



## CHRISTMAS CREATIVES WINNERS

The Caldwell family clearly have some creative genes! The judges were enchanted by Katie's vibrant painting of St Etheldreda's



Guilsborough, overflown by Santa and his reindeer, winning the 15 and over category; similarly the Postbox, Santa and Robin picture by younger sister Sophie, with appliqué snow, is beautifully three dimensional and wins the 10-14 category. Mum Chip sent in the beautiful frosty holly photo, which forms the left background of our banner and wins the adult category, and Diana Harper was runner-up with the frosty leaves photo on the right of the banner. In the 9 and under category it was Guilsborough Snow Girl by Libby Wilson from Cold Ashby that impressed us, meeting the 'local' brief with originality.



And what a poem from Lucas Gibson! Congratulations all round, see back page for more winners!

### Inside this issue:

Cold Ashby	P4 -5
Cottesbrooke	P6
Creaton	P7-10
Guilsborough	P11-13
Hollowell	P14-15
Thornby	P16
Church	P17-18

### WHAT'S ON

#### DECEMBER

See p.4 for all Cold Ashby Events  
1st Christmas Drinks, Cottesbrooke  
2-3rd Antiques Pop-Up, Cottesbrooke  
3rd Lights for a loved one, Guilsborough  
7th Guilsborough Friends Party  
9th Hollowell Café Christmas  
9th Cottesbrooke Coffee Morning  
10th Cottesbrooke Carol Service  
15th Hollowell Hopewell coffee and chat  
16th Carol Service, Cold Ashby  
17th Nine Lessons and Carols, Guilsborough Church  
18th MMM Xmas Party Guilsborough  
15th Christmas by Candlelight, Guilsborough Church GMADS  
20th Carol Singing Guilsborough  
22-24th Church events, Creaton  
24th Hollowell Carol Service

#### JANUARY

See p.4 for all Cold Ashby Events  
14th Coffee & Swap shop, Cottesbrooke  
19th Hollowell Hopewell coffee and chat  
27th Burns Night, Cottesbrooke

#### AND REGULARLY ...

Monday mornings MMM, evenings Knitwits Guilsborough; Tuesday evenings, Creaton Singers; Thursday mornings indoor bowls, Creaton; Sunday am and Tuesday pm, Tennis Guilsborough; Thursday evenings, Badminton Guilsborough. Thursday evenings, Nia Guilsborough.

### My Christmas Poem!!!

Pop! My eyes open,  
Down the stairs I creep,  
To find a bundle of colourful gifts,  
Under the tree in a heap.

Click! Now the lights are on,  
And now my parents are here,  
We scream and shout and wave our arms,  
And then we start to cheer.

Rip! Now our presents are open,  
Look. I've got a toy,  
Christmas is a wonderful time,  
For all the girls and boys.

Ding! The family have arrived,  
And now it's time to eat,  
Now lets have a Christmas dinner,  
Come and take a seat.

# Creton Village Shop

## Opening Hours

Monday-Friday **7.30am-6pm**  
 Saturday **8am-6pm**  
 Sunday **8am-12pm**

The post office is open whenever the shop is open!



We stock a wide range of fresh and frozen produce, as well as all your kitchen essentials, drinks, magazines, newspapers and cards. We sell coal, logs and kindling, so you can stay nice and warm this winter!

There is even free parking right outside the shop!

## Are you Christmas ready?

Let Creton Village Shop relieve you of the hassle of food and drink shopping!



Order your meat, veg, drinks and Christmas treats directly from us!

With **FREE** home delivery to surrounding villages, it couldn't be any easier!



## Award winning shop with award winning staff



We are proud to announce that we are the winners of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Northamptonshire Community Awards 2022.

Shop manager, Adam Perrins-May was nominated by the Plunkett Foundation for their Young Person Award. He is one of five finalists who will be celebrated at the London Event.

Our Shop  
Your Shop

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



Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic offers excellent osteopathic care for patients of all ages who may be suffering from a range of issues arising from the musculo-skeletal system. As highly trained primary care practitioners we use refined diagnostic skills and experience to treat the cause not just the symptoms of the problem.



**BRIXWORTH  
OSTEOPATHIC  
CLINIC**

**Lampport Manor, Coach House 1, Old Road,  
Lampport, Northants, NN6 9HF  
07500 580 546**

**[info@brixworthosteopathy.com](mailto:info@brixworthosteopathy.com)  
[www.brixworthosteopathy.com](http://www.brixworthosteopathy.com)**

# COMPASS ENERGY

Delivering fuel to homes in your area.

## Trevor Reay

From 1983 Trevor has worked alongside Tony Watson developing an oil distributor in the area.

After a change of ownership Trevor left the company in May 2018.

Trevor has now teamed up with Compass Energy to once again provide a reliable personal service.

Our chairman, Tony Watson has clearly defined our values.

**SERVICE – TEAMWORK- SAFETY**

## Why Choose Compass Energy?

- ✓ No Brokers – price savings go direct to you.
- ✓ Competitive pricing.
- ✓ Reliable personal service you can trust.
- ✓ Our own fleet of Tankers permitting a rapid response for urgent deliveries.
- ✓ Years of industry knowledge and experience.

**Call Trevor to obtain a quote or place an order.  
 01604 345526 | 07702867349**

Visit our website for more information  
[compassenergy.co.uk](http://compassenergy.co.uk)



# 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.

## Editorial team:

Andrea King 01604 740670  
Tony Hart 01604 740535  
Sarah Dalzell 07917 608238  
Katie Fulcher 07747 604067  
Eve Wooldridge 07711 335771  
Richard Hollingum 07887 652599  
Liz Sibbald 07360 778276  
Richard & Lynn Furnell 07754 298666

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, Nortofo, 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:**  
**Friday 5th January**

**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.

## News from Buckby Library & Hub

**Arts and crafts sale:** come to our pre-Christmas 'Under £20' sale of arts and crafts in December. The sale will include handmade bookmarks and gift tags, Christmas cards, tree decorations and small paintings. Come along during opening hours and find gifts for family and friends.

**The Crimbo Limbo Magic Show!** This will take place on 27th December at 1.30pm. A balloon for every child! Tickets from the Library & Hub (contacts below): £5 per child; accompanying adults free.

**Our monthly films:** On Tuesday, December 19th, come and see Champions: "Woody Harrelson stars in a heart-warming and funny tale of a former minor-league basketball coach who, after some personal trouble receives a court order to train up a team of players with intellectual disabilities. Despite his doubts, he soon realizes that together they can go further than they ever imagined." Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. Tickets are available from the Library & Hub (contacts below) or the Peephole in the High Street in Long Buckby: £7. Refreshments available. <https://buckbylibraryhub.org>; [info@buckbylibraryhub.org](mailto:info@buckbylibraryhub.org); 01327 842591

## How to feel calmer A Buddhist approach

### A HALF-DAY MEDITATION COURSE

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

10.30am - 1.15pm

with Kadam Bridget Heyes

NKT-IBU National Spiritual Director for the UK



Nagarjuna Kadampa Meditation Centre

Centre for Modern Buddhism • Thornby Hall NN6 8SW

Tel: 01604 743 976 • [info@meditateinnorthants.com](mailto:info@meditateinnorthants.com)  
Charity No. 1039957

[www.meditateinnorthants.com](http://www.meditateinnorthants.com)




## Thank you to Hollowell Steam from the VL team for the donation!

It will help us keep advertising prices low for the local businesses that support us. Hollowell Steam gave away £73,000 to local charities, community groups and good causes. See full article on page 15.

Picture shows Village Link's Sarah Dalzell receiving a cheque from Jim Hollowell, with new chairman, Neil Byrd in the background.



Ravensthorpe Village Hall



### History of Medicine

We are very pleased to welcome back Dr Michael Muncaster to present this 10 week course on the History of Medicine. During the 150 years covered the basis of modern medicine was established and a unified and regulated profession emerged. From Quacks and Charlatans to the start of the NHS enjoy a journey through time studying the development of medicine in Britain. Discover how fortunate you are to be a patient in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Lecturer: Dr Michael Muncaster

Every Monday: 8<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Time: 2-4pm

Fee: £60.00 for the 10 weeks

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: 01604328822

Or: Graham Metcalfe at [gm@grahammetcalfe.com](mailto:gm@grahammetcalfe.com)  
Tel: 07894 424328

Registered charity no.278283

# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

### HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Cold Ashby was a spooky place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October when a host of scarily dressed children and their parents descended on the village for a specially organized party at The Memorial Hall. It was fabulous to see so many children from surrounding villages join us and have a great time. Special thanks go to Jenny Wilson, Rinat Matityahu and Katy Stuart for organizing and hosting the party and making it such a success. Thanks also Janet Thompson, Mandy Carson, Duggie Stuart, John Callaghan, and Colin Ritchie for their help on the evening. Special thanks also go to Mike Berry for providing the disco.



### MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENING

Ted and Janet Thompson and Katy Stuart, who organized the Macmillan coffee evening, would like to thank everyone who attended the event on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Thanks also go to those who donated cakes or raffle prizes. A grand total of £272.50 was raised.

### COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

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.

Date	Event	Location	Details
Sat 2nd Dec	Lighting of Remembrance tree	Cold Ashby Churchyard	Lighting of tree 6pm
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Skittles CA v KA	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Social Night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	CA pool match	Pavilion	Open from 7:30pm
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Social Night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Eve Social Night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm Christmas Raffle Draw
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day Drinks	Memorial Hall	Open 11am-1pm
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Boxing Night Social	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	NYE Social	Memorial Hall	TBC
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CA pool match	Pavilion	Open from 7:30pm
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Social Night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v KH	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v KA	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Social Night	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v SFC	Memorial Hall	Open from 7:30pm

**PLEASE CHECK VILLAGE FACEBOOK PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS AND ANY OTHER EVENTS.**

# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

### HARVEST SUPPER



The PCC would like to thank everyone who joined them at the Harvest Supper at Cold Ashby Memorial Hall on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Just under forty people enjoyed a two-course meal cooked by members of the Parochial Church Council. Following the meal, the auction of

harvest produce took place and the evening raised a grand total of £780 for church funds. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

### THE TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

Each year residents and friends of the village purchase a bulb on our 'Tree of Remembrance' which is lit up each evening and is displayed in the churchyard throughout the festive period. Each bulb is purchased to remember a loved one who is no longer with us. Their name, with a dedication, is also displayed on a bauble on a Christmas tree inside the church. All money raised is in aid of St Denys Church. The big switch on will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm.



Cold Ashby Church  
Christmas Services  
All are welcome

Lights for a loved one switch-on

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

6.00pm

Carol Service

Saturday

16<sup>th</sup> December

5.00pm

Christmas Day

Communion with Carols

9.30am

### SHAUN TAYLOR MEMORIAL FUN DAY

Sharon and Merv Taylor would like to thank everyone who attended The Shaun Taylor Annual Fun Day on September 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a scorching hot day and despite the heat it was well attended. A grand total of £3,300 was made in aid of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. To date a grand total of over £23,000 has been raised in Shaun's memory. Shaun's family hope to take the total to over £25,000 with their Christmas Fair on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

(SEE ADVERT ON BACK PAGE)



Wendy Yvonne

ELECTROLYSIS CLINIC

Facial hair, Skin tag, Milia and other minor skin blemish treatment

By appointment only:  
Wednesday and Saturday

Based at Green Podiatry & Chiropody  
Unit 1, The Yard, 105 Northampton Road,  
Brixworth, NN6 9DX

Call/Text 07860 590562

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

[wyelectrolysis@outlook.com](mailto:wyelectrolysis@outlook.com)

Wendy Coleman: VTCT Level 4 Qualified,  
B.A.B.T.A.C, M.B.I.A.E

# COTTESBROOKE NEWS



Cottesbrooke Church  
Christmas Services  
All are welcome

Carol Service  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
3.00pm

Christmas Day  
Communion with Carols  
11.00am

## Dawn Mallard Hairdressing

17 Brixworth Road Spratton NN6 8HH  
01604 847260

Stylists for Ladies, Gents, Students & Juniors  
Visit us for friendly and professional hair care.

We have extensive experience  
in cutting, clipper cutting and razor cutting,  
colouring foils, colour weaves, balayage,  
blow drying, traditional perming and setting  
Great hair-up do's for weddings, proms and  
special occasions

We are working with Olaplex, a revolutionary  
upgrade service for hair colouring

Competitive prices, with concessions  
for seniors, students and juniors

Free Consultations

Complimentary Tea and Coffee

8.30 - 6.00pm (1.00pm Saturdays)

National Hairdressing Federation Registered

## DECEMBER

### 1st Christmas Drinks & Nibbles Party, 7-9pm

All Cottesbrooke residents are cordially invited to an informal drinks and nibbles party in the Village Hall to kick off the holiday season. Details, Meg Routhorn.

### 2nd-3rd Antiques Pop-Up - Pepa Antiques

Michael O'Sullivan will be taking over the village hall with his collection of antiques. Please pop in to meet him and browse.

9th Coffee Morning - Christmas theme - cookies, crackers and cards, 10-12pm

10th Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Church, 3pm - Join us for a fabulous afternoon including Moulton 77 brass band & Creaton singers. Sherry, lemonade and mince pies to follow. Please contact Ian McRae if you would like to help or do a reading.

## JANUARY

14th Coffee Morning - Swap Shop, bring an unwanted gift to swap, 10-12 pm

~~~~~

### 27th Burn's Night Bangers and Mash Quiz, 6pm

A new event for Cottesbrooke! Don your tartan and grab some friends for a fun event complete with Haggis (or Sausage), poetry and a quiz! RSVP to Stefanie van den Haak, svdh@live.co.uk. Places are limited. £10 per adult, £5 per child.

~~~~~

### Defibrillator Donations:

Following a number of incidents of late, the Cottesbrooke Social Club has decided to invest in a defibrillator for use by all in the village. It will be placed on the outside of the Village Hall should anyone need it. The cost for the defibrillator is ongoing, and we would very much appreciate any donations to cover rental and maintenance costs.

All donations gratefully received, both big or small. If you would like to make a donation, please bring it along to the Christmas Drinks & Nibbles or, if you are unable to attend, please let us know and we will happily collect it. It can also be dropped off at 13 Station Road to Meg Routhorn.

## Creaton Walkers

The warm weather seemed to go on and on, enabling the Creaton Walking Group to enjoy some beautiful sunshine, dressed more for summer than autumn! The



walkers have been walking the Via Beata which is a long-distance path crossing England and Wales at the widest part, from Lowestoft to St David's Head, and goes through Northamptonshire including from Brixworth to Ravensthorpe. The September walk went through the beautiful Stanwick Lakes near Raunds to Irthlingborough and on to Finedon. October and November continued the route via Great Harrowden to Holcot with lovely views in all directions. In the new year we will continue following the Via Beata to Watford.

It's not just all about walking though! The Creaton Walking Group are meeting up with various other local groups for a Christmas meal at the Jomidar Lounge on the 9<sup>th</sup> December.

If you enjoy walking, do join this friendly group who meet on the second Saturday of the month at 10am at Creaton lychgate.

Walks are circular and about 8 miles in length mainly over footpaths and bridleways ending with an optional pub lunch. Next walks are on:

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10am
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 11am (NB slightly later time)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 10am

## Creaton Singers

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the very successful concert in aid of the local RDA (Riding for the Disabled). Perhaps the homemade cakes helped? The concert raised £776 for the RDA as well as a £20 donation to the URC for the kind use of their premises.

Very quickly the singers have turned their attention to preparing for Christmas and hope to see as many people as possible at the following events:

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2pm at Welford Christmas Tree Farm
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2pm at Welford Christmas Tree Farm
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Cottesbrooke Carol Service
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7pm Carol Singing on Creaton Village Green, then carolling through the village to Creaton church for a free concert at 7:30pm with mulled wine and mince pies.

There will be a voluntary collection for charity. Do come along and enter into the festive spirit.

The Creaton Singers are saddened that Sylvia Watt has decided to gracefully retire, despite everyone's best efforts to dissuade her! Her singing as well as her very amusing poetry presentations will be sorely missed by the singers and our audiences.

We are delighted that one new member has joined us and hope more will follow. We rehearse on Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm at Creaton URC. No previous experience necessary, just a willingness to have fun!

## Playing Fields Association

As I write this, we are well and truly into autumn and experiencing very heavy rainfall. The committee, after consulting with ROSPA, have decided to replace our chipped bark safer surfacing with a more practical alternative. The cost of replacing bark every year, as well as trying to reinstate it after it has been washed away, makes it far from ideal. We are looking to use rubber matting which allows grass to grow through. This will be lower maintenance and more hygienic whilst also providing a surface with sufficient CFH (critical fall height) to cope with the equipment we have in place. This is not going to be cheap and we will be looking for grants as well as fundraising. It may be possible to carry out the replacement over several phases. Any offers of help or suggestions would be gratefully received.

The Association operates the field under the terms of a lease which only permits dogs to cross the field on the Public Footpaths whilst on a lead, the exercising of dogs is strictly prohibited. There is adequate provision locally for dogs to be exercised off leads and therefore there is no excuse to run them on the playing field. The Association has recently taken delivery of four signs reminding dog owners of this.

Hopefully our Annual Quiz, held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, will have been a sell-out success by the time you read this!

## Creaton WI

In October Steve Reid treated us to a very interesting talk about Friars Farm, his artisan chutney, cheese and charcuterie business, along with a tasting of delicious samples!

Please do join us for our Christmas entertainment - an evening of "Humour and Music" with Ken Nokes on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church.

In January and February our meetings will be held on Zoom; non-members are most welcome to join in from the comfort of your armchair!

- January 10<sup>th</sup> – a talk from Prickles and Paws Hedgehog Rescue
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – a fascinating insight into the secret work of "The Women Warriors of Bletchley Park"

Please contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546 or email [wicreaton@gmail.com](mailto:wicreaton@gmail.com) for more information or a Zoom joining link.

## Friends of St Michael's History Group

Our talks for December and January will be held in St Michael and All Angels Church, Violet Lane.

Thursday Dec 21st: 7.30pm Colin Rowe: The Hunting Empress  
Thursday Jan 18th: 7.30pm Ruth Thomas: Nefertiti - Enigma and Icon. We hope you can join us and enjoy an interesting talk in good company followed by complimentary refreshments. If you become a member now you can take advantage of our special deal of £15 for all subsequent talks.



# CREATON NEWS

## Letter from Anna Hughes

### Jomidar Lounge

What a wonderful asset this Indian restaurant is to our village. Our main road has at last had the face lift so needed for many years as the sad, tired looking pub has been replaced with a very smart new look, an inviting entrance doorway with water feature and a dazzlingly bright interior where very attentive, pleasant staff await. Finally residents can walk to a restaurant which has quickly become a venue. Having met with different groups of friends on four occasions now since the first opening week, I have noticed that we now had to wait a few minutes for a table to be ready for us. Great. Friday night was very busy and it felt good to be part of it. Speaking as a resident without a car for the last few years I can only ask you to imagine the effect of being able to take myself 'out for dinner'. This means a lot to me and others like me in our village and I am grateful.

### Our village buses

We are so lucky to have not one but two village buses but as always we need to use them or lose them. For those that still have their own transport, a gentle reminder that things may change therefore keeping the bus service running maybe the only way you can continue to live in Creaton in the future.

The weekly Shopper Hopper bus service run by volunteers, is every Monday, picking up bus pass holders from Cottesbrooke, Haselbech, Creaton, Naseby, Cold Ashby, Thornby, Spratton and Brixworth and currently takes us to venues such as Aldi in

Moulton and Weston Favell. We also spend time in Brixworth to enable us to go the local shops there and the library. On two Wednesdays in the month the bus goes to destinations such as Rushden Lakes, a Nursery or large shopping area. This service must be pre-booked. Contact Ka by email at: [bookings@cmbus.org](mailto:bookings@cmbus.org) or phone 07888011891.

Volunteer drivers are urgently needed. Again, contact Ka if you could help please.

The 60/59 is a very popular bus service, especially the 59 from Welford to Market Harborough on Tuesdays and Fridays. The 60 bus picks up passengers at 9.30 from the bottom of the Jetty and continues to Welford where the bus number changes. Many people seem unaware that the £2:00 ticket price cap for every journey is still retained which makes travel very cheap for passengers without bus passes and we are all helping to reduce the traffic on our roads which we all know makes sense.

I often hear from residents in Creaton that the bus "never has any passengers on it". You need to remember that Creaton is the penultimate stop for the route returning from Northampton to either Guilsborough or Welford and can be the third pickup village running from Guilsborough to Northampton or straight from Welford to Northampton. It may have few passengers but yes, it is used. Don't forget you can also use the bus to begin or end your local walk. Every bus journey adds up and all are counted. Last year we had over 20,000 journeys on our bus, so yes, I assure you, it is used!



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
— SCHOOL OF —  
**DANCE**  
— & PILATES —

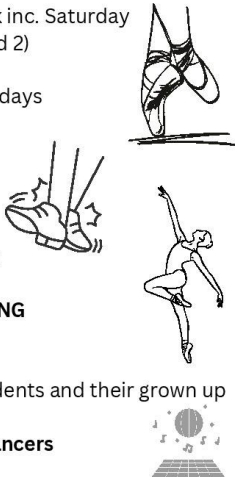
**STUDIOS - The Woodyard, High Street, NASEBY**  
admin@northamptonshiredance.co.uk  
Tel: 07894 593397

**ALL TEACHERS are fully qualified**

Please get in touch to arrange a visit or try a class, make an enquiry.

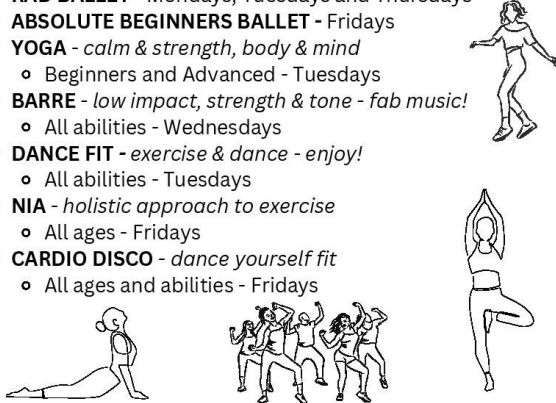
### DANCE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN FROM 2yrs

- **RAD BALLET**
  - Classes throughout the week inc. Saturday
    - (Pre-Primary to Advanced 2)
- **IDTA TAP**
  - Classes for all abilities - Mondays
- **ISTD CONTEMPORARY**
  - Thursdays & Fridays
- **IDTA STREET JAZZ**
  - Wednesdays & Saturdays
- **MUSICAL THEATRE**
  - Dance, Sing, Drama, Perform
  - Tuesdays
- **PERFORMANCE TEAMS & SINGING**
  - Fridays
- **TINY TWIRLERS**
  - A class for our youngest students and their grown up
  - Tuesdays and Saturdays
- **BODY CONTROL PILATES for Dancers**
  - Tuesdays and Saturdays



### CLASSES FOR ADULTS - no age limit!

- **BODY CONTROL PILATES**
  - Monday to Friday - in the studio and online
  - Men's Pilates - Tuesdays
- **RAD BALLET** - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS BALLET** - Fridays
- **YOGA** - calm & strength, body & mind
  - Beginners and Advanced - Tuesdays
- **BARRE** - low impact, strength & tone - fab music!
  - All abilities - Wednesdays
- **DANCE FIT** - exercise & dance - enjoy!
  - All abilities - Tuesdays
- **NIA** - holistic approach to exercise
  - All ages - Fridays
- **CARDIO DISCO** - dance yourself fit
  - All ages and abilities - Fridays





# CREATON NEWS



Creaton Church  
 Christmas Services  
 All are welcome

Carol Service  
 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
 5.00pm

Walking Nativity  
 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
 11.00am

Christmas Eve  
 Communion with Carols  
 10.00pm

## Creaton URC

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

Sunday	<b>December</b>	
3rd 11am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Geoff Townsend
10th 11am	<b>Gift Service</b>	Jon Heard
17th 11am		Martin Buckby
18th 7pm	<b>Candlelight Service</b>	Rev Liz Adams
24th 11am		Jon Heard
25th 10.30am	<b>Christmas Service</b>	Rev Ann Jack
31st tbc	<b>Joint Service</b>	
	<b>January</b>	
7th 11am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Jon Heard
14th 11am		Andrew Bodsworth
21st 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
28th 11am		Rev Tim Huc

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

## Over the Counter

Creaton Village Shop is proud to announce that it was winner of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Northamptonshire Community Awards 2022. The award was presented at a reception hosted by CPRE in October this year. (Look at the Village Link website for a photo of the occasion.)

The judges were most impressed by the background to the establishment of the Shop after the original village store closed whereby the village came together to raise funds to provide new premises. Now open 7 days a week the shop provides a wide range of local produce, a post office, home deliveries and an excellent website. The shop has proved its sustainability and has a good business plan. The judges said, *“When a community comes together to save a facility or provide a new one it always takes an enormous effort, and to keep it going as a volunteer effort for a number of years is very impressive. Northamptonshire has some wonderful examples of community run shops and Creaton now joins their ranks.”*

And if one accolade wasn't enough, Shop Manager Adam Perrins-May was nominated by the Plunkett Foundation for their Young Person Award category at the Rural Community Business awards. Adam is one of five finalists who were celebrated at the event in London in November.

In more seasonal news, you are probably already aware that it will soon be Christmas! Get your orders in for meat, veg, drinks, treats, festive fayre. Let Creaton Village Shop relieve you of the hassle of food and drink shopping.

In the shop, the refrigerated space has been reorganised to provide more space for vegetables and fruit. Do have a good look round and if you cannot find what you want, just ask. Please note that the shop no longer takes dry cleaning or sells flowers but is open on Saturday from 8am to 6pm.



## J.M. BILLINGS

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

OIL AND GAS SERVICE, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE  
 BATHROOM AND UNVENTED HOT WATER INSTALLATIONS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE  
 A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION PLEASE CONTACT JIM ON:



M 07810 800876

E JIMBILLINGS@ROCKETMAIL.COM

BASED IN CREATON



## Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

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 on Violet Lane. We also have a Facebook page.

## Parish Council Meeting dates:

Meetings will continue to be held bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The next meeting date is: 9th January 2024.

## Planning Applications

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

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

## Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like to apply or for further details please contact the Parish Clerk.

## West Northants Council Consultations

West Northants Council hold regular consultations on a range of issues. Full details of current consultations can be found online at: <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/>

## Police Liaison Representative Update

Northamptonshire Police have been doing the following to make the county safer:

Operation Voltage, which is still ongoing, targeting drug dealing and misuse. So far, since the campaign was launched: 3000 wraps of class A drugs have been seized, 21 drug lines have been disrupted, 78 Arrests have been made, over £55,000 in cash has been recovered, 31 weapons have been seized, 49 persons have been safeguarded and 250 drug users have been offered support. Northants Police are pleased with the campaign so far.

Upcoming campaigns: The force will focus on disqualified drivers and driving with no insurance during the week commencing 20th - 27th November. Police will be targeting drink driving and driving whilst under the influence of drugs in a campaign which will run from December 1st - 2nd January 2024.

Keep safe, Cllr Ian Horne.

## Access to Worldwide Newspapers and Magazines Free of Charge

Did you know you can get free, same-day access to thousands of newspapers and magazines worldwide, including UK national daily and weekend titles through the West Northants Council online LibraryPlus service?

The PressReader app enables anyone with an online library membership to read publications 24/7 on a computer, tablet, smart phone or any other mobile device. From the Wall Street Journal to Gardeners World magazine, the diverse catalogue features over 7,000 publications. The online library service also provides access to a wide range of eReads and audio books, all free to access with a virtual library membership. Visit the following website for more information: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/books-reading-and-audio/ereads-and-audio>

## Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

A committee has been formed and grant funding has been awarded to begin the Creaton Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Council website will provide updates as this progresses.

## Litter Pick

THANK YOU to everyone that turned up to help with the litter pick, especially the three residents from Teeton.

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



# GET FIT KEEP ACTIVE

Join us at Creaton Village Hall for

**FREE ZUMBA GOLD**

Lower intensity workout classes

Perfect for adults especially seniors who are looking for a modified Zumba® class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower-intensity

**Wednesdays starting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
9.30am till 10.30am**

**\*\*\* First 7 sessions free of charge \*\*\***

**Qualified instructor from Invisible Threads**

For more information email: [swintercreatonpc@gmail.com](mailto:swintercreatonpc@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Good Neighbourhood Scheme funded by the National Lottery  
In association with Northamptonshire ACRE, Creaton Parish Council and Creaton Village Hall

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



## Monday Morning Meet Guilsborough Village Hall

9 – 11am every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)

All welcome, baby – OAPs.

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

£2.50 per adult, children free

Christmas Party Monday 18th December

For more information contact Janet 01604

740640



## House Guest 21-23 March 2024 – Save the date

GMADS presents House Guest by Francis Durbridge from 21-23 March. This is a dark but exciting thriller.

We have cast the main parts and rehearsals are well underway.

But just as importantly we need people to fill roles behind the scenes.

If you would like to share the enjoyment, challenges and friendships that come from being on stage or behind the scenes please call our Chair Amanda Miller on 07508 058998 or email [info@gmads.co.uk](mailto:info@gmads.co.uk) Visit our website [www.gmads.co.uk](http://www.gmads.co.uk) or follow us at [facebook.com/GMADSAmateurDrama](https://facebook.com/GMADSAmateurDrama)



Guilsborough Church

## Christmas Tree Festival

View the trees

Saturday 16th December 10.30-4.30

Sunday 17th December 1.00-4.00

## Christmas by Candlelight

Friday 15th December 7.00 for 7.30

Songs, sketches and music with GMADS

Tickets £10

(To include seasonal refreshments)

On the door or in advance from

Janet 01604 740640 or Hilary 01604 740694

## Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 17th December 6.00

## No room in the garage or the attic?



**SELF STORAGE**

**Rent storage space by the week or  
for as long as you need**

Archive Documents

House Contents

Business or Domestic

**Tel 01604505050**

email: [George@Loc-Box.co.uk](mailto:George@Loc-Box.co.uk)

Loc-Box Self Storage Creton Northants

[www.Loc-Box.co.uk](http://www.Loc-Box.co.uk)

## WillsDirect

Will Drafting Service

1 Judges Court, Creton, Northampton NN6 8NS

Office: 01604 505170

Mobile: 07899 938255

Email: [willsdirectbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:willsdirectbusiness@gmail.com)

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

**There is one important job you've  
been meaning to do for years...  
Make a Will!**

Wills Direct Northampton has been established since 1993 offering a professional, expert Will Writing Service to people throughout Northamptonshire and the surrounding area. With Wills written for over 12,000 people, Wills Direct can help you to write your Will simply and quickly with our affordable **FREE HOME VISIT SERVICE**.



**Safe to do  
business with**

**Code Compliant**

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## New Roller Needed

Rolling is an important process in cricket. It improves pitch performance by compacting the soil, reducing live grass cover, and making the pitch more smooth and uniform. Rolling is the most significant contributor to achieving the requirements of a cricket pitch, which needs to be not only true and safe to prevent injury to players but must also provide a surface that delivers an appropriate level of bounce, pace, and consistency over several days/hours of use. Rolling cricket wickets is part of the protocol for preparing safe cricket wickets twice a week from Spring to Autumn.

A new motorised roller similar to the one shown opposite is needed to replace the faulty, damaged and aged roller, and will cost £11,000. A grant will be applied for towards replacement cost, with the GPFA contributing about £3,500 towards the cost from fundraising.

The provision of safe and well maintained cricket square/wickets enables competitive team cricket to take place at Guilsborough Playing Field. Being part of a team helps many, especially the young, to understand how to interact with



others, through communication and being part of a team that has common objectives. It also leads to individuals being friends for life.

The football and cricket games also bring together individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds

creating social cohesion between the villages and towns of the area. More locally, the events and informal practice on the Field provide frequent opportunities for social interaction and discussions on local and village issues with the overall effect of strengthening the local community.

Schools use the Field on a regular basis: Guilsborough Academy (senior students practice their organisational and leadership skills), Guilsborough Primary (for their Sports Day) and

Northants Sports (who organise sports for other local primary schools).

The end of season renovation of the cricket square was completed in September by Thompson Groundcare of Guilsborough, costing £1,345. It involves scarification, overseeding application, top dressing with loam, aeration and fertilisation.

## Guilsborough Guides



One of our leaders will be retiring shortly and we are looking for new volunteers to help keep our Guide unit open. Could you come along and help? For more information register online or contact Pauline on p.jacobs59@outlook.com

We look forward to you joining in our fun activities!

## GUILSBOROUGH FRIENDS

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

During the summer months we arrange outside events weather permitting.

Social activities include Guest speakers, Garden visits, Meals out, Visits to local places of interest and much more £3 per meeting, unless otherwise stated, which is used to cover refreshments, costs and make charitable donations.

**We are looking forward to welcoming new members.**



Tennis continues throughout the winter months, weather permitting, on Thursday nights under floodlights from 6pm to 8pm, and on Sundays 10am to 12 noon.

ALL WELCOME from all villages.

If you would like to find out more about joining GTC, please contact Chris Benbow on 07857 707503 or Graham Metcalfe on 07894 424328.

**Learn to drive**

with

**MERRICK**  
School of Motoring  
est. 1980



**Merrick Bowles, DSA ADI**

**01604 740138**

**Towing instruction also available.**

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### *From the Headteacher...*

As we are approaching the Winter season I wanted to express my heartfelt

thanks to all of the pupils, staff and parents for your continued support for our wonderful school. Our children are all very settled and we have continued with our whole curriculum and the learning around school feels great. Thank you everyone! Since being back at school this Autumn term we've filled the weeks with lots of learning and also curriculum enrichment days. We've completed a Maths Day, held our European Day of Languages, as well as our Year 5 children completing their Bikeability. We were also very proud to raise lots of money for the 'Jeans for Genes' charity. We are now approaching the season of festivity and are looking forwards to lots of exciting things planned already!

We were delighted to welcome prospective parents as they came to have a good look around our wonderful Reception/ Year 1 environment. Our Head Boy and Head Girl took part in the visits, speaking confidently to parents about their school experience so far. Thank you Cooper and Phoebe, you did a grand job!

We held our first School Council and Eco Worrier meetings this half term and already have some brilliant ideas to make our school even better. We're all very excited to see what takes place over the next academic year!

Please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilsborough Primary 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 Facebook account – Guilsborough C of E Primary School (a closed group for parents, guardians or carers) – or through our Twitter profile – @guilsboroughpri and YouTube channel.



Guilsborough Church  
Christmas Services  
All are welcome

Lights of love switch-on  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
4.30pm

Carol Service  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
6.00pm

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
4.30pm  
Christingle Service  
with Guilsborough Primary School  
(all welcome)

Christmas Day  
Communion with Carols  
11.00am

## Carol Singing

We will be carol singing around Guilsborough on Wed 20th Dec meeting at 6.30pm on the Big Green by the Christmas Tree.

Please bring a torch, children should be accompanied by an adult. Carol sheets provided, wrap up warm. Mulled wine and mince pies en route.

For more information contact Katie 07747 604067

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Speeding within the village is still a problem and we're collecting data from our new portable speed awareness device with the aim to present it to and request enforcement from the police.

We still have two councillor vacancies so if you're interested in joining us please do either contact the Clerk by email or phone on 01788 824425.

Maybe you want to help your community but don't want to take public office. Then how about volunteering to be the local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.



Guilsborough still doesn't have one and it's been proved that an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme helps keep the area safer. Contact the Clerk for more information.

Lastly, we have to say a BIG thank you to Alex of Thompson Groundcare, a Guilsborough resident, who has made a splendid job of clearing the extremely overgrown bank between Hybank and Church Hill at no cost to the parish. A very generous act and we are very appreciative of his hard work.

# HOLLOWELL NEWS

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTO WINNERS

Paul Mourant, Viv Benjamin, Gill Mister, Mark Draper, Chris Webb, Lisa Parker, Helen Brown, Sue Tomalin, Norah Daykin

## HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL SURVEY – WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Hollowell Village Hall Committee is seeking the views of residents regarding the use of our village hall and the events we organise throughout the year. Please take 5 minutes to fill out the survey using the QR code below. Your responses and comments will make a real contribution to the running of the Village Hall. You have the option to remain anonymous, and please be aware that the information gathered is solely for the use of Village Hall Committee and will not be employed for any other reason. If you include your contact details, your survey will be entered into a draw to win one of three free hot breakfast rolls, at our next Big Breakfast morning.

Simply point your phone camera at the QR code and click on the link to take you straight to the survey. If you prefer a paper copy or require any assistance with completing the form, please contact Theresa on 07775 991143.



## A SIGN FOR THE TIMES

Many thanks to Allen Eaton and his team of Steam Rally enthusiasts, who have restored one of the finger pointers on the old signpost at the bottom of Church Hill.

They carefully removed the lettering from the rotten wood, and were able to salvage some letters, but many were so damaged, they had to be replaced. Unfortunately, the letters were of an old imperial size and could not easily be sourced. The team painstakingly cut replacement letters from sheet aluminium, painted them, and fixed them to a new piece of wood. A superb job!

## HOPEWELL "COFFEE AND A CHAT" -

Usually the third Friday in the month. Next dates:

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a piece of delicious cake and a catch up with friends. We meet in Hollowell Village Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm

For more information, or for help with transport, please call Paul on 07780 265614 or email: [wearehopewell@gmail.com](mailto:wearehopewell@gmail.com).

EVERYONE WELCOME!

## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AT HOLLOWELL CINEMA



We were treated to a very special and unique experience when the film

'Rudy' was shown at Hollowell Village Hall in October.

The VH committee was approached by Rugby based film director Shona Auerbach who, along with her husband, cinematographer, Graeme Dunn, had created the film. They described the project as a "labour of love" which had taken them 10 years to fulfil.

Shona had collaborated with a colleague to write the film, moved to do so by the experience of losing a loved one, particularly the effect on a young teenager of losing a mother. Rudy is the fictional teenager in the film, devastated by the death of her mother and left, alone with her grieving father, to care for two much younger siblings.

This may all sound totally miserable, but the film had moments of humour and wonderful portrayals of everyday life. It showed both Rudy and her father coming to terms with their appalling loss.

It was a treat for the eyes and ears with beautiful photography, ranging from details of domestic activity, to urban skateboarders, to our beautiful countryside. The urban setting used was Coventry and the rural landscape was around Birdingbury and Leamington Hastings.

The music for "Rudy" was written by Japanese composer, [Akira Kosemura](#) and was atmospheric and evocative. The film is being shown in some small cinemas around the country and is currently available on Curzon Home Cinema for £10. The creators of the film are also taking it to local villages in the area. We in Hollowell count ourselves very fortunate to have benefited from this. It was a real privilege and rare insight to get the opportunity to talk to the makers of this rather special film.

## HOLLOWELL HARVEST SUPPER 2023

A homemade Tea-for-two in a spring garden, a full car valet, six bags of well rotted horse manure and poem about your garden; just some of the welcome and unusual lots offered by villagers for the Harvest Supper Promises Auction. Forty-five people packed the Village Hall to celebrate the end of the harvest with a scrumptious meal of delicate hors d'oeuvres, chicken cobbler and a glorious array of homemade puds. Silly quiz games were played, and a good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who came along, to the catering team and all the other helpers and to those who generously offered promises for the auction, raising vital funds for the Village Hall in its 51st year.

# HOLLOWELL NEWS

## HOLLOWELL WRITER WINS AWARD

Congratulations to Theresa Kelleher who recently won a national award for her poetry. Theresa received a Highly Commended award for her poem "Scented Promise" from the King Lear Prizes - a National Creative Arts Competition for the over 60s. Theresa's poem, was written for her son Rob, and was shortlisted from 1,500 entries.

She says, "I'm so excited.....It's the first time I've entered a competition. I wouldn't have done that without the encouragement of my brother Michael."

Theresa's poem was published on the back page of the Autumn/September edition of the Village Link and references plants found in her garden.

## HOLLOWELL STEAM RALLY GIVE-AWAY 2023

The Steam Rally Give Away ceremony, at which all the money raised during the July Rally is handed over to local organisations and charities, is often a rough night.

Positioned in the calendar as it was, in early November, the 2023 event was no exception. The participants came together in the middle of storm Ciaran, with heavy rains, 40 mph winds and a rally field so thick with mud that no-one without tow-line hitches and 4-wheel drive dared enter the field.

There we all were, on top of a big hill in a large tent, exactly where the Met Office had suggested we shouldn't be, nevertheless that tent was packed with expectant people. I was fortunate to find myself sitting next to Peter Godwin, Rally commentator for 10 plus years and a farmer from Oxfordshire.

Peter explained that he provides amateur commentary at 20 steam shows around the country each year, but Hollowell, he says, is unique. "It is the only show that is not only doing good things for the community but makes a point of being seen to do so," he said. And so it was: over the next 45 minutes £73,000 was handed out by the rally committee to more than 54 organisations, ranging from local schools, churches and playing fields to the Air Ambulance, Fire Service, Riding for the Disabled, air cadets and scout groups.

This evening was unique in another sense because it was the first time that Neil Byrd had taken over the leadership of the Rally from its creator, Allen Eaton MBE.

Hollowell Steam is clearly in good hands – and Peter Godwin publicly thanked Neil for being a very capable and "user-friendly" chairman.

Almost two million pounds has been raised for good causes by Hollowell Steam in the 34 years it has been running.

At the end of the event, the participants cheered the many volunteers who do so much for our community, and who inspired so many people to brace the rain, the wind and the mud.



  
**Hollowell Church**  
**Christmas Carol Service**  
**and Christingle**  
**24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**6.30pm**  
**All are welcome**

HURRAY! IT'S...  
**CAFÉ CHRISTMAS**  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9.30 TO 12.00**  
**HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL**  
Come along to celebrate a Hollowell Village Christmas Get-together  
FRESHLY COOKED SAUSAGE, BACON AND EGG ROLLS  
HOMEMADE CAKES AND BARISTA COFFEE  
PLUS  
LOCALLY PRODUCED ART CARDS & TOMBOLA



## HOLLOWELL & TEETON PARISH COUNCIL - CARDIAC ARREST SEMINAR (DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING)

Twenty-one residents attended the training session held in Hollowell Village Hall in early October to learn about the use of the new defibrillator. The training was organised by the Parish Council and provided by two volunteers from The Community Heart Beat Trust.

The session included a demonstration of the use of different defibrillators, the importance of CPR in the resuscitation process, and how the equipment works in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. Anyone who was not able to attend, or those seeking 'refresher' training can access this information online from the British Heart Foundation: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/.../how-to-.../learn-cpr-in-15-minutes>



# THORNBY NEWS



Thornby Church  
Christmas Services  
All are welcome

Carol Service  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
3.00pm

Christmas Day  
Communion with Carols  
9.30am



*Lovely evening in St. Helens Church, Thornby, where we were entertained by the Northampton Male Voice Choir. Fantastic singing with a glass of wine and hot snacks at half time. All profits were in aid of St. Helens.*

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank you all for all your donations and support this year. It is greatly appreciated as always and with your help we continue to maintain our beautiful little Village Hall. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024. Thornby Village Hall Equipment available for any extra guests as Christmas!

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



**M J Burdett  
Plumbing**

**Plumbing & Heating Engineer**

Central heating installations, repairs & service

Oil fired Boilers supplied & fitted

Full bathroom installations

For all your plumbing requirements

No job too small

Over 20 years experience

Call Mark on:

**07841 572458**

**01604 740704**

mjburdettplumbing@btinternet.com

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 glass-ware.

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

## Thornby Village Hall

Hire charge  
£10 per hour

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



**Q. Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?**

Answer on back page!





## MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALLISON TWIGG, THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

Advent is an important season in the church and is a time of waiting – both preparing for Jesus' birth at Christmas but also looking forward in anticipation of his second coming. Advent is important to acknowledge as a season in the church and is certainly a lot more than just a chocolate countdown to Christmas! In fact in the church calendar Christmas begins on Christmas Day and then the season of Christmas goes on until 5 January when we mark Epiphany and for some the season only really ends with Candlemas celebrated on 2nd February.

But despite acknowledging the importance and significance of Advent, the reality is that the Christmas Season inevitably starts early for most of us.

The season of Christmas is one to be enjoyed and is an invitation. At Christmas time, church communities all over the country dress their buildings with festive decorations, and open their doors on cold evenings, to help communities come together to sing carols and to celebrate Christmas with all manner of services from Christingles; Donkey and Crib Services; Carol Services and more traditional Christmas Communion Services. In the villages of the Uplands Group that is exactly what we want to do to and we offer our warm

# CHURCH NEWS

welcome to you at all of our services. (Please do see the advert on each of the village pages to see what is happening across the churches of the Uplands.)

The truth is I love Christmas. I love what it means to me both as a Christian as I celebrate the birth of Jesus and also what it means to me as a time to enjoy with family and friends, many of whom we only see a few times a year as they live in different parts of the country and beyond.

Christmas is about love, shared between families, friends and communities, love in reaching out to others, and above all, the love of God in the form of the precious baby in the manger.

I pray that as you continue with your festive preparations, you would know the love of the Christ Child this Christmas time and always.

With love and prayers

Reverend Allison

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14**

ST ETHELDREDA'S GUILSBOROUGH

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 15TH TO 17TH DECEMBER



Village groups and societies are invited to take part! Contact Janet Minney on 01604 740640 for details.

**Friday December 15th 7.30 pm**  
**“CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**

**a Celebration”**  
**Poems Sketches Music**

***See page 11 for details***

## Shoe Boxes and Blankets 2023

Thank you



To everyone who contributed to the Shoe Box & Blanket collection this year. We will be sending 37 blankets & 153 shoe boxes in support of the Blythwood Project. They will be going families in Ukraine.

***Janet***

# CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group of Parishes office (answerphone): 01604 743444

Email: [uplandsgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:uplandsgroup@btinternet.com)

## Uplands Group of Churches Service Planner Christmas 2023

	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December
	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple							
<b>Cold Ashby</b>	6pm Lights of Love switch on				5.00pm Carol Service						9.30am BCP Communion
<b>Cottesbrooke</b>			3.00pm Carol Service								11.00am BCP Communion
<b>Creaton</b>								5.00pm Carol Service	11.00am Walking Nativity	10.00PM Christmas Communion	
<b>Guisborough</b>		4.30pm Lights of Love switch on				6.00pm Carol Service	4.30pm Christingle with the primary school				11.00am CW Communion
<b>Hollowell</b>										6.30PM Christingle Service	
<b>Ravensthorpe</b>									3.00pm Donkey Service	5.00PM Carol Service	9.30am CW Communion
<b>Spratton</b>				6.30pm Scout Christingle			6.30pm Carols around the Christmas Tree			3.00PM Crib Service	
										11.30PM Christmas Communion	
<b>Thoraby</b>						3.00pm Carol Service					9.30am BCP Communion

## FIND OUT WHAT YOUR HOME IN NORTHAMPTON IS WORTH



Use Our **FREE** Instant Online Valuation Tool

If you're thinking of moving, start by getting a Hometrack Valuation Report to see how much your home is worth.

Paul Chant  
Branch Director



Hometrack is the UK's largest automated valuer of residential properties and is relied upon by 13 of the 15 top UK high street lenders.

This report normally costs £19.95 and includes ALL recent house sales near you!

Get your **FREE** online valuation report now at:  
[www.EweMove.com/NorthamptonNorth](http://www.EweMove.com/NorthamptonNorth)  
or call: (24/7) 01604 267 772

EweMove respects any existing sole agency agreement already in place with another agent.



**Q. Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?**

Answer on back page!

### HOUSE PLANS PLANNING APPLICATIONS BUILDING REGS

For your **FREE** initial consultation

**07764 603017**  
**01604 743409**

[plans@abstractlimited.co.uk](mailto:plans@abstractlimited.co.uk)

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.abstractlimited.co.uk](http://www.abstractlimited.co.uk)

*Thanks & Happy Christmas  
to all our clients*

# AGAWISE

# BOILER SERVICE

REPAIR  
SERVICE  
COMMISSION  
OIL BOILERS  
OIL COOKERS

agawise.co.uk  
sean@agawise.co.uk  
01604 385138  
07759 630068



**SAME MAN,  
NEW VAN!**



## CHRISTMAS CREATIVES

continued from front page:

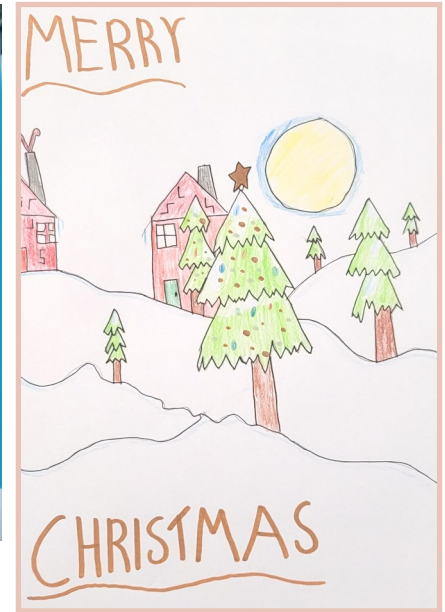
Our thanks to everyone who took the time to take part. Your creativity is fantastic and there is clearly loads of talent in our villages! All winners and runners-up will be receiving prizes and certificates from the Village Link team. Runners up featured on the back page are:

Right: Santa in the Chimney, Eleanor Clark, aged 9

Right: Village scene, Oscar Wilson, aged 11

Below right: Christmas Dinner poem and drawing, Florence Willmore, aged 10.

Below right: Merry Christmas picture and poem, Coen Gibson, aged 8.



# CHRISTMAS FAIR

## FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Refreshments:  
Tea/Coffee  
Hot chocolate  
Squash  
Cake  
Biscuits  
Mulled wine (non alcoholic)  
Mince pies

LOTS OF STALLS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, CRAFT ACTIVITIES, SANTAS GROTTOS, RAFFLE AND REFRESHMENTS.

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023  
1PM-4PM  
DAVENTRY COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
ASHBY ROAD, DAVENTRY, NN11 0QE

Santa's Grotto £3.50  
Letter writing, gift & opportunity for parents/carers to take photos included

CRAFTS FROM £1.50  
-MAKE YOUR OWN REINDEER FOOD  
-CREATE YOUR OWN TREE DECORATION  
-DECORATE A SNOWMAN BISCUIT

ALL PROFITS GOING TO THE WARWICKSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE

### Christmas Dinner

Playing in the snow, I smell something good.  
A Christmas Dinner, not a bit burnt, hope I eat late.  
Dad calls out, "Dinner's ready!" I race back inside.  
Take off my coat, go in to find...  
ALL MY FAMILY, sat in a line.  
I take a seat, ready to feast.  
Hope I'll get a good Potato at least!  
We tuck right in, our plates are now full.  
Time for the crackers, PULL, PULL, PULL!  
After our meal, we have Christmas treats.  
The Christmas Pudding, Oh so sweet!  
Then we play a family game in the next room.  
Pass The Bomb Christmas Edition, hand on you...BOOM!  
Then everyone leaves to go back home.  
We have to clear up the mess on the home.

### ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS

Abstract Limited, Architects - p19  
Aga Wise Boiler Service - p19  
J.M. Billings Plumbing & Heating - p9  
Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic - p2  
Compass Energy - p2  
Creaton Village Shop - p2  
Dawn Mallard Hairdressing - p6  
Ewe Move - p19  
LocBox Storage Solutions - p11  
Northamptonshire School of Dance - p8  
MJ Burdett Plumber - p16  
Merrick School of Driving and Towing - p12  
Wendy Yvonne Electrolysis - p5  
Wills Direct - p11

Merry Christmas Everyone,  
I hope you all have fun.  
When I look down the stairs,  
I see presents everywhere.  
Let's all share the joy with every girl and boy.

Cracker answers: P16: Because he had low "elf" esteem! P19: A mince spy!