

VILLAGE LINK



From Grit to Grace

Local heroes recognised as we celebrate Mark Hazle's award and bid farewell and happy retirement to Rev'd Caroline Burnett.



Guilsborough resident and on-call fire-fighter Mark Hazle was recently awarded South England's Gritter Driver of the Year award by a highway maintenance vehicle manufacturer. He dedicated the award to his colleagues at Brixworth Depot. Congratulations Mark!
Photo credit: Econ Engineering.

This spring we say a fond farewell to Reverend Caroline as she retires. She has shared in our celebrations, supported us in difficult times, and touched many lives with her care, wisdom, and humour. We thank her warmly and wish her every happiness ahead. Everyone is invited to her Service of Thanks on Sunday 12th April, 10am at Guilsborough Church. The churches are also looking for someone from Hollowell or Guilsborough to serve as Treasurer. If you have bookkeeping skills and a little time to spare, your help would be very welcome. Warm thanks go to outgoing Treasurer, Mike Milner, for many years of dedicated service.



LOCAL SPRING GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY



- 🌸 Cottesbrooke Hall
Sunday 26th April
- 🌸 Holdenby Hall
Sunday 26th April
- 🌸 Guilsborough
Sunday 3rd May
- 🌸 Ravensthorpe Nursery
Friday 8th & Saturday 9th May
- 🌸 East Haddon
Monday 25th May
- 🌸 Creton
Sunday 7th June

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WHAT'S ON

APRIL

- See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events
- 4th Coffee Morning Cottesbrooke
- 8th Creton WI
- 9th Guilsborough Friends
- 11th Creton Walkers
- 14th Gmads meeting Guilsborough
- 16th FOSM History Group, Creton
- 17th Pop Up Pub Guilsborough
- 19th Thornby Car Boot Sale
- 24th Hollowell Hopewell Café
- 25th Neighbourhood Plan Consultation, Creton

MAY

- See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events
- 2nd Coffee & Clean, Cottesbrooke VH
- 3rd Thornby Farm Walk
- 9th Creton Walkers
- 9th Hollowell Garage Sale
- 13th Creton WI
- 14th Guilsborough Friends
- 22nd Hollowell Hopewell Cafe

AND REGULARLY ...

- Monday mornings MMM Guilsborough;
- Tuesday Creton Singers; Pilates & Yoga Guilsborough
- Thursday indoor bowls Creton; Yoga, NIA & Badminton Guilsborough
- Friday Time to Move Guilsborough
- Sunday am Tennis Guilsborough; Soul Yoga, Cottesbrooke ... and Long Buckby Library & Hub events on p24.

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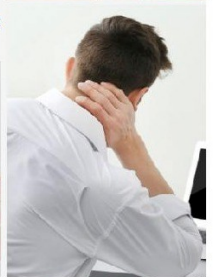
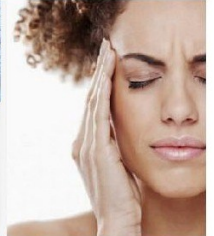
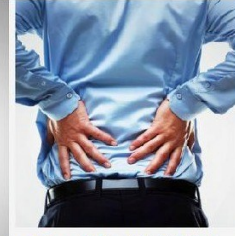
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Trevor Reay

From 1983, Trevor developed a local oil distributor in Brixworth alongside Tony Watson. After a change of ownership, Trevor decided it would be wise to leave that company in May 2018. Two years later in September 2020 an opportunity came along. Trevor came out of an early retirement and locally started Compass Energy.

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

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

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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 Cheques payable to 'Village Link'

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE/ JULY EDITION: Tuesday 5th May

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Red-throated Diver visits local reservoirs



On the evening of 9th February, I had time for a quick visit to Ravensthorpe Reservoir. I had just a thirty-minute window, not enough time for a full circuit, so I started with a quick scan from the causeway. Looking through my binoculars towards the fishing lodge, a bird immediately caught my eye before it dived beneath the surface. After around thirty seconds it reappeared, having moved towards the middle part of the reservoir. Although distant, I was pretty sure that what I was looking at was a Red-throated Diver: larger than a Great Crested Grebe, in winter plumage dark grey above, with bright white sides to the head and neck and with a very distinctive up-tilted bill angle. I had recently seen several of these along the East Sussex and Kent coast, including a raft of at least seven off Winchelsea Beach, but had never seen one in Northamptonshire.

Although the evening was bright with largely clear skies, the light was fading, so I headed as quickly as possible (not easy given the muddy conditions!) round the path on the west side of the reservoir. As I reached the fishing platforms near the lodge, I was able to get better views which confirmed the identification. The diver continued to feed underwater, submerging for up to a minute at a time, often reappearing considerable distances away from where it had dived.

While Great Northern Divers have in recent years become regular winter visitors in Northamptonshire and surrounding counties, Red-throated has become a real rarity in our county, with only one other record in the last eighteen years, a short-staying bird seen at Boddington Reservoir in October 2024. With a European breeding range including the Scottish Highlands and Islands, Iceland and Northern Scandinavia, Red-throated Divers depart these areas in winter, dispersing around coastal areas further south and – as here – occasionally turning up in inland waters. Also known as Red-throated Loon, the species (*Gavia stellata*) has a circum-polar distribution around the whole northern hemisphere.

As I write, this individual has stayed around for twelve days, also visiting Hollowell Reservoir on a couple of occasions. It was in fact at Hollowell where I saw it most recently - and took the photo above - on the evening of 21st February (I'd also seen it that morning in flight as it departed Ravensthorpe Reservoir).

Jon Cook, joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com, [@jcbirder.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/jcbirder.bsky.social)

COLD ASHBY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Bingo night

What a fantastic night we all had on Saturday 31st January at our Bingo night where we had a full house and welcomed visitors from: Market Harborough, Swinford, Spratton, Long Buckby, Hollowell and Welford. Thanks go to our caller Dave Harris and Gemma Sellers and Mandy Carson for cooking and serving the lasagna. Congratulations to all our winners!



Cold Ashby Archive

The archive is nicely taking shape, and it was a lovely afternoon when many Cold Ashby residents joined us in February to put names to the many faces in our photographs. Thanks also to Carole Oliver for making the tea and cakes. We are holding another heritage afternoon in May – See poster for more details.

Cold Ashby Heritage Afternoon



Please join us on Saturday 16th
May from 5pm to celebrate all
things

Cold Ashby

The archive will be available to
view, and the Maypole will be
available for dancing

A traditional May Day Tea is
available to preorder @£6



Cold Ashby Memorial Hall Presents:
Do join us on:
Saturday 25th April @ 7:30pm
To celebrate St George's Day with
our Karaoke master Dave Harris

England theme tabletop quiz

Fish & Chip supper available to
preorder £6

NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

On behalf of St Denys church PCC, we would like to wish Rev. Caroline Burnett a very happy retirement and wish her well for her new move. She will be very much missed throughout the benefice and we are very thankful to her for all her guidance, care and support that she provided to everyone and in particular to Cold Ashby residents.

VILLAGE NEWS

Safari Supper

Thanks to all who attended and catered for our Safari Supper. A great time was had by all with the sum of £150 raised and shared between the Church, the Village Hall and the Playing Field.

COLD ASHBY NEWS

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.

Date	Event	Place	Details
Sat 11 th April	Social Evening	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 15 th April	Skittles League Pairs	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 19 th April	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Sat 25 th April	St George's Day Karaoke	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm (see poster)
Sun 10 th May	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Sat 16 th May	Heritage Day Tea	Memorial Hall	From 5pm (see poster)
Sat 30 th May	Social Evening	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm

Pool nights some Mondays from 7.30pm at the Cold Ashby Playing Field Pavilion. Bar open. Skittles will recommence on Wednesdays in May. Check village Facebook pages for further information.

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall Sunday Cafe

Join us for breakfast between 9:30-12pm

Sun 19th April

Sun 10th May

Bacon, Sausage, Egg rolls,

Toasties and cakes available to eat in or takeaway



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COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Coffee and Clean at the Village Hall

On **Saturday 2nd May** there will be a Coffee and Clean event at the village hall. After the huge success of last year's spring clean, the committee are welcoming any volunteers that are free to join us any time between 10am and 2pm to help spruce up the village hall. If you are able to bring a lawn mower or jet wash to help with tidying up outside that would be hugely appreciated. Please contact Holly to advise (074931 65731). All volunteers will be readily supplied with coffee and cakes and there will be jobs available for all capabilities.

Monthly Coffee Morning

Our monthly coffee mornings at the village hall have remained popular and provide a wonderful opportunity for residents to get together and catch up on village news and events and share some wonderful homemade cakes. Our next coffee morning is on **Saturday 4th April (10-12)** followed by the coffee and clean on Saturday 2nd May. We are in need of some volunteers to host the coffee mornings from July onwards. If you are able to help please add your name to the list on the noticeboard in the village hall or contact Sally on 07759 049157. Donations at the coffee mornings are gratefully received to help cover the host's costs and any excess is donated to Mind Northamptonshire, a fantastic charity supporting mental health needs in the local area.

Midsummer Gospel Choir Night at Cottesbrooke

Our next fundraising event in the village is the Midsummer Gospel Choir night in Cottesbrooke, more details to follow as soon as a

date is secured with the Choir (aiming for May/June). Please keep an eye on the village notice board and village hall Facebook and Instagram pages for more details. Holly will be selling tickets in due course. To register your interest please contact her on 074931 65731 or email cottesbrookeVHC@gmail.com.

Warrior Retreat, Sunday 19th April

11:30am - 2pm at the Village Hall. Yoga, soundbath, sauna and icebath. £55, book with Sara on 07765 255460.

Local Artist Steve Nicholas



Village resident Steve Nicholas produces beautiful artwork using charcoal and soft pastels. He draws inspiration from nature and his local environment, one of his latest commissions, which he undertook for a

fellow villager, was of the beautiful big oak tree in Harry Jones field (pictured). Working on a smaller scale, Steve still manages to capture the magic of the everyday. To see more of his stunning artwork check out his Instagram [@Steve_Nicholas_Art](https://www.instagram.com/Steve_Nicholas_Art) or if you'd like to commission a piece yourself, you can contact him via email at info@nicholasandsteele.co.uk

It is a bright spring morning as I write here in Cottesbrooke – feels like the first sunshine I've seen for months. We had the most glorious sunset last night, so perhaps that saying that a red sky at night is a shepherd's delight is true...

Despite the ongoing chill, bumblebees are already doing their rounds, visiting the spotted carpet of snowdrops under the apple tree. New birth is taking place for all the animals around here, which means that food will be required for the new babies. Many species pass by my window – foxes, muntjac, pheasants, squirrels and hares – but recently badgers have been the most frequent visitors, arriving late at night in search of food.

Last night, I went to the window to look at the night sky. I was hoping I could spot the international space station as it passed over. When I opened the curtains to peep out at around ten o'clock, I completely forgot about outer space. There, almost at my feet but just on the other side of the glass door, was a badger. He was gathering up the crusts of bread I put out for the birds and I wondered if he was taking them home for his newborn brood – according to BBC's Country File, the male badger gets sent out to bring back food for his young family while the mother keeps them safe. I wonder if Mrs Badger said, 'remember to give an old lady a fright while you're out there'...

These are the real treasures of rural life.

From this quiet corner of Cottesbrooke, I say, enjoy it all.

Love – Chris Utley



COTTESBROOKE
HALL & GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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Creaton WI

What an amazing turnout for the defibrillator and CPR training. Around 80 people from Creaton and surrounding villages attended, and there was enough cake! Huge thanks to Jeanette and Keir from St John Ambulance for their friendly, engaging and informative talk. From the feedback received, people left feeling more confident that they could potentially be "Lifesavers" rather than "Bystanders", which is the aim of the WI's current national campaign.



Below is our meeting programme for the next four months, at 7.30 p.m. in the URC unless otherwise stated:

- April 8th The Work of Water Aid
– a talk by Richard McMahon
- May 13th Discussion on WI Resolutions and Campaigns for the coming year
- June 10th The Life of a Scots Guardsman
– a talk by Andrew Tennant
- July 8th Lotions, Potions and Dubious Cures
– with Susan Copperwheat

Everyone is welcome to join us.

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

Creaton Walkers

At last it has stopped raining! Good grief! Walking has been such a challenge slithering through all the mud and floods, feeling very sorry for the farmers. Signs of Spring are popping up everywhere and the Creaton Walking Group were delighted to walk from Lamport over familiar paths to Old and Scaldwell. Lamport pub is always welcoming of walkers so it was a pleasure to return there for lunch.

We meet on the second Saturday of the month at Creaton lychgate at 10am for an 8 mile walk over the fields. Well-behaved dogs, and humans (!), are very welcome.

Next walks are on

Saturday 11 April

Saturday 9 May



Creaton Singers

The Creaton Singers have been working hard over the winter to develop their repertoire in preparation for Creaton in Bloom on Sunday 7th June. Come and hear the Singers in the URC at 2.30pm and 3.30pm whilst enjoying a delicious cream tea. Songs are both modern and traditional and are usually sung in 4 parts.

Many of them are instantly recognisable whilst some are less known and most have a level of challenge to sing!

The Creaton Singers have been delighted to welcome some new singers, especially sopranos and basses, to level out the numbers of Altos and Tenors.

If you know of a group who would enjoy being sung to, the Creaton Singers are willing to perform free of charge for a good cause. Just ask any member of the group or come to the URC on Creaton High Street any Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

What's Your Story?

They say that we all have a story in us, though for most it may be quite difficult to get it out. Help is at hand from local author Tamsin Winter who is offering a day of mentoring to help get those words from your head to the page. Tamsin, whose parents live in Creaton, is a multi-award winning author of fiction for readers aged 11+. Her latest book, *I Dare You*, explores the lure of online fame and the disastrous consequences of social media challenges.

Tamsin's mentoring workshop: Write Your Book takes place on 5th June at Harborough Innovation Centre, LE16 7WB between 10am and 4pm. For more information or to book your place visit: www.tamsinwinter.com/mentoring.

Blooms from Down the Road

There's something quietly wonderful about knowing exactly where your flowers come from, not a distant warehouse or overseas farm, but a field just down the road in Creaton. Local flower grower Sue McGlasson is one of a growing band of small producers who are putting Northamptonshire on the map for sustainable, British-grown cut flowers. Her seasonal bunches - handpicked, pesticide-free, and grown with genuine care - are available from Creaton Shop, and we're delighted to shine a spotlight on her as part of our commitment to championing independent businesses within 20 miles of our door.

Every bouquet tells a story of the season: what's flowering now, what the weather has coaxed into bloom, and what hands have tended it from seed to stem. That's something no supermarket shelf can replicate.

Whether you're treating yourself or gifting, this is local shopping at its most rewarding. Supporting a neighbour's livelihood really does make a difference, and with growers like this on our doorstep, it's never been easier to choose local. Find her seasonal bouquets and subscription offers by contacting her directly on 07816 789556, or pop into your local shop!

CREATON NEWS

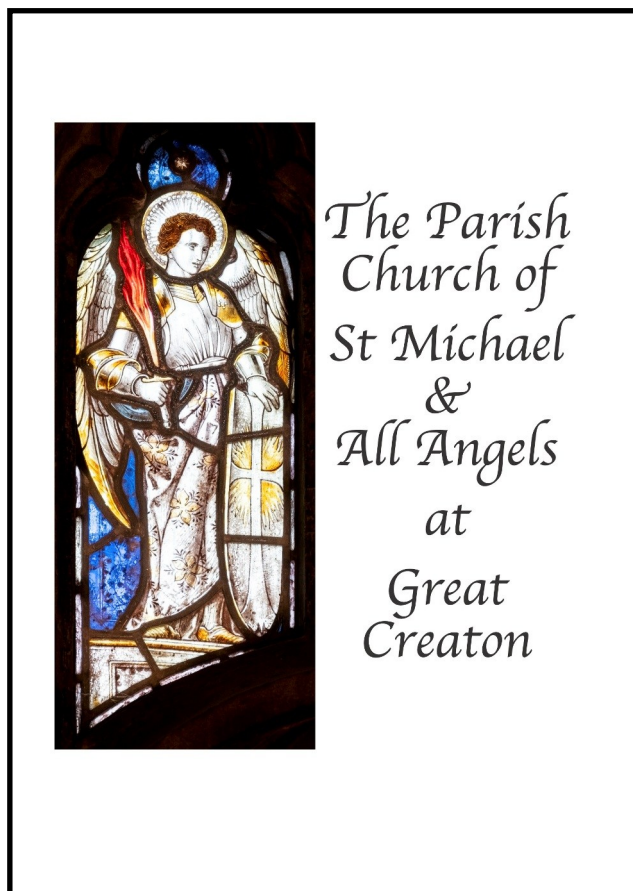
Friends of St Michael's History Group

The current season of history talks draws to a close in April when Bob Tomalin tells of the Civil War and the role that Northamptonshire played in both its inception and its end. Perhaps even Creaton had a part? Come along to St Michael's for 7:30pm on Thursday April 16th. Entrance is £5 and there will be drinks afterwards.

This series of talks have been more Creaton-focussed than perhaps they usually are. The reason for this is, if you haven't noticed, is that St Michael & All Angels is celebrating 800 years of being a physical presence in the village. Even if you are not of that faith, or of none, it is worth noting that it is the oldest standing building in the village and as such contains clues and hints to the history of the whole community, not just the religious aspect of the church.

As part of the celebrations, the Friends have published a new guide to the Church, giving a bit of the history, not only of the building but also a bit of some of the people who made an impact on the Church and on the community. Copies of the guide can be purchased in the shop and cost £3.00. All money raised by the Friends goes towards the upkeep of the building - it may have survived 800 years but it still needs looking after.

The new season of talks will begin in September but there will be other events in the interim. Keep a look out for notices. The Friends will also have a stall at the Church during Creaton in Bloom. Do call by and say hello.





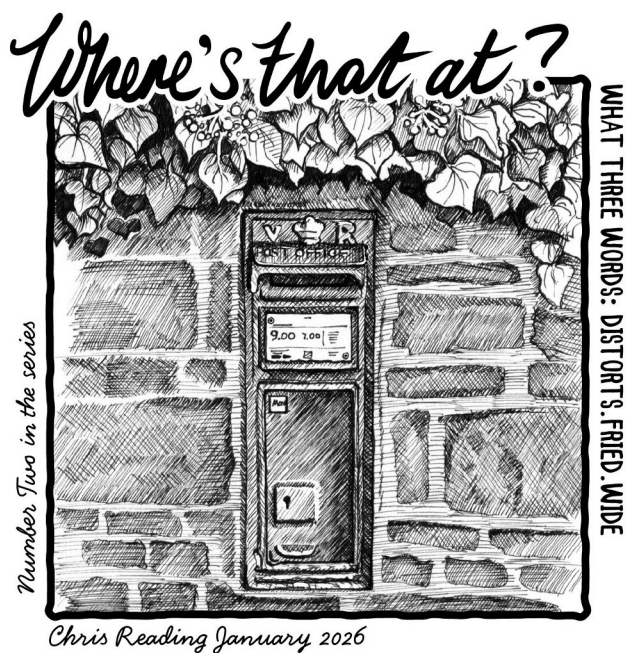
Sunday 7th June
Gardens Open 1pm – 5pm
BBQ on The Green 12pm – 2pm

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PRICES HELD from 2025 for the Open Gardens, BBQ and Cream Teas!

Proceeds to St. Michael and All Angels Church and other local charities



CREATON NEWS

Over the Counter

We were very pleased to welcome a new member to the staff team last month. If you haven't had the chance to meet Sarah yet, please pop in and introduce yourself and extend your support as she embarks on her training. I am sure your encouragement would be appreciated.

Valentine's Day has disappeared but there are some great ideas for Easter gifts in the shop for your loved ones. And as well as a large range of chocolate eggs there are flowers back on sale. One of the things we try and do at the shop is be prepared for any occasion.



One of the more important groups that rely on the shop were glued to their televisions watching who would win Best in Show at Crufts this year. It was a Clumber Spaniel, but others could have been in the running, if they could be bothered. Here's one with their shopping as appeared in the Shop's Facebook's page: In fact, whatever the occasion we can help, and remember you can place an order with us for collection or delivery. Let Creaton Village Shop take the stress out of entertaining.

By the time you read this. The shop floor will have had what I believe is known as a 'makeover'. A weekend at the end of March saw the grime of nearly eight years of footfall disappear. WE may need sunglasses now!

Would you like to get more involved? Why not have a taster session as a volunteer and see how you can help your local community shop. Ask at the counter the next time you are in.

Creaton URC

You are warmly welcome to join us for our Sunday Worship

Sunday	April	
5th 11am	Easter Sunday Morning Worship	Jon Heard
12th 11am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
19th 11am	Morning Worship	Andrew Howes
26th 11am	Morning Worship	Jon Heard
	May	
3rd 11am	Morning Worship	Jon Heard
10th 11am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
17th 11am	Morning Worship	Allan Pope
24th 11am	Pentecost Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
31st 11am	Joint Service with Crick and Long Buckby	Rev Nigel Adkinson

Poppies Coffee Shop is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 12 noon. You will be made very welcome.



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CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on clerk@creaton-pc.gov.uk

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website 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 are held bi-monthly usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The May meeting is Tuesday 12th May at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Creaton. The meeting will start with the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm. All residents are very welcome to attend. All village organisations are invited to give a report.

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/>

There is a current consultation on the WNC local plan.

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>

Fix My Street

West Northamptonshire Council are responsible for highway issues such as potholes, fly tipping and grit bins. You can report concerns directly to them on the Fix My Street website:

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council has vacancies for Parish Councillors. It is a great way to meet new people and make a difference to your community. No experience is needed and training will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

More information about the role is also available on the Parish Council website.

Litter Pick

Thank you to those that took part in the litter pick in March. Your help to keep the village looking tidy is always appreciated.

Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

A public consultation on the Creaton Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held on Saturday 25th April at the United Reform Church between 10am and 12.30pm. Everyone is most welcome.



Speed Watch Volunteers

The Parish Council is appealing for more volunteers to take part in the Speed Watch campaign. If you would be willing to be part of a team of volunteers that will use a speed gun to record speeding vehicles through the village please contact the Parish Clerk. Full training will be provided. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered.

Royal British Legion Representatives

Creaton does not currently have a Royal British Legion Representative to co-ordinate the annual Poppy Appeal. If you would like to volunteer for this role please email the clerk who can put you in touch with the necessary contacts for this role.

Neighbourhood Plan Open Event
Saturday 25th April 2026
Creaton U.R.C. 10:00am -12:30pm

The work on this important document is now almost complete. We would like you to see what we have been busy doing on behalf of our community. This is your chance to influence the draft policies prior to formal consultation, and submission to West Northants Council.

Free tea, coffee and biscuits*
** while you are considering these important issues that effect our village.*

- Housing - type and design.
- Community facilities - to be safeguarded and enhanced.
- Environment and heritage - assets to be protected.
- Transport - the key issues highlighted.
- Employment - what is appropriate for the Parish?

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

GUILSBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Inconsiderate/illegal parking

We are receiving more and more complaints of poor parking of vehicles. Examples are footpaths being obstructed, parking within junctions, parking across dropped kerbs, parking on grass verges and parking on the Village Green. **Please note that The Village Green is not public highway and the Parish Council will seek to recover any costs incurred carrying out any repairs.** It is worth mentioning that although currently parking issues are within the remit of the Police force, enforcement powers are being transferred to West Northants Council in April of this year. They may well choose to respond to any recurring complaints so please, do park responsibly and legally.

Playground news

It's very disappointing that at the time of writing the new play equipment is still not ready to be used. Work had to be paused due to the extremely soft ground conditions. Hopefully it won't be much longer before it's completed.




MMM

Monday Morning Meet
Guilborough Village Hall

9 – 11am every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)
All welcome, baby – OAPs.
£2.50 per Adult, Children Free
Meet for a chat, knit, hot drink & cake
For more information contact
Janet 01604 740640

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR HOME IN NORTHAMPTON IS WORTH



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Paul Chant
Branch Director



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GUILSBOROUGH RESIDENTS' SPRING EVENT

New to the Village or just want to catch up?

- See stalls by local clubs & groups
- Find out about village hall events
- Meet your local councillors

In the Village Hall with;
FREE TEA & COFFEE,
CAKE OR BACON BUTTIES !



Sunday
19th April

1.30pm to
4.30pm

'Guilborough's history unveiled !'

A talk on new local historical discoveries
by David O'Neil at 3.30pm

Clubs, groups, etc wanting a stall to contact:
Tony Hart councillor.hart@guilborough-pc.gov.uk
or David O'Neil councillor.oneil@guilborough-pc.gov.uk
(07801 700909)

Event organised by Guilborough Parish Council

WILD LEMON YOGA CLASS TIMETABLE

MONDAY	9.15am - 10.15am Strength & Mobility Yoga West Haddon Village Hall
TUESDAY	6.30pm - 7.30pm Gentle Flow Yoga Clipston Village Hall
THURSDAY	6pm - 7pm Gentle Flow Yoga Guilborough Village Hall
SUNDAY	9am - 10am Strength & Mobility Yoga Guilborough Village Hall
SUNDAY	10am - 11.30am Yin & Restorative (monthly) Guilborough Village Hall

To book your space: bookwhen.com/wildlemonyoga

@wildlemonyoga
M:07722 592204

WILD LEMON
YOGA & WELLBEING

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

A Bunch of Amateurs Another success for GMADS



“A Bunch of Amateurs”, produced by Guilsborough Music & Drama Society, and directed by Gip Ingles, played over three nights in early March to full houses. Rising to save their village theatre from closure, The Stratford Players book Jefferson Steel, a fading Hollywood action hero, to play King Lear in their forthcoming production. Unfortunately this Stratford is not the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company as assumed by the star, but a sleepy Suffolk village. The witty dialogue produced dramatic tension and a lot of laughs from the engaged audience.



The creative set featured a B&B, the Barn Theatre and dressing room. Several technical devices were used including a screen showing live and recorded scenes and provided the sudden on stage drenching of Jefferson in a storm. The seven acting parts were played very convincingly with strong characterisation, humour and precise timing. Obviously a lot of hard work went into this production by the director, actors and backstage crew. It certainly paid off. We are fortunate to have this standard of live theatre in our village.



GMADS Summer play in a garden – your chance to be involved

Following the success of A Bunch of Amateurs, we are hoping to do a summer production in a village garden in June or early July. “This England” is a quirky retelling of key events from England’s story up to Tudor times.

We would love new members to join us in playing the multiple small roles designed with minimal learning of lines for busy people! Casting meeting **Tuesday 14th April** in Guilsborough Village Hall.

To get involved or to find out more email info@gmads.co.uk or call Pam on 07900 861155.

www.gmads.co.uk Facebook: GMADSAmtourDrama

Guilsborough Friends

Where Good Company Meets Great Conversation

Looking to make new friends and enjoy lively social activities in a warm welcoming group? Guilsborough Friends is a diverse mix of ladies and gentlemen who enjoy meeting once a month to share interests, ideas and good company.

Our varied programme includes:

- Fascinating guest speakers
- Informative garden visits
- Enjoyable suppers and social evenings
- Visits to local places of interest
- And plenty more besides

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

We look forward to welcoming new members.

Our programme for the next three months:

- **Thursday 9th April - Tales from the Drivers Seat, talk by Jess Rose Nash, who was a London Bus Driver.**
- **Thursday 14th May - Visit to Nuneaton Animal Sanctuary**
- **Thursday 11th June - Visit to two gardens in Flore. Proceeds to the National Garden Scheme**

For further information contact:

Janet Minney T 01604 740640

Elizabeth Southgate T 01604 740064

Guilsborough Friends raised £375 at their Charity Supper for the work undertaken by The Good Loaf Bakery.

Suzu (in the striped jumper) and her colleague Dona (in a black jumper) joined us, providing freshly cooked rolls for our supper and a freshly baked loaf of bread for us all to take home.

The bakery is a social business which provides real employment opportunities to vulnerable local women so that they can break the cycle of poverty, unemployment and offending.

They are committed to improving the lives of those who have not had an easy time.

Suzu gave a short talk about the project. The business has developed as time has gone by, and they now offer Outside Catering buffets for events, such as the police, local authority and the local hospital.

The cafe is worth a visit. The address is: 1 Overstone Road, Northampton NN13JL. They are closed Sunday and Monday.

Opening hours 9.00 - 2.30pm (avoid Saturdays).



Guilborough Pop-up-Pub

Guilborough Village Hall



FRIDAY 17th April

Opens 6.30pm

Draught beer / Draught Lager / Cider/Wine/ Prosecco/Gin and Tonic/Soft drinks

and

Pizza available from the

'Love it Pizza Co.'

Profits towards the GPFA (Guilborough Playing Field Association)

With support from The Red Lion Pub, Thornby



Cricket News

Haddon Cricket Club are a village club based at three beautiful grounds at Guilborough, East Haddon and West Haddon, the club offers both social and competitive cricket for men, ladies and juniors of all standards.

The club run 4 junior sides, a ladies team and 5 men's sides in the summer so there is something for everyone. Winter training is underway and runs until April, with matches starting from late May. If you are thinking of returning to cricket, or your kids are keen to have a go in a relaxed, friendly environment please do contact Jim.houghton72@outlook.com.

Job Opportunity

The GPFA are looking for paid help to maintain the cricket square and prepare the pitches between April and September. The work is flexible but would require a commitment of 5-6 hours per week. The work is fully paid and full training will be provided. Contact Jim Houghton as above.



From the Headteacher

We are now halfway into this Spring Term which has been filled with lots of exciting activities and learning. We were very proud of our children who took part in all our sporting events and tournaments this term. Thank you Niall

for supporting these events and also for the super PE sessions that have taken place throughout the Spring Term.

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. Jo during the service. We were very proud of them.

Year 5 completed their trip to the Rock UK Frontier Centre for an exciting PDET Magic Maths day. They took part in many challenges and all came back to school bursting with problem solving strategies. Miss Merrett also won a \$million! It was a super day, enjoyed by all.

Our Safer Internet day was full of information and all classes took part in the live online Picture News assembly. We pride ourselves on keeping our children safe online!

Over the next few months we have several other events coming up, including World Book Day, Seasonal Walk, Parents evening, Science Day, Forest School Adventures and celebrating Easter. Information on these events will be communicated in the near future.

Please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilborough Primary we have lots of information

on our website www.guilboroughprimary.co.uk or you can keep up to speed and Follow us on X (aka Twitter) @GuilboroughPri / X and on our Instagram account [instagram.com/guilboroughprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/guilboroughprimaryschool)

*Mrs K Shilliam
Headteacher*



A selection of photos of the activities



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS



Hollowell & Teeton
Parish Council

Gillian Greaves (Clerk) Tel: 07771980598

12 Berry Lane

Wootton

NN4 6JX

Email: clerk@hollowellandteeton-pc.gov.uk

Web: <https://hollowellandteeton-pc.gov.uk/>

-

Changes to Parish Council Website and Email

Please note that the Parish Council has made changes to the web site and email links in order to ensure it complies with audit procedures.

The link to the Council web site is now: <https://hollowellandteeton-pc.gov.uk/>

The email address to contact the Clerk is now: clerk@hollowellandteeton-pc.gov.uk

THE
BARN



@ WELFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

- SHOP
- CAFÉ
- EVENTS

GIFTS ● COFFEE SHOP ● LIGHT LUNCHES
HOMEMADE CAKES ● CRAFTS ● LOCAL PRODUCE
DOGS WELCOME ● WORKSHOPS ● EVENTS

OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY
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E: THEBARN@WELFORDCHRISTMASTREEFARM.CO.UK
W: WELFORDCHRISTMASTREEFARM.CO.UK



HOLLOWELL VILLAGE GARAGE SALE!

Raising Funds for Our Churchyard

Saturday 9th May
10am – 2pm



It's time for a village-wide treasure hunt!

Bargains, toys, books, homeware, hidden gems and more — all across Hollowell in one fantastic day.

Want to Take Part?

£10 per garage

Clear out your clutter, set up outside your home and help raise funds for the upkeep of our beautiful churchyard.



Coming to Shop?

£1 per map

Maps showing all participating houses will be available on the day — just follow the signs!

Refreshments at the Village Hall
Tea

Coffee

Cake



Pop in for a rest and a slice of cake while you plan your next stop.

Can't host a garage?

Donations for the Church Stall are very welcome. To book your garage or for more details,

please contact amylouise.heap@outlook.com

Let's come together as a community and make this a brilliant day for Hollowell!

HOLLOWELL NEWS

Hopewell, from strength to strength

Perhaps it's because Hollowell, is such a small village that it makes it feel like a caring place to live.

As lockdown loomed, five years ago Paul and Cheryl Charter got everyone organised to ensure that anyone who lived alone or was vulnerable through age or fragility, had a designated 'friend' in the village.

It was designed so that no one felt alone or stranded during that really strange time; there was always someone to call on. The idea came from their monthly community coffee mornings, set up two years before Covid, and called "Hopewell".

As we all moved on and the world righted itself again, Hopewell didn't go away; it just changed.

Now Paul and Cheryl have resumed the monthly coffee mornings, on the last Friday of the month, and they bring together people not just from Hollowell, but also the surrounding villages, for barista style coffee and homemade cake.

It's no longer wholly about social support but about coming together as a community and friendship, and it has become a well-loved gathering.

People really enjoy their time together and the homemade cake is a great way to oil the wheels of conversation.



The next Hopewell dates are Friday 24th April and Friday 22nd May. Do come and join them 10.30am to 12.130pm in Hollowell Village Hall.

Water Pressure Report

Watery Issues

A number of households in Hollowell had a nasty shock when they opened their water bills recently. Many had shot up with one household reporting a 200% increase since their previous bill.

Luckily for Hollowell, we have Lee Gane! When he's not being the best bathroom fitter in the business, he's always at hand to help out his neighbours with a range of domestic crises, including damaged tap valves and rings and mysteriously self-filling toilet systems.

Some issues have been resolved where pipes leading to houses have been leaking and Anglian Water came out to sort them. Another issue for Hollowell is that the water pressure is very high; one house in the village was discovered to have pressure of 10.5 bars as opposed to the usual 2.5. This happens because water is pushed through Hollowell to other villages. There is nothing that can be done about it without impacting on the supply to our neighbours, but this in itself can cause issues for usage and repair.

The moral of this story is **GET IT CHECKED OUT**. Whilst your bill might be more expensive because of the rising cost of utilities, it might just be something that could be resolved. Thanks Lee.





Wendy Yvonne
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www.wyelectrolysis.co.uk
wyelectrolysis@outlook.com

Wendy Coleman: C.R.P.E, M.B.I.A.E, B.A.B.T.A.C.
VTCT Level 4 Qualified, NHS Registered Provider

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

Oh the incessant rain!

Many of us have been complaining bitterly about the rain that seems to have fallen most days so far in 2026. The roads are muddy, straightened hair swiftly becomes a frizzy mass and don't even start about the overnight appearance of the numerous and crater like potholes! So perhaps it's time to think about a different mindset. The Scandinavians, who really know what a long dark winter feels like, use the term *hygge* to describe how they combat the difficulties of restricting weather to lean into a sense of cosiness, comfort and conviviality. They refer to log fires and saunas but in Hollowell we have different but equally wonderful things to remind us to be happy. The view of Ravensthorpe reservoir from the crossroad bench at the top of the village, a hellebore surviving all weathers in understated beauty, a rainbow over the church, Dave the Postman's cheery smile as he delivers mail in his waterproofs. And that's before we've even opened the door to walk into a warm house. So, as we welcome some sunnier days and the promise of Spring, it's good to remember that there are worse places to hibernate than Hollowell.



Village Hall Lotto Winners

The names out of the hat in the January draw were:

Jack Hunt
Norah Daykin
Hugo Mesquita
Rene Hill
Neil Douglas
Freddie Morris

There's still time to purchase your numbers for the next 6 monthly Lotto cycle. The easiest way is via bank transfer making payment to Hollowell Village Hall
Sort code: 08-92-99 Account Number 6588 4371 and mark your payment "LOTTO"
Any queries to our Treasurer, Simon Armstong 0777 1 764720

Steam & Whistle

Quiz Night

Hollowell Village Hall

A fun-filled evening of quizzing awaits. Bring a team of 6 or just turn up and we'll find you a team.
Entry £5 per player.

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
7PM FOR 7.30 START

Licensed bar serving real ale, wine and soft drinks

Proceeds will go towards the £8,000 annual running costs of the Village Hall:
Charity 269391

Physiotherapist-led Pilates classes

Where: Hollowell Village Hall, NN6 8RR

When: Monday mornings



Visit: <https://revitalise-physio-led-pilates.live.baluu.co.uk/> for full details and booking

Email to enquire about a free taster session:
pilatesrevitalise@gmail.com



THORNBY NEWS

THORNBY ANNUAL FARM WALK

Sunday 3rd May - 10.00 from Red Lion



Come and explore your hidden countryside. Tractor ride available if required. Walk ends at Thornby House with warm home made refreshments and desserts, plus raffle. Adults £8, children £4 - cash payment only. Please note - dogs not allowed as we pass by areas with farm animals. To reserve your place call - 0779 6466948.

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



CAR BOOT SALE DATES

Spring clean your cupboards, garages, lofts, shed etc & make some cash! Three dates for your diary

Sunday 19th April,

Sunday 14th June,

Sunday 27th September.

Sales take place in the field behind Thornby church, Cold Ashby Lane from 10.00-1.00pm.

Pitch is £10, cash only. All proceeds in aid of St Helen Church. All enquiries, call Ann Bennett on 0779 6466948

Meditation classes

WEEKLY DROP-IN CLASSES

Wednesdays 7.15 - 8.15pm

with Kadam Bridget Heyes

NKT-IKBU National Spiritual Director for the UK

22 April - 20 May



Mondays 7.15 - 8.30pm

13 April - 18 May

Weekday lunchtimes

1 - 1.30pm



Nagarjuna Kadampa Meditation Centre

Centre for Modern Buddhism • Thornby Hall NN6 8SW

Tel: 01604 743 976 • info@meditateinnorthants.com

Charity No. 1039957

www.meditateinnorthants.com



CHURCH NEWS

MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALLISON TWIGG, THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES



Rev'd Allison

Spring is a season of change and new beginnings. Across our villages, the hedgerows are greening, lambs are in the fields, and gardens are beginning to stir into colour once more. After the stillness of winter, the lengthening days lift our spirits and remind us of the hope and promise that lie at the heart of the Christian story. Easter speaks powerfully of renewal, of life emerging from darkness, and of God's faithfulness in every season of our lives.

Yet this spring also carries a note of sadness for our Benefice as we prepare to say goodbye to Reverend Caroline. She has been a much loved and faithful minister among us, walking alongside so many across our villages in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Whether at baptisms and weddings, in quiet pastoral visits, or at the bedside of those who are ill, her compassion, wisdom and gentle humour have touched countless lives. We give heartfelt thanks for all she has shared with us and pray that she will know God's richest blessing in her retirement.

As one season closes, another begins. Our churches remain at the

heart of village life, but they can only flourish with the continued support of the communities they serve. Ministry is never the work of one person alone; it is something we share together.

In particular, we are prayerfully and urgently seeking someone from the communities of Hollowell and Guilsborough to step forward to serve on the PCC as Treasurer and would welcome the help of someone with bookkeeping skills. This is a vital role in the life of those churches. We offer sincere thanks to our current Treasurer for the dedication and care with which they have served for many years; their faithful stewardship has been greatly valued.

If you feel called to help, please do speak to me. Spring reminds us that new life often begins with a single, courageous step.

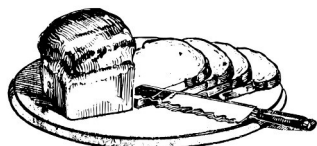
Yours prayerfully,

Reverend Allison



Rev'd Caroline

Lent Lunch 2026



Thank you to everyone who helped with this event in any way, by providing delicious homemade soup, cheeses, raffle prizes, donations, working in the kitchen or serving – and not least to those who supported by their presence on the day. It was good to see people from several other parishes in the Uplands Group.

£160 was raised for church day-to-day running costs.

£85 in the raffle for the Leprosy Mission (mainly for work in India).

We also received welcome donations for Daventry Food Bank.



Second Saturday of the month,

2-3pm

Gather at the Church, end at the park.

www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk

11th April Creaton
9th May Ravensthorpe
13th June Hollowell
11th July Cottesbrooke

CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Churches Service Planner for April and May 2026											
	2 nd April Maundy Thursday	3 rd April Good Friday	5 th April Easter Day	12 th April Easter 2	19 th April Easter 3	26 th April Easter 4	3 rd May Easter 5	10 th May Easter 6	17 th May Easter 7	24 th May Pentecost	31 st May Trinity Sunday
Cold Ashby			9.30am Prayer Book Communion	10.00am Group Service Guilsborough Holy Communion and APCMs	9.30am Prayer Book Communion	9.30am Prayer Book Communion	9.30am Prayer Book Communion			9.30am Prayer Book Communion	10.00am Group Service Thornby
Cottesbrooke	7.30pm Holy Communion Guilsborough	2.00pm Stations of the Cross Creaton	11.00am Prayer Book Communion						11.00am Prayer Book Communion		
Creaton			9.30am Prayer Book Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion		8.30am Communion/ Morning Prayer		
Guilsborough			9.30am Common Worship Communion		Brunch@ 11 Village Hall 6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Prayer Book Communion		Brunch @ 11 Village Hall 6.00pm Evensong		
Hollowell			11.00am Common Worship Communion			11.00am Common Worship Communion		11.00am COMMON WORSHIP Communion			
Ravensthorpe			11.00am Common Worship Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Worship for All	8.30am Communion/ Morning Prayer		9.30am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Worship for All	
Spratton			6.00am Dawn Service		8.30am Prayer Book Communion	11.00am Common Worship Communion	11.00am Worship for All	8.30am Communion/ Morning Prayer		11.00am Common Worship Communion	
Thornby			9.30am Prayer Book Communion					9.30am Prayer Book Communion			

Monday of Holy Week – Compline, 7.00pm, Cold Ashby Tuesday of Holy Week – Compline, 7.00pm, Hollowell Wednesday of Holy Week – Compline 7.00pm Ravensthorpe



Serving customers in the Village Link area since 1972, we are the last remaining family-owned fuel depot in Northamptonshire.

Whether it's heating oil to keep your home warm over winter, rebated diesel for your farm, or commercial fuel for your business, give us a call to discuss your requirements today, or order online.

Charles Wootton, Depot Manager

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sean@agawise.co.uk
01604 385138
07759 630068



**SAME MAN,
NEW VAN!**





Hollowell Sailing Club offers Tuesday evening tasters in the Summer months. You will learn to rig the boats, go for a sail with an instructor, have a go at helming yourself, then return to the shore to de-rig. The session starts at 18:30 and finishes around 20:00. Fee is £10 per adult and £7.50 per child. Maximum of three participants in the boat at any one time. (For families of four we can swap people out half-way through). Children should be 5 or over. For details or to reserve, email androowood@gmail.com. **Open Day Saturday 9th May**—pre-booking essential. **Learn to Sail** training course dates for 2026 also released now! Visit the website: hollowellsc.org.uk for more information and to book.

Twilight Walk 2026 - Sat 9th May

Cynthia Spencer
Hospice Charity has launched its popular Twilight Walk for the second consecutive year - an emotive, fun-filled fundraiser for family and friends to take part in a 5km or 10km walk as the sun sets.



The event, on Saturday 9th May, is the first of many during 2026 to commemorate the charity's 50th anniversary – known as the Big 50 - and participants are encouraged to don seventies fancy dress to match the year the hospice was born, as well as carry glow sticks and light up accessories as they step out on to the route around the town centre. Meet at Delapre Abbey, 6:30pm. Register online by Thursday 7th May, or turn up on the day!

Interested in Hockey? Welford Hockey Club are welcoming new members. Check their website for details: welfordmixedhockeyclub.co.uk

Buckby Library & Hub

2026 is the National Year of Reading

- **Short story competition!** We are running a short story competition for all ages until April 23rd. The theme is 'The day everything changed' and the competition is open to all. The terms and conditions are on our website.
- If you enjoy a good read, why not join a book club? We have an afternoon and an evening one, both monthly. Contact janebailey60@gmail.com or just go along. Contribution to library costs: £2/session.
- We are also a 'Read Easy' venue and proudly support the scheme. If you know

an adult who struggles with reading, there is help available. There are also rewarding volunteer opportunities as Reading Coaches. See <https://readeasy.org.uk/groups/northampton>, phone Julia Vernon on 07942 093454 or ask at reception in the library.

It's **free** to join the library. Do you know we also have an amazing collection of **jigsaws**? You can join the jigsaw swap scheme or simply buy one for £2.

Check our website for **events in April and May**: Spring Fayre, Film Nights, and even a music Gig!

Friends and Trustees needed

Will you support Buckby Library & Hub by becoming a **Friend**? Please see the information on our website <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/friends/> or pop in to see us.

We are also looking for more **Trustees**. Would you be interested to get involved and help our wonderful charity continue to thrive? Please get in touch with sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org to find out more.

Contact us at:

<https://buckbylibraryhub.org>; email: sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org; 01327 842591.

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Advertising Policy for Classes and Local Activities

We're proud that the Village Link newsletter supports a vibrant mix of community news and events. To keep things fair and sustainable, please note that any activities or events of a commercial nature, such as fitness, art, or language classes, are required to book paid display advertising if they wish to promote their services in the newsletter. However, these activities can still be mentioned free of charge as part of general summaries or listings of regular Village Hall events. In those cases, the Village Hall or Village Page may include your class in its overview, but if you or your organisation submit a dedicated advert or promotional display, the standard advertising rates will apply (see p3). Many Village Halls now provide free summaries of their ongoing programmes to help residents stay informed — a great way to let people know what's going on in your community!