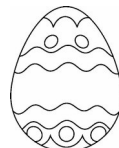
Easter Eggs & More

Good Friday (7th April) 10-12am

£2 per adult includes Hot Cross Buns and Hot Drinks

Children’s Snacks and Easter Crafts

For more information contact Janet 01604 740640



GUILSBOROUGH OPEN GARDENS

Sunday May 7th

Several lovely gardens

open 1pm to 5pm, plus cut flowers and teas.

Entrance £7.50 proceeds to NGS.



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HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

JOAN LEATHERLAND 1932-2023



Joan was born in Thornby, Northamptonshire on 22nd May 1932, the youngest daughter of Fanny Beatrice Lovell and Norman Lovell with an older sister Irene known as Renee. She went to school in Welford and then in Guilsborough.

Her first job saw her cycling the three miles or so to Elkington Lodge where she worked as a housekeeper. She then moved to a job in Rugby manufacturing spark plugs; the firm she worked for ran a bus which went

round the villages and took their employees to and from work. Later on she worked with her sister in law, Edna, in the Leatherland family building business.

She loved to dance and was a regular at dances in the villages round about, where Jim Leatherland played in a band: she met Jim at a dance in Creaton and they were married on 9th March 1957. They began their married life living with Joan's parents whilst Jim built their house in Hollowell. Nick was born in 1961 and Fiona in 1967.

As a family they enjoyed holidays in Southsea where they stayed for several years in the same bed and breakfast with a lady called Mrs Adams. Later the family owned a caravan in Skegness, so there were holidays there as well.

Joan continued with her love of dancing and for a number of years she and Jim enjoyed going to a dance club in Long Buckby on Tuesday evenings. Another hobby she enjoyed was knitting.

She was granny to Amy-Jade and George who she loved to see and they enjoyed playing cards together; they all thought that Granny's home cooked stew was the best. She also loved gardening and she and Jim opened their garden as part of the National Gardens Scheme for over thirty years. They were founder members of the Northamptonshire branch of the Hardy Plant Society and were well known for their gardening skills, opening their own stunning garden twice a year for the National Garden Scheme. They were expert galanthophiles, breeding hundreds of different varieties of snowdrops.

After Jim passed away in May 2016 Joan continued to live in the beloved home that Jim had built. Sadly, in December 2021 she had a fall and broke her hip. She was determined to return home, and did, but then suffered another fall in February which shattered her confidence. She had to make the very hard decision to leave Hollowell and all the friends she had there; in particular her neighbours Nick and Matilda who were always there when she needed them, and Gill and Ian Brown who had been Joan and Jim's lifetime friends.

So, in April 2022 she moved to Timken Grange care home where she was brilliantly looked after. She took an interest in activities in the home and enjoyed bingo and carpet bowls as well as sitting in her armchair watching snooker and darts.

She died peacefully on 31st January 2023.

She will be missed by all who loved her.

Saturday 22nd April
Big Breakfast
9.30am to 12 noon



Hollowell
Village
Hall



Freshly cooked egg, bacon and sausage rolls, tea, barista coffee, and homemade cake.

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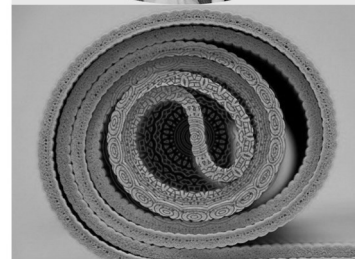
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Yoga Classes
Workshops
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HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

EAGLES IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Primarily a bird of coasts, large lakes and rivers, White-tailed Eagles are not resident in Northamptonshire, however they are increasingly recorded passing through the county. A conservation success story, White-tailed Eagles – also sometimes called ‘sea eagles’ - were persecuted to extinction in the British Isles in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but after successful reintroduction programmes in Scotland in the 1970s and more recently the Isle of Wight, the British population is now increasing slowly. Immature birds from the Isle of Wight project disperse and travel huge distances and this has accounted for most of the recent sightings in our landlocked county.

With a wingspan of up to 2.4 meters, the White-tailed Eagle is the UK’s largest bird of prey – two times the size of a Common Buzzard and significantly bulkier.



Mainly feeding on fish, waterbirds such as geese, and mammals, they will also scavenge carrion and offal from various sources, both natural and of human origin, e.g. fisheries and abattoirs. They are opportunistic feeders and will steal prey from other birds and even mammals such as otters.

A White-tailed Eagle in flight has a distinctive profile, with huge rectangular wings which often cause them to be described as a ‘flying barn door’. The wedge-shaped tail may appear very short in relation to the massive wing area. The head, bill and neck are heavy and strong and often appear more prominent than in other raptors. The white tail is only attained once the bird is at least four years old: immature birds are uniformly brown. The equally majestic Golden Eagle has a slightly smaller wingspan, but a very different profile: the wings are narrower, the tail is longer and the head and neck less prominent in flight. In the British Isles, Golden Eagles are confined to high mountain areas in the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

On their wanderings, White-tailed Eagles may cover long distances, easily covering 100 miles in a day. They may roost overnight in woodland, copses and hedgerow trees. They often draw the attention of crows and other raptors: the bird most recently seen in Northamptonshire was being mobbed repeatedly by Red Kites.

All of the Isle of Wight project birds carry radio transmitters, allowing them to be tracked by satellite. The transmitter batteries are solar-powered, which means they can continue working for many years.

To support my work as county bird recorder, Tim Mackrill of the Roy Dennis Foundation (see roydennis.org) kindly provides me with satellite tracking information, which has helped me to confirm the identification of several sightings in Northamptonshire. Several birds have also passed through the county unseen – including one which passed by on a southward track, a few hundred meters west of Hollowell village – tantalisingly close to home (I was working at the time and sadly didn’t see it!) Young birds can be seen across much of the year – so keep your eyes peeled for that ‘barn door’ silhouette! For more information on my work as county bird recorder, please see joncookbirding.wordpress.com

HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL LOTTO

The first winners have been drawn for the 2023 Village Hall Lotto.

The lucky winning names for Jan and Feb each receive a crisp £10. They are:

January: Norah Daykin, Pauline Partington, Ian Brown, Lee Gane, Alan Morrison

February: Lisa Parker, Sheila Douglas, Hugh Kinch, Simon Wilkinson.

The Lotto for 2023 has the largest ever number of players and they make a significant contribution to the upkeep of the Village Hall.

HOLLOWELL HENS PUDDING NIGHT

Fourteen ladies gathered at the Village Hall on a Friday evening in March for a drink, a chat and a pudding. There was a wide variety of delicious desserts including sticky toffee pudding, cheesecake, fruit salad and a cheese board. A good time was had by all and many calories consumed!



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

Hollowell Village Hall management committee were delighted to host their first Quiz night for 4 years on Friday 24th February. A packed room full of enthusiastic quizzers from Hollowell and other neighbouring villages were treated to a variety of challenging quiz rounds on a wide range of themes. The picture round asking for identification of photos of local features spotted on Hugh Kinch's dog walks was challenging enough, but identifying Northamptonshire's neighbouring counties from their out of scale outlines was downright fiendish! Fortunately there were more conventional rounds on Food and Drink, and Company Slogans too, but the TV Detective themes audio round seemed to be the best received.



A tightly fought contest was won by the rowdiest table occupied by the team called "The Strangely Brownes", hotly pursued by "BillyNoMates Plus 2 or 3".

The convivial atmosphere was enhanced by hot nibbles and oven chips served at half time, and also by a well-stocked bar serving soft drinks and wine, as well as a cask of Barbarian Best real ale from Roman Way Brewery in Weedon and bottled beers from Towcester Mill. There was also a keenly patronised raffle with prizes ranging from Champagne and an original oil painting, to a 3 bottle presentation pack of bottled beers kindly donated by Roman Way brewery and an excellent and moist lemon drizzle cake.



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BASED IN CREATON

**CORONATION "Steam and Whistle"
Pub Night
Hollowell Village Hall
Friday 5th May 7-10.30pm**



Locally sourced Real Ale, Wine and Soft Drinks
Northamptonshire Skittles
Table-top quiz



Convivial company; bring your friends and
neighbours for a fun, friendly night out.
Free round of applause for anyone arriving in a
crown!

THORNBY NEWS

CORONATION SUNDAY 7TH MAY

10.00 am Farm Walk, our annual walk through the beautiful Thornby countryside, with guided talk highlighting areas of particular interest. Starts at the Red Lion, tractor & trailer for those not sure of uneven ground. Walk ends with delicious refreshments. All enquiries to Barbara Tanser 01604 740505. All proceeds for our church of St Helens.



5.00pm Celebratory Songs of Praise all joining together in our parish church. What better way to finish the day!

Full details of all the day's events will be posted on Thornby's Facebook page



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Thornby Village Hall

Hire charge
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Fully equipped and newly decorated hall with a capacity to hold 40 people.

Ideal for intimate gatherings, childrens parties, courses, talks and meetings etc.

Tables, chairs and gazebos available for use on and off site.

Contact Alex Todd - 07872839199

Thornby 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)

* 20 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@trucklink.eu.com

Useful online shopping links to support our Village Hall

www.smile.amazon.co.uk - Please create an Account on Amazon Smile and choose Thornby Village Hall as your choice of charity. Every time you want to shop on Amazon log into this site and a percentage of your spend will be donated direct From Amazon to the Village Hall.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk - Please create an account and choose Thornby Village Hall as your choice of Charity. Choose your retailer and this site just redirects you to their website. Not all retailers are registered but the likes of Argos, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer and many more, Car insurance and Holiday companies are all registered. A percentage of your spend, on average between 1-3% is sent direct to the Village Hall. The large Supermarkets will even donate a fixed amount on your weekly grocery shop!



MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALISON TWIGG THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

Although it is now nearly Easter, as I write this letter in church we are marking the season of Lent. Lent recalls the story of forty days spent in the wilderness where Jesus was tempted by Satan to betray all that he believed in. It was a time of prayer, fasting, torment, isolation, hunger. It was a journey of preparation and transformation. A journey that would eventually lead him to the cross and then to glory.

Lent is a season that should challenge our faith. We should face this season with honesty and humility, opening our eyes to all that is around us, not only the beauty in people, in creation but also as to what is wrong in our society, our churches and respond to those issues of which we are aware. Lent is an opportunity to enable all of us to be the voice for the voiceless, to challenge authorities, the oppressors, those who hinder the sharing of God's word to all who will listen.

Lent is an opportunity to reflect upon what has been, what is now and what is yet to come, However, if you are anything like me, we can see so many situations to which we have to react, which distracts us even more. In this year already we continue to see images of the war ongoing in Ukraine and long for peace and in recent days the dreadful earthquake in Turkey and Syria and the catastrophic effect this has had on the lives of tens of thousands of people. Many of our young people are struggling with their mental health. We are all facing the rise in the cost of living and energy increases. There are the long-awaited hospital appointments and postponed surgeries. So, it's only understandable that we may feel our faith being challenged, our

doubts and fears clouding our very being, our patience being tested. When faced with these doubts I remind myself that, when the burdens of life weigh heavily upon us, what we need is to have the courage to step back and look to the hills as the Psalmist did.

I lift up my eyes to the hills-from where will my help come my help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth In that moment the Psalmist knew, despite all that he was enduring, that he was not alone that the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth was with him. Friends, when we are in those moments let's find a way to create some space in our lives, perhaps taking time to look for the beauty that surrounds us in the rolling hills around our village, where we can just breathe in and out slowly allowing the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, fill our hearts with the truth that God is with us, remembering that whatever we have to face we are not alone. God is always with us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit to see a wonderful Textile Art Exhibition by Jackie Parkinson. Jackie is a nationally renowned textile artist and her work is more usually exhibited in great cathedrals of our nation rather than small village churches. Her work is simply stunning you can see this exhibition in St Andrew's church Spratton from Saturday 1st April to Saturday 8th April between 10.00 and 3.00.

Blessings to you
Rev Allison



UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES
St Andrew's Church Spratton

THE JOURNEY

An exhibition of textile art by Jacqui Parkinson

For hundreds of years, The Stations of The Cross have been a traditional sequence of ideas and images used by Christians to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer meditating on key scenes of Christ's Passion. In this exhibition Jacqui has developed this theme into art work that is both beautiful and intriguing.

Where to find us

St Andrew's Church
Spratton

Brixworth Road, Spratton. NN6 8HH
uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com

Exhibition dates

Saturday 1st April
to
Saturday 8th April
10.00am- 3.00 pm



CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group Of Churches – Service Planner April – May 2023

	2 nd April Palm Sunday	6 th April Maundy Thursday	7 th April Good Friday	9 th April Easter Sunday	16 th April Easter 2	23 rd April Easter 3	30 th April Easter 4	7 th May Easter 5 Coronation	14 th May Easter 6	18 th May Thursday Ascension	21 st May Easter 7	28 th May Pentecost/ Whit
	Red	White	Red	White/Gold	White	White	White	White	White	White/Gold	White	Red
Cold Ashby				9.30am BCP Communion		9.30am BCP Communion	10.00am Group Service		10.00am Group Service	8.30am Holy Communion		9.30am BCP Communion
Cottesbrooke	10.00am Group Service	7.30pm Holy Communion	2.00pm Stations of the Cross	11.00am BCP Communion				11.00am BCP Communion	10.00am Group Service			
Creaton				9.30am BCP Communion	9.30am CW Communion	9.30am CW Communion		9.30am BCP Communion	9.30am Group Service		9.30am CW Communion	
Gulfsborough	Spratton	Gulfsborough	Creaton	9.30am CW Communion	8.30am BCP Communion	9.30am CW Communion	Ravensthorpe	11.00am CW Communion	11.00am CW Communion	Spratton	8.30am BCP Communion	9.30am CW Communion
Hollowell				11.00am CW Communion	11.00am Choral Evensong	11.00am CW Communion					11.00am Choral Evensong	11.00am CW Communion
Ravensthorpe				11.00am CW Communion	6.00pm Choral Evensong	11.00am CW Communion		8.30am BCP Communion			9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All
Spratton				6.00am Dawn Service	11.00am CW Communion	11.00am CW Communion		11.00am Worship for All			8.30am BCP Communion	11.00am CW Communion
Thornby				11.00am CW Communion	8.30am BCP Communion	11.00am CW Communion		11.00am Worship for All			8.30am BCP Communion	11.00am CW Communion
				9.30am BCP Communion		5.00pm Songs of Praise						

Holy Week Compline Services 7.00pm: **Monday** 3rd April at Ravensthorpe; **Tuesday** 4th April at Cold Ashby; **Wednesday** 5th April at Hollowell



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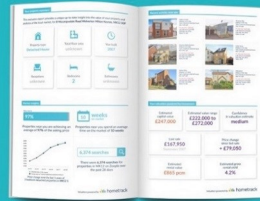
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DID YOU KNOW?

A locally outdoor grown bouquet of mixed garden flowers is estimated to have around 5% of the CO₂ emissions of a Dutch or Kenyan bouquet.

Source: Rebecca Swinn MSc Dissertation

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**SAME MAN,
NEW VAN!**





Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group
Spring 2023

The SSPPG are a group of patients that work with the Practice to make it the best it can be. Our bi-monthly meetings alternate between the two surgeries. At the meetings we hear the latest updates and discuss ways to support the Practice. The next SSPPG Meeting will our AGM on Wednesday 19th April Brixworth Surgery, 18.30pm. We always welcome new members to our group

The next Health Walk will be on Monday 10th April. Meet at the Tea Rooms, Waterloo Farm, Great Oxendon LE16 8NB 11am start, approximately 60min walk. The walk will be led by Mick Wright.

The Northamptonshire Carers, Saxon Spires and Long Buckby Carers Drop In is now held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Community Hall Brixworth Library, Spratton Road, Brixworth NN6 9DS from 1.30pm - 3pm. Carers and cared for are both welcome.

Watch our Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group Facebook page for regular announcement on all activities or drop us an email on ssppg2022@gmail.com

Are you a cancer patient, survivor, carer or been affected by cancer?

Creative Workshop

Sat. 29th April at St Andrew's Church
10am till 4pm

FREE OF CHARGE

Includes Lace Making, Leather Work, Patchwork, Flower Arranging, Marbling, Beauty Workshop, Hand Bell Ringing (subject to change on day)

Refreshments provided including a light lunch

St Andrew's Church, Brixworth Road, Spratton, Northamptonshire, NN6 8HH

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- Michael Babb Foot & Health Practitioner - p4
- MJ Burdett Plumber - p16
- Merrick School of Driving and Towing - p10
- Wendy Yvonne Electrolysis - p8
- Wills Direct - p12

FULL COLOUR EDITION FOR JUNE-JULY



Exciting news to share! The next edition of Village Link is to be full colour throughout thanks to an innovative sponsorship initiative from Teeton-based design and build specialists: The Qube. So, readers send in your coronation celebration photos (and other news images) by our special extended image deadline of **9th May 2023** to see them all in beautiful full colour.

HADDON HOPPER UPDATE

In the previous issue of VL we introduced you to the Haddon Hopper, a new community bus service that picks up in Coton, East Haddon, Guilsborough, Holdenby, Ravens-thorpe, Teeton, Watford & West Haddon to take people to Daventry or Rugby. At that time it was in a trial period but dates are about to be published for April, so it looks at this stage as if the community bus operator can make it work on an ongoing basis. This will, though, remain subject, in the mid-term, as to how things go with West Northants Council community grants.



The Haddon Hopper service is in need of someone in the area to take on an admin role to manage the bookings. This would be a voluntary position and if you think you could help, please contact Christine Ware on 07899 845627.

BUS ROUTE 59/60



Another piece of good bus news is that the service 59/60 has been secured for a further 12 months. This follows a petition with 370+ signatories, representation from 4 parish Chairs at full council, and with a budget amendment proposed by the Lib Dem Group at the budget meeting which was accepted. Jonathan Harris, West Northants Councillor, told the VL that there is a bus review taking place. A consultant has been engaged by West Northants who is looking at the whole issue of buses. "We are awaiting the findings and proposals" say Jonathan, "and I am part of a bus service working group, so I hope that we will get these views feeding through soon".

Anyone for tennis?

Special offers for 2023

All villages welcome :-)

£10 membership for the whole household

New members: join club nights/mornings in your first month for free

For more info contact Sarah on 07917 608238 or Graham on 07894 424328 or email guilsboroughtennis@gmail.com

