



VIRTUAL PRODUCE SHOW WINNERS

We had a good response for our 100th Edition Virtual Produce Show; which made our judging extremely difficult. Thank you to everyone who entered. All exhibits are on the website and we have the winners of the different classes on this page and the back page. Below is Sarah Maurant, who won the class for the “Best Array of 4 Fruits” (on the back page) and the “Best Garden on a Plate” (below); so having accrued the most points, Sarah (from Hollowell) wins “Best in Show” and a £10 Voucher from Crick Garden Centre.



Congratulations! Keeping it in the family, Benjamin Maurant wins the class for “Most Unusual Fruit” — for his extraordinary display of tomatoes!



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WHAT'S ON?

- Creton Walking Group:
Saturday 10th October
Saturday 14th November
- Creton URC first service:
Sunday 4th October
Sunday 1st November
- Outdoor Church,
Guilsborough,
Sunday 4th October
Sunday 1st November
- RBL Remembrance:
Sunday 8th November, meet
2:30pm Witch & Sow, Guilsborough
- Guilsborough Tennis Club:
Club morning: Sundays 10am -
12noon

And Zoom PC meetings, AGMs and other get togethers. Please check inside for Zoom meetings and with organisers of above events in case of changes.

Jenny Lowther from Guilsborough wins the class: “Best border of flowers with you in the picture, with **“Summer Sun”** as the theme.” Jenny is pictured here sitting at the top of the steps amongst her lovely summer border. Jenny spends hours every day gardening, all her hard work has clearly paid off.

Turn to the back page for more winners!

Creaton Village Shop



OPENING HOURS
Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 12.30pm
1.30pm - 6.00pm
Sat/Sun: 8.00am - 12 noon

POST OFFICE

We stock a wide range of fresh & frozen produce, as well as all your kitchen and household essentials, drinks, magazines, newspapers and cards. We also sell fresh flowers, compost, instant BBQs, coal, logs and kindling, and have a dry cleaning service!

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

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SOUP AT THE BAR

Monday / Tuesday 12 - 2, 6 - 8
Wednesday 12 - 2

CLASSIC MENU

Wednesday 6 - 8
Thursday / Friday 12 - 2, 6 - 8
Saturday 12 - 2, 6 - 9
Sunday 12 - 3

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Do book ahead if you can - it all helps us offer the friendly service you expect!



COLD ASHBY 'VIRTUAL' OPEN GARDENS

VILLAGE LINK

is a bi-monthly publication delivered free of charge to households in Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creton, 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 Angela Hubbard, The Old Sun, High Street, Guilsborough.

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Cheques payable to 'Village Link'

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
Monday 2nd November
2020

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Like many other events due to take place this year, Cold Ashby Open Gardens has been postponed until 2021. But in lieu of the real thing, which should have taken place at the end of July, people around the village showed off their beautiful gardens online. The local Facebook group was filled with photos of sun-drenched gardens and colourful blooms, which certainly lifted the spirits and showed just how hardworking and resourceful the people of Cold Ashby have been during lockdown! Head over to Facebook and search for 'Cold Ashby Village' to see more photos, and please join us next year for the 'real' Open Gardens on 24th and 25th July 2021, which will be our 30th anniversary. We look forward to seeing you there!



DAVENTRY MUSEUM REOPEN FOR VISITORS

Daventry Museum reopened at the end of September after a period of closure during the Covid-19 pandemic. The current exhibition, *A Virtual and Veritable Cabinet of Curiosities* is running until Saturday 5th December. It is an exhibition about collecting and collections and **within the museum's Veritable Cabinets displays include early transistor radios, semi-precious stones, Lego, vintage books and postcards and unusual crockery.** The collections are either **rarely seen items from the museum's storeroom or on loan from museum volunteers.** The exhibition is also an online event, the Virtual Cabinets, in the form of a 360 tour of the exhibition, a video of beautiful collections shared by visitors, and a video of group photographs from the archive. **Can you help to put a name to any of the faces? Visit the museum's website to view these Virtual Cabinets of Curiosities.**

The museum's website has many resources on offer including a new self-guided walk of Borough Hill to download (or pick up in person) complete with a viewpoint plan of Northamptonshire and beyond, all visible from Borough Hill (weather permitting). As with all Daventry Museum exhibitions and events, entry is always free. The museum is open Tuesday - Friday 10am-1pm and the first Saturday of the month 10am-2.30pm. Bookings must be made for Saturday entry during one of the four timed entry slots, this can be done via Eventbrite, the website or by email (see page 14 for details). The museum team have been beaver away during this period of closure and now look forward to welcoming **back visitors. The museum has been awarded the Visit England 'Good to Go' tick, full details on opening times and our safety measures, can be found on our website** www.daventrymuseum.org.uk

Book your free places for some half-term fun with **Daventry Museum and Don't Go Into The Cellar's, All Hallows' outdoor theatre** performance of Spooky Victorian Fairy Tales. Thursday 29th October, 2pm on the steps of Holy Cross Church, Daventry.

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Towing instruction also available.

COTTESBROOKE NEWS

THE ONSET OF AUTUMN

It is the season of plenty and we are always grateful for what the ground produces for us. This fine crop of apples are from Chris Utley's garden and are being picked by Evie (right) and Alex Routhorn. At the time of writing, the freezer is filling up with blackberries - such a good partner to cooking apples - on top of the bags of plums! Meanwhile in the hedgerows the hips and haws stand out in their shouty red, waiting for their time when the cold blue frosts start and the birds, especially the migrating flocks of redwing and fieldfare, feast on this food.

There are also lots of mushrooms pushing their heads up through the early morning dewy grass, though I for one am extremely cautious of picking any.

Others are out in the hedgerows seeking sloes to soak in their gin for a real winter warmer in a few months' time. And while we are talking drink, the elderberries look particularly good. I remember days from my childhood, standing between my parents, keen home-wine makers, and yet another hedgerow: "Please can't we go home now!!!!".

How times have changed and we no longer pick fruit but we forage! Well you might forage, I'm off to pick another couple of pounds of blackberries. There is a corner in the freezer that needs something.



In a variation on a theme, Chris also sent in this picture of a potato. Alas not eligible for the Virtual Produce Competition, it is however worth noting because of its provenance. Chris says that it is the product of a leftover potato lurking in the larder. The potato sprouted, was planted and here is its 1lb 1oz offspring. Clearly Chris's larder is a good place for chitting. Form an orderly queue in the spring please.

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JOHN LOVE



Regular readers will recall the inspirational John Love, one of our Local Heroes. Sadly John died on September 2nd at the age of 81 after a three year battle with cancer.

As well as spending many years as the plumber to the Althorp Estate, John had an equally busy time as a Northamptonshire athlete. He joined Northampton and County Athletic Club in 1954 and went on to run and later compete in field events. He also spent a lot of his time working with other athletes.

In 2019 he won the Lifetime

Contribution to Sport Award at the Northamptonshire Sports Awards, a fitting accolade to a man who was still competing in throwing events and would often be seen practicing on the Creton Playing Field.

John leaves a son and daughter, Tom and Julie, and his partner, Carol.

Creton WI



Although we are still not able to meet indoors, we are delighted to be able to get together on Creton playing field for coffee



and chat on a Wednesday morning, once a fortnight. These get-togethers will continue for as long as the weather allows. Do join us!

At this time of year we are usually hard at work making items for our stall at the WI Christmas Craft Market. Sadly, the market is cancelled this year, but we shall have plenty of stock for next year!

CREATON WALKING GROUP

The wonderful summer weather and the lifting of some of the lockdown rules enabled the Creton Walking Group to enjoy walking together once again and even a pub lunch, albeit outside and in small groups. What a joy to see the abundance of wildlife which has flourished thanks to less pollution and traffic!

The August walk was from The Swan in Lamport and took in Faxon, Old and Scaldwell, including witnessing a local cricket match. A truly English scene.

The September walk, the same as in previous years, included visiting various churches in support of Ride and Stride. It is always a pleasure to chat with whoever is on duty and learn about their local church. Some cynics might be accused of only calling in to check out the biscuits, but sadly there was not the opportunity this year - another downside of the pandemic! If you enjoy walking and can manage about 3 hours / 8 miles come and join this friendly group. Well-behaved dogs always welcome. We meet at Creton lychgate at 10am on the second Saturday of the month.

Next walks are on:

Saturday 10th October

Saturday 14th November

Will Drafting Service

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CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details:

Parish Clerk: You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on creatonpc@gmail.com or by telephone on 01604 740862.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the village website www.creaton.org.uk



Meetings are held bi-monthly at 7.30pm on Zoom. The first 15 minutes is reserved for the public forum.

Parish Council Meeting dates 2020:
10th November

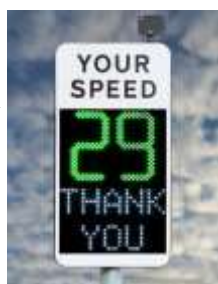
The Parish Council will continue to hold meetings on Zoom until further notice. If you would like to join one of our meetings you will find the Zoom meeting details on the agenda. You can join by telephone if you do not have access to a computer.

Planning Applications:

Please look on the Daventry District Council website for full details of all Planning Applications.

Speed Signs

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £4000 from the Northamptonshire Road Safety Community Fund towards the purchase of speed signs for the Parish.



Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with this project, which will involve moving and monitoring the signs, should contact the Clerk. The Parish Council would be grateful for any help offered.

Reporting dog fouling

The assistance of the public is crucial to Daventry District Council's efforts to tackle dog fouling. It is helpful to their officers if when reporting dog fouling you are able to include the following information:

- The time, date and location of incident
- The frequency of the offence, if it happens regularly
- A description/breed of the dog
- Any other descriptions to help identify the offender, including their name and address if known.

You can report it in one of the following ways:

By visiting:

<https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/dog-fouling/>

Email: customercare@daventrydc.gov.uk

Call: 01327 871100

Anyone caught not picking up after their dog faeces is liable for a **£100** fixed penalty notice or potentially court action, which could result in a fine on conviction of up to **£1,000**.

Buses

As you will be aware, three years ago Northamptonshire County Council took away many of the bus routes which provided transport to our local village communities in the County. With much campaigning at the time and with the support of John Ellerby (Principle Bus and Rail Development Officer for NCC) a **grant of £30,000 was obtained from Daventry DC for the first year until 23rd July 2018** to maintain the service that serves our village. Since then John Ellerby has repeatedly managed to raise over half the funds from NCC each year with a grant from BSOG (Bus Subsidy Operators Grant) and with Parish Councils asked to contribute the rest. From 23rd July 2018 to 31st March 2021 the bus service has been funded in part by your Parish Council, at a cost of approximately 10p a week per household.

After three years, the opinion of Creaton Parish Council is that this cost should once more be taken from NCC as the Conservative Party Manifesto stated that more money would be put into transport for rural villages to prevent people feeling isolated and **to ensure rural communities "are a great place to live and work" (Henry Walker, Bus Advisor)**

It is necessary to begin looking at ways the buses can continue after 1st April, 2021 so if anyone has any thoughts on how to persuade the national or local government to support our essential rural bus service, whether it be through councillors, MPs, contacts, sponsors or any other ideas, please let us know.

There will be new bus-timetables on display in the village and smaller copies for you to collect from the shop of the revised timetable. Please note there are two buses a week now to Market Harborough which allows an extra bus to Northampton each day from Monday to Friday.

Electric Car Charging Points



We are registering an interest with Daventry District Council in exploring the possibility of electric charging points in the Parish following the approach of an interested resident. We would love to hear from anyone who has an electric car or would have a need to use charging points in the future, so we can assess the need and gauge the level of interest to pass on to the District Council and new unitary authority.

FLY-TIPPING

It may be that it is being noticed more of late, perhaps as a result of people taking to the fields and lanes for lock-down exercise, but it does appear that fly-tipping is on the increase. There was a spate of someone leaving piles of old tyres on verges and in hedgerows around the villages in the area, and then there are the untold



numbers of black plastic sacks containing household detritus or garden rubbish, languishing in ditches and field entrances. Daventry District Council recently reported about on a fly-tipper who dumped a pile of rubbish by the side of the road near Brington. The pile consisted artificial turf, wood, cardboard, plastic buckets, broken cupboards and even part of an old toilet.

Fortunately a witness reported the crime to DDC via their online self-serve system, and the Council caught up with the **culprit and issued them with a £400 fine, which they have paid in full.**

Daventry District Council say that the communities across the District are among the greatest strengths we have in the fight against fly-tipping. If you witness people dumping rubbish illegally, please get in touch with as much information as possible so that they can take action.

Reporting an incident online is quick and easy at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/flytipping or you can call 01327 871100

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or the attic?**



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CREATON UNITED REFORM CHURCH

Ask ordinary people to take on a challenge and they may well think they will never manage, but the Elders of the URC have faced several challenges and have risen to face them, growing in expertise and confidence (though they are too modest to be comfortable hearing that!).

We are aware that Covid-19 is not going away any time soon; we all pray for a vaccine to be successfully developed. When things begin to relax, and schools open up, in a different way, and we can eat out (with pre-booking, much sanitizing and still keeping to our family bubbles) we might be tempted to think that the virus is **beaten. Please don't think that, it is far from over.**

We only have four elders at the URC and so a lot of responsibility rests on their shoulders. Through the months of lockdown the elders have been lovingly keeping in contact with the members of the church, they have learned how to meet using Zoom and most recently they have responded to the risk assessment which we have to complete prior to any **re-opening of our church. So I'd like to say publicly a big THANK-YOU to Carolyn, Sylvia, Margaret and Ian.**

We have had the building commercially cleaned and are in the process of getting it Covid-19 compliant. Our first service will be held on October 4th and as seating is limited to 25, people will have to phone and reserve a seat. It may be that we will be able to move on from once-a-month service, to twice a month, but there is much to arrange before and between services.

Hopefully Northampton will keep its R number under control, and we shall move forward. At the moment we are only able to open for limited acts of worship; opening up the coffee shop is a whole **different challenge and I'm afraid that that is some time off.**

With good wishes from all at the URC. Please keep safe,
Shalom

Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp

CREATON SINGERS



The Creton Singers continue to meet via Zoom but are still not able to sing. This is very sad and everyone is missing the uplifting feeling of singing together. Hopefully we will have good news soon and be able to share our joy of singing. In the meantime the Singers chat and share anecdotes, helping everyone stay cheerful. Thank goodness for Zoom!

CREATON PARISH

OVER THE COUNTER

It has been an interesting time of late at Creaton Village Shop. Not that it has been boring elsewhere but for a small shop run by the community and where half the staff are volunteers, the coronavirus has presented a set of challenges of which no one would have guessed.

One of the biggest challenges has been to keep the shop open throughout the whole of the lockdown period and supply what people need so that they do not have to travel to Northampton or Market Harborough. As a community enterprise, Creaton Shop relies on a full complement of volunteer staff to run the shop part alongside the paid staff who manage the Post Office. Visitors to the shop will not have failed to notice the sort of person that occupies the shop side - they are generally of a certain age, the majority certainly post-retirement and, as of mid March, a number of them over the age of 70 and/or with a health issue were immediately excluded from offering their services. From a regular pre-Covid pool of over 30 volunteers, the rota relied, at its lowest point, on 11 people.

Thankfully, for the shop, furlough schemes and no school did bring some fresher faces to help out and numbers picked up, only to dip again when workers were allowed to go back to work, scholars allowed to go back to school and yet those of certain age and or infirmity advised strongly to stay away.

As this might have been easing a bit again, all those forced to stay at home over the summer months are now taking well-earned holidays. So, the battle to keep the shop open continues. It never was going to be easy, but these people, giving freely of their time, have all done sterling work and are to be commended. But the shop needs more. If you are 14 or over - there is no upper age limit - then do consider offering 2 or 4 hours a week to keep the shop open.

Expansion afoot

One of the other challenges that the shop faced over the past six months was keeping up with the speed that shoppers were buying things. Before March, the team of hidden cash-and-carriers went off once a week to re-stock the shelves. At the height of the lockdown period, these trips occurred at least three times a week. It may have eased a bit now, but the success of the shop and the demand for more products has led to plans for expansion!

The shop is very excited to share the news that they are moving ahead with plans to add a large, secure storage unit to the side of the existing building. This will allow for improved product availability as well as widening the range in stock. In particular there will be an increase in the range of fruit and vegetables on offer, and in response to popular demand, every day there will be bread, baguettes, rolls, pastries, croissants baked on the premises!



This investment has been made possible by the award of two cash grants. The first is £10k from the Government supporting small businesses in response to Covid-19. The second is a further £10k grant awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund which is prioritising Covid-19 projects.

The shop is extremely grateful for these grants, as it means that only a small proportion of the project costs will need to be borne by the shop itself.

Work should start at the end of September, with a view to being completed by the end of October. During the works, it is intended to operate the business as usual as far as possible, however it may be necessary to close the shop and Post Office for a short period, but newspapers will be provided throughout this time.

A shop spokesperson says “We hope our customers are as excited about this as we are! We saw how much they valued the shop during the height of lockdown and know that extending the range and availability of products is key to keeping their custom.”

Vigilis



from THE HARVEST MORNING

His scythe the mower o'er his shoulder leans,
And whetting, jars with sharp and tinkling sound,
Then sweeps again 'mong corn and crackling beans,
And swath by swath flops lengthening o'er the ground;
While 'neath some friendly heap, snug shelter'd round
From spoiling sun, lies hid the heart's delight;
And hearty soaks oft hand the bottle round,
Their toils pursuing with redoubled might—
Great praise to him be due that brought its birth to light.

John Clare

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

SHOE BOXES AND BLANKETS 2020

A message from the MMM team



Janet has been in contact with the Blythswood Project coordinator.

It is intended that the collection and distribution of boxes & blankets will go ahead as usual. However, they are unsure at this time when they can be taken.

We have been asked to put our boxes together for the end of October.

If you put together a shoe box, please drop to Janet's.

We have spare hats, scarves & gloves that can be added to any boxes that need them.

If you would like to donate items for the boxes we put together, **there will be a plastic crate with a lid at Janet's marked shoe boxes** - for these items.

Most needed are: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, sponges, flannels, notepads, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, socks, underwear, hats, scarves, gloves & small toys.

If you have blankets or knitted squares for blankets - please contact Janet so we can collect and start putting the squares together as soon as possible.

Donations towards transport costs are also needed.

Please put in an envelope through Janet's door - do not leave in the crate.

Thank you, in anticipation.

Contact number: Janet Minney 01604 740640

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: THE TELEPHONE BOX

GUILSBOROUGH Telephone Box is being given a complete makeover including re-prime and paint, replacement glass and period fittings. With labour being provided by two volunteer villagers, Dave Manning and Richard Franklin and under expert guidance from restoration professionals, we will be taking the K6 Telephone Kiosk back to its former glory. We will be sanding back the paint both inside and outside, replacing individual frames and panes and cleaning all fixtures. Work has already started - you may have noticed that the door is missing - **it's in a garage being prepped for paint** - and we will be priming at least the outside before the weather changes! We will keep you updated on the progress but in the meantime if you have any stories or photos of the Telephone Box in **GUILSBOROUGH, we'd love to hear from you.**

Guilboroughpc@gmail.com



DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Tony and Pat Wren of Church Mount, Guilsborough celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 24th September 2020.

Tony was former Chairman of the Guilsborough Cricket Club for over 20 years. The planned celebrations had to be postponed but they are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends as soon as they are able.



GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

PLAYING FIELD REPORT

The GPFA cricket pitch and nets have been used for a selection of games and practise sessions throughout the summer by Haddon CC seniors and juniors ; plus St.

Michael's CC who played 3 home games at Guilsborough during August but did not reach the knock-out stages to be played in September.

Two under 12s football teams and one under 18s team of West Haddon Juniors will play at Guilsborough this season. A second under 12s pitch is to be marked out when both under 12 teams play at home. Junior football practices have taken place since July each week. Ged Lowery is an under 18s coach from Guilsborough and Steve McGlasson also from Guilsborough is an Under12s coach. Several boys from Guilsborough play in the teams.

Gary Wakelin has led the plan to ensure that the GPFA conforms to the government recommendations and insurance requirements to minimise Covid19 transmission. He has completed a risk assessment that has been circulated to all clubs and users of the field, detailing the responsibilities of the GPFA and that of the clubs that use the field. The pavilion toilets are the only facilities open ; the changing rooms and kitchen are not used. Sanitising gel stations have been installed throughout the pavilion, plus wipes, paper towels in the toilets, signs and warnings.

The Northants Community Foundation (NCF) awarded the GPFA a grant towards a defibrillator that Gary Wakelin identified. It is now in the pavilion, and a training event is being planned for each club and GPFA committee members. Dog walkers regularly use the field to exercise their dogs but are asked to walk their dogs around the perimeter under **control and preferably on leads, and to have "emptied" them** prior to entry, as the GPFA do not want the field to be used as a dog toilet. A recent notice has been circulated on the Guilsborough Hub about dog mess found on the pitches. If it re-occurs the GPFA can restrict individuals from exercising their dogs at the field.

It has also been used by/for:

- GMADs for practices
- a birthday party and football game
- families for picnics during the heatwave
- frequent groups of boys who use it for football practices
- many fathers and sons/daughters use the cricket practice nets
- the Northants Cricket Association are to use the cricket ground for two under 11s games in September.

Succession plans for the General Committee are high **on the agenda. Are there any "younger" volunteers** in the village or recently retired individuals who feel they can help? If so please contact the secretary, Graham.Byars@hotmail.com 07712649833



CRICKET REPORT

Successful inaugural season for Haddon CC, despite the virus.

Haddon CC, formed in early 2020 by a merger of Guilsborough CC, West Haddon CC and East Haddon CC is bringing a successful first season to a close during September. Due to the impact of Covid both junior and senior seasons were heavily curtailed with competitive cricket only starting in mid-July.

Despite this however the club has managed to field 4 men's teams across the Rugby and District T20 League and the Northamptonshire Cricket League. In the Northamptonshire League the 1st Team playing in Division 1 reached the quarter finals of the divisional plays-offs, the 3rd team were knocked out in the semi-finals and the 2nd team have reached the Division 8 final and are due to play Great Houghton on the 19th September for top spot. A ladies team has also competed in the Northampton T20 Ladies league. Meanwhile the junior section continues to go from strength to strength with three U11 sides in the Northampton District and Rugby District Leagues as well as an U13 and an U15 side. Covid restrictions allowing, the club will start planning for 2021 season very soon and will aim to run junior and senior indoor training from early next year, all new players are welcome regardless of age, experience and ability, please contact jim.houghton@olivehorse.com for more information.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

This year's Remembrance Sunday will be commemorating the 75th anniversary following the end of WW11.

Remembrance day was first observed in 1919 after WW1.

On Remembrance day we pay our respects to all those members of the Armed Forces who gave their life in the line of duty.

Due to the special circumstances this year The Royal British Legion will hold an act of remembrance at the Memorial in St. **Etheldreda's church yard. We intend to assemble outside The Witch and Sow pub** at 2.30pm and make our way to the memorial where a short service will take place to include the reading of names and the laying of wreaths.

These arrangements are open to change due to government guide lines and instruction but any changes to plans will be updated on the Guilsborough Hub. At this stage we are in no position to say if we will be accompanied by the Cadet Band but in their absence we hope to have alternative music available.



GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

VILLAGE HALL

Our lovely hall is now open and ready to welcome you back. Many of our regular users have returned and we also have new activities including sewing sessions. **GUILSBOROUGH DOESN'T CURRENTLY HAVE ANY** evening fitness classes so please get in touch if you are interested in running a class - the Hall is available on Wednesday evenings.

Our booking conditions will depend on Covid regulations.

Take a look at the website guilboroughvillagehall.com for further information.

To book the Hall or to be shown round please email info@guilboroughvh.uk or call on 07342 382706.

Cleaner required

Initially 2 hours fortnightly increasing to 2 hours weekly.

For full details contact Sue by email

info@guilboroughvh.uk or call on 07342 382706.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Hugh and Amanda Lowther for hosting a village picnic on their lawn on Sunday 6th September. The picnic was a chance to thank all those who have been, and are still, working hard to ensure Guilborough is supported through the Covid crisis and to celebrate the community we have in the village—one that is working together to support each other in the strange times we live in.

It was a lovely afternoon and the weather was kind to us.

Proceeds from Lady Lowther's plant sale, a contribution from the Witch and Sow's bar and the gate donations were kindly donated to GPFA.



Guilborough Tennis Club

at Guilborough Academy

Best Summer Tennis Ever



We had a very good summer of tennis at GTC. As reported in the last issue of Village Link, the coaching was a great success. This year **the 16th running of the "Guilborough Plate" Tennis Tournament** took on a different format. 32 people entered the mixed doubles competition, and it was very encouraging that many of our Student members also took part, building on their experience gained through the coaching in July and August. Four round-robin groups competed throughout August. Then on the last day of coaching, the semi-finals and finals were held with an audience of enthusiastic



(distanced) supporters. The winners, were Sam & Charlie Darbyshire, picture left with the Guilborough Plate.



Above are the runners-up; Caroline Collins and Lawrence Hill. Left is an action shot of Charlie.

Our AGM should be on Monday 19th October, subject to Covid restrictions.

If you are interested in playing tennis; we have a Club Morning on Sundays 10am—12 noon, please contact Sarah on 07917 608238 or email: SarahDalzell157@gmail.com

GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

PRE-SCHOOL BUILDING

Can you help us find a new use for the old Guilsborough Pre-School Building?

As you may know, very sadly Guilsborough Pre-School had to close its doors this Summer, and as a result we are looking for proposals for the next chapter in the life of this splendid building in the centre of the village of Guilsborough.

We are required by our charitable status to use it for the "educational benefit of community" and we would ideally like to find someone who would be interested in running it as an early years (children 0-5 years) setting as it has been before. If that's not possible though, we are also very happy to consider ideas for any other educational use, for older children or adults. If you, or someone you know has an interest in starting up anything like this, and is looking for premises, please get in touch with Alice Cooper (kierenandalice@btinternet.com) or Carrie Gardner-Pett (carrieanngardner@yahoo.co.uk) to find out more, and have a chat about how it might work.

The building has 3-4 rooms plus a kitchen area and toilet downstairs, 3 further rooms plus toilets upstairs, and a courtyard garden at the rear.

Please also share this post with your local networks as well so that we can find a new lease of life for this wonderful community asset!



FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED

Have YOU ever thought of becoming an on-call fire fighter? Are you looking for a new challenge?

Guilsborough fire station is looking for new recruits.

Could you get to Pells Close in 8 minutes or less?

Are you over 17.5 years old?

Motivated?

A good team player?

We train at Pells Close every Monday evening for at least 2 hours.

If you are interested why not come along on a Monday evening,

phone 01604 797006

(Monday evening) or

apply online @

www.oncallfire.co.uk.

We look forward to

meeting you.



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Under slightly more unusual circumstances, we have welcomed our pupils back into the school fully this September for the first time since March. Although the arrangements at school are

clearly very different, it has been a joy to see our school community get back together once again. Despite the obvious concerns, and with the necessary support arrangements in place, there is certainly a sense of children, parents and staff being ready and enthusiastic to come back.

We welcomed our new Reception children to our school on Monday 7th September and enjoyed seeing them explore our new continuous provision setting. They all left school on their first day with huge smiles ready to tell their families about all the exciting things they have been doing. Our wonderful PTA also provided our new parents with a socially distanced tea and tissues morning to welcome them too!

Although we have had to change many plans for this academic term, including changes to whole school assemblies, trips and school tournaments, we still have many exciting learning opportunities ahead.

All of the Guilsborough team are so proud of our pupils for the way they have adapted so quickly to new routines and we are all looking forward to a great term ahead. Please remember, if you need any information about what is happening at Guilsborough Primary we have lots of information on our website www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk, or you can keep up to speed via our Twitter profile - @guilsboroughpri or our YouTube channel (Guilsborough Primary).



HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

HOLLOWELL BIRDING NOTES:

AN AUTUMNAL FEEL IN THE AIR

Thought I'd share a few recent birding highlights from my local patch in Hollowell - and also look ahead to what we might see over the next few months.

With shorter days and cooler mornings and evenings, there's an autumnal feel in the air. From a birder's perspective we are well into the autumn season. As I write, the Swallows are assembling on the telephone wires around the village and our local-breeding Swifts have long gone. As strange as it might sound, birding 'autumn' started for me just three days after midsummer's day, with a Common Sandpiper on the reservoir dam on June 24th. Often the first bird to be seen on autumn passage, this bird would be returning to Africa after a brief stay on its summer territory. On passage they often frequent reservoir dams, probably because they remind them of the upland lake shores where they typically breed. From then onwards Common Sandpipers were seen on most visits to the site, joined by Green Sandpipers, Greenshank, Redshank, Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Oystercatchers, Dunlin, Lapwings and Snipe.

The highlight of the autumn wader season arrived on the evening of August 25th, with a Knot, a bird often seen on the coast in the UK, but very scarcely seen inland. Blown off course by Storm Francis, it landed on the northern point of Guilsborough Bay, preened its feathers and after just a couple of



Northern Wheatear

minutes rest, flew on into the storm.

Calmer weather also brought good birds to the reservoir, most notably a juvenile Black Tern on August 18th.

Unusual passerine birds also featured. A Whinchat on July 28th was I believe the first autumn record for

this species this year in Northants, with a second, a different individual, present on August 31st, this bird swapping perches with a Northern Wheatear. As with the Common Sandpipers, these birds would be pausing in the county having spent summer in the far north of Europe, making a brief stop on their journeys back to their wintering grounds in Africa.

Closer to home, signs of migration are evident in the garden and around the village, with Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs increasingly starting to appear. House Martins are starting to gather in numbers: after the breeding season they roost communally in trees and can be seen feeding together around **the treetops, especially when there's a breeze blowing and** insects can be more easily found there. These are usually the last hirundines to depart south: the odd straggler may hang on into October.

As we head into autumn proper, we look forward to the return of winter thrushes, especially Redwings and Fieldfares, these will also be joined by Blackbirds and Song Thrushes, where an influx of birds from Scandinavia will boost our resident populations. Wildfowl usually only seen in winter are



Common sandpiper

already starting to reappear at the reservoir, with Teal, Wigeon and Shoveler already featuring. Numbers of these will build week by week from now onwards. A winter gull roost



Knot, Hollowell Reservoir, August 25th, 2020 (Jon Cook)

also normally builds up there: hundreds of birds can often be seen at dusk, streaming across the sky from all directions to spend the night safely on the water. Winter finches should also feature, with Siskins and Redpolls, both rare in summer in these

parts, starting to be more likely.

Our local bird of prey populations will also change as we head into autumn. Ospreys, regular visitors to the reservoir this summer with up to four seen at times, will be back in their winter grounds in Senegal and Gambia, and the dashing Hobby, which I believe to breed locally, will also have headed south, leaving our resident Red Kites, Buzzards and Sparrowhawks, with perhaps a brief sighting of a Peregrine, or if we head across to Brampton Valley: a Merlin or a Short-eared Owl. **And as a reminder that it's always worth keeping your eyes peeled around the garden, I looked up from my desk a couple of weeks ago to see this juvenile Sparrowhawk sitting on my car bike rack, not 10 feet away: just shows that you never know what might turn up on your doorstep!**

Thanks for your interest. If you'd like to get involved with recording birds locally, feel free to get in touch:

Jon Cook, Northants county Bird Recorder.



Sparrow Hawk

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

HOPEWELL COVID RESPONSE TEAM

The team which includes Hollowell, Teeton and Highfield Park reps, meets via Zoom on a weekly basis.

We are ready to help the residents of Hollowell and Teeton with any Covid-19 related problem however small.

We have a huge team of volunteers who can assist with shopping, lifts etc.

You can contact us by phone or text on: 07780 265614, or by email at: wearehopewell@gmail.com

Paul Charter & the Team

HOLLOWELL BONFIRE PARTY 2020 CANCELLED

The team running Hollowell Bonfire have, with great regret, **taken the decision to cancel this year's event.**

The Steam Rally Pensioners' Christmas Party has also been cancelled for this year.

Apologies to everyone who may be disappointed.

HOLLOWELL AND TEETON PARISH COUNCIL

<https://www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk/>

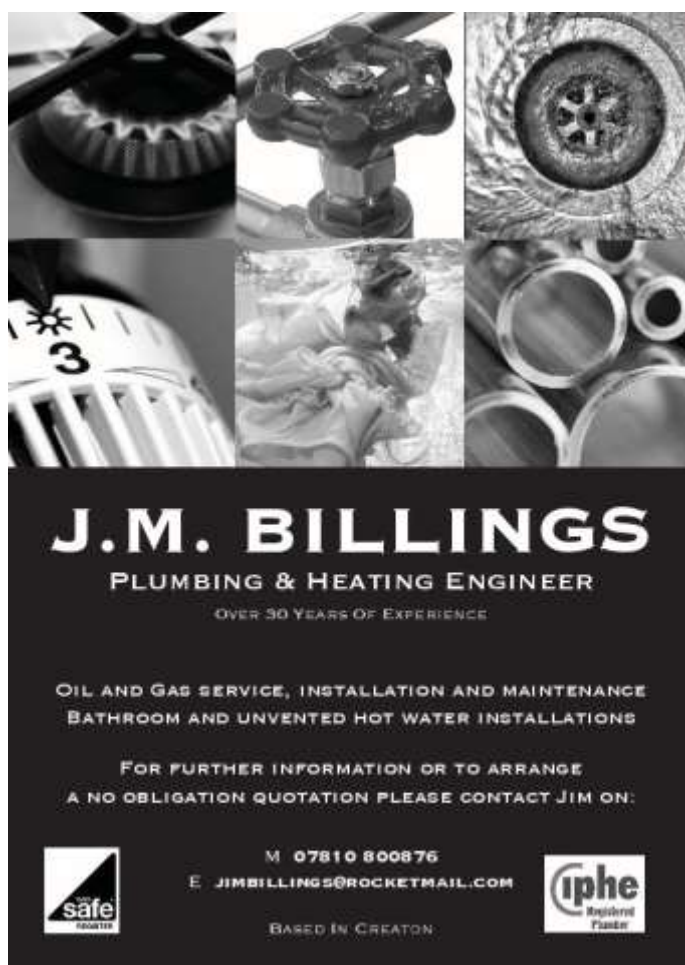
Clerk: pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk

Hollowell Pocket Park— the hedgerows and long grass areas will be trimmed and visitors to the Park should keep clear of any vehicles and machinery that may be in use.

The Jetty (Between Church Hill and Guilsborough Hill in Hollowell) – if residents are concerned about the area of the Jetty, particularly when leaves have fallen, they should notify the Clerk so that the Council can review any maintenance work that may have to be undertaken.

Street Lighting— just a reminder, with darker evenings upon us, that the Parish Council maintain the street lamps in Hollowell and Teeton.

Please report any faults to the Clerk, quoting the number displayed on the lamp column and its location.





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HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

LOCKDOWN IN MELBOURNE – letter from down under from Hollowell residents Viv and John Benjamin.



When we came to visit our daughter Helen in Melbourne in February for 6 weeks, little did we think we would still be here more than six months later. Australia was in the enviable position of having virtually no virus. (Most of the country remains so). People flying into the country went into quarantine.

Then something happened, now the subject of an enquiry, allowing 'the beast' to escape from a Melbourne quarantine hotel.

Rates of infection rose.

After various control measures, it was decided to go into serious lockdown for 6 weeks. All facilities and shops closed except food shops and pharmacies.

One hour daily for exercise, all within 4km, no mixing with people outside the household, masks at all times, only one person to go shopping, and a curfew between 8pm and 5am.

The 6 weeks will be up soon and we should hear tomorrow what plans there are to ease the situation.

Although new cases have fallen from a peak of 700 a day to below 100, the government would like a lower figure before reopening. Within sight is Melbourne which shimmers on the skyline like the Emerald City in the Wizard of Oz. We can be there in a jiffy, but it seems a world away. Fortunately we have a pretty 'creek' nearby, so our daily exercise is very pleasant.

Melbourne feels very European, with its manicured parks and Italian cafes. Sometimes it's only the wildlife that reminds us where we are. A colony of enormous fruit bats or flying foxes heading out at dusk like airborne black umbrellas, or a mob of kangaroos grazing in the suburbs.

Birdlife is abundant, with many rainbow lorikeets; small parrots with green wings, blue heads, and fronts of red and yellow. Aptly named, they feed on Eucalyptus nectar, calling raucously as if to alert their friends to a tasty source of food.

Snoozing on a branch sit two Tawny Frogmouths, nocturnal owl-like creatures related to the nightjar. A sleepy yawn reveals, as you'd expect, a wide mouth quite unlike any other beak.

My favourite bird is what is marvellously called the "Superb Fairy-wren", quite unlike our own dear brown creature, but with an upright tail which presumably gave it its name. The head is a beautiful shade of blue. Almost PPE blue!

Australian magpies have a nasty habit of attacking people. Cyclists often have antennae on their helmets to ward them off. John was attacked this week, and pursued too. We are told they remember a face, so his next bike ride will be undertaken with trepidation.

The symphony of Australian birdsong is composed of a rather discordant collection of sounds. Would I be a philistine to say it was Stockhausen to our Mozart?

I have often spotted a Blackbird and verified that they were introduced into Australia. But I never heard its song and sorely missed those quiet evenings in Hollowell where I would hear one, perched on a large shrub or gable end, seemingly communicating with its neighbours and occasionally duetting with a Robin.

Then, come September and the beginning of Melbourne spring (and winter has been COLD), I woke up one morning this week to hear the Blackbird singing away. Solace to the locked down soul it was too.



Tawny Frogmouths

THORNBYS NEWS

DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THIS HOUSE?



"Hi, we recently moved to the village of Thornby and would like to know more about the history of our new house.

The building was built circa 1832. Situated on Welford Road Thornby. We believe that the property was owned by the Wills family and served as the village hall & reading room. Even being used as the venue for dances in the 1930's & 40's.

Does anyone local have any historical information or photographs of our house in order that we can piece together its history?"

Please contact Michael on 07764 603017 or plans@abstractlimited.co.uk



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CAN YOU HELP?

Help is needed at St Helen's Church, Thornby with the mowing of the churchyard.

If anyone is willing to give a couple of hours per fortnight during the summer months, please contact Paul Gates 01604 743280

AS SEEN AT
No. 10
DOWNING STREET

10
AWARD WINNING
HANDMADE CHRISTMAS
WREATHS AS SEEN AT
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

**BIG CHANGES
FOR 2020**

Due to Covid-19
For 2020 we are relocating
everything into the main tree
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CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group Of Churches – Service Planner October & November 2020							
	4 th October	11 th October	18 th October	25 th October	1 st November	8 th November Remembrance	15 th November
							22 nd November
							29 th November
8.30 a.m.			St Helen's Thomby Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Marking Harvest			Cold Ashby 9.30 Communion with names Cottesbrooke 10.50 Act of Remembrance Creton 10.50 Act of Remembrance Gullesborough 3.00 Act of Remembrance Hollowell 6.00 Act of Remembrance Ravenshorpe 10.50 Act of Remembrance Spratton 10.50 Act of Remembrance Facebook Pre-recorded Livestreamed Act of remembrance with Hymns and contribution from RBL 10.50	St Helen's Thomby Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer
9.30 a.m.	Facebook YouTube Common Worship Communion	Facebook YouTube Common Worship Communion	Facebook YouTube Common Worship Communion	Facebook YouTube Common Worship Communion	Facebook YouTube Common Worship Communion		Facebook YouTube Common Worship Communion
9.30 a.m.	St Michael and All Angels Creton Holy Communion Common Worship Marking Harvest	St Denys' Cold Ashby Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Marking Harvest	St Denys' Ravenshorpe Holy Communion Common Worship Marking Harvest	St Etheldreda's Gullesborough Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Marking Harvest	St Michael and All Angels Creton Holy Communion Common Worship	St Denys' Ravenshorpe Holy Communion Common Worship	St Etheldreda's Gullesborough Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer
11.00 a.m.	Outdoors@11 St Etheldreda's Gullesborough	St James' Hollowell Holy Communion Common Worship Marking Harvest	All Saints Cottesbrooke Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Marking Harvest	St Andrew's Spratton Holy Communion Common Worship Marking Harvest	Outdoors@11 St Etheldreda's Gullesborough	All Saints Cottesbrooke Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	St Andrew's Spratton Holy Communion Common Worship
5.00 p.m.			St Etheldreda's Gullesborough Evening Prayer With Music			St Etheldreda's Gullesborough Evening Prayer With Music	

It is important that those who are shielding, vulnerable or self isolating, should continue follow official government advice with regards to gathering with others inside. Please stay at home if you feel unwell, especially if you are displaying the symptoms of Covid 19.

MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALLISON TWIGG, THE UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

CHURCH NEWS

Early this morning I sat and looked out over our back garden. My thoughts initially were about the jobs that needed doing, the weeds that needed pulling and the apples that needed picking up. But my gaze was quickly drawn to the horizon and to the trees that are beginning to turn to their autumn colours. Late September and early October is a time of change. Nature changes its colours, mornings are cooler and evenings darker. For families routines become re-established as children go back to school after what has been for many a significantly longer time away from school buildings than a regular summer break. Holidays become happy memories and we begin to reflect on **whether or not it was a 'good' summer.**

Summer for many was rather different than usual. Many of us were shielding into August, quarantines and travel restrictions **meant that many of us didn't get the holidays that we hoped for.** Yet I pray that you still found a little sunshine, rest and recreation even if this was in the form of a Staycation at home; a few days away visiting friends or family after a period of not seeing them; or a short break in the UK.

As the summer has drawn to a close it has been wonderful to be able to celebrate some joyous changes as we re-opened our church buildings and enjoy the fellowship of our church families after a long period of worshipping only online. I was Licensed as Rector of the Uplands group via Zoom at the end of the summer, something that would have been unheard of even a few short months ago. I look forward to continuing to serve the communities that make up the villages of the Uplands Group of Churches.

Throughout this time our churches have still been active and proactive in serving the community. Pastoral care, funeral ministry, regular weekly services have continued albeit in a slightly different way. The introduction of online worship has

meant that many who have been unable to worship in church have been able to worship from home – another welcome change for those that have been restricted in their movements.

You will see from our Worship Rota that our service pattern remains limited, online worship continues and we will have to make changes in the way we celebrate and mark the events of the seasons. Harvest and Remembrance still will be marked, maybe not in exactly the same way as we have in the past, but in a new changed and slightly different way.

As we face an Autumn and Winter that may be full of change, that has many unknowns yet to be revealed, we can seek comfort that God is with us in all of it. I am comforted by words from the Old Testament, in the book of the prophet Jeremiah we are told, **"Be bold and courageous, do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord will be with you wherever you go."**

It would be wonderful to be able to share all that is going on in the church with you all. If you would like to know more about all that is happening in your village church this can easily be done. Each week we send out an email newsletter and it could be coming to you! You can sign up for this by visiting this web address - <http://eepurl.com/gjYorb> Online worship and events are also shared via our Facebook Page 'Uplands Group Churches'.

Whatever changes you are navigating I pray that you may know **the fulfilment of God's promise and know his loving presence with you.**

Yours in faith,
Reverend Allison Twigg
revallisontwigg@gmail.com



The Uplands Group of Churches warmly invites you to join them for Outdoors@11 this Autumn.

As we can't all meet together (inside!) in the normal way for family worship or children's groups at the moment, we're going to try something new this Autumn.

Outdoors@11 is a new event aimed specifically at those families who we haven't seen in a while but used to enjoy coming along to Brunch@11, Bus Stop Tots, MMM, or our All-Age services. If you're new to any of those activities though we'd love to see you too of course.

We're meeting at: Guilsborough churchyard from 11.00 am

(activities will start then but join us as you can)

Sunday 4th October, Sunday 1st November, & Sunday 6th December

As the name suggests, it's going to be entirely outdoors, and give you a great chance to be together as a family/household (our priority is keeping you all safe), whilst sharing the fun (albeit at a 2m distance!) with other families that you may not have seen for a while. We hope you're brave enough to give it a try with us!

We'll have about 45 minutes of nature-based outdoor family-friendly activities (with plenty of movement to keep you warm), and then some simple, fun worship.

We'll be providing the kit for the activities, and also a waterproof mat, and some rain cover for each household group (as we'll be going ahead pretty much whatever the weather) but it would be great if you could come along in warm and waterproof clothes and footwear. If you would prefer to have a chair rather than sit on a mat, please bring one if you can as well.

If you'd like to find out more about Outdoors@11, or any of the other worship and activities in our villages, please contact Rev Allison Twigg on 01604 846099 or revallisontwigg@gmail.com or take a look at our Facebook page.

CHRISTMAS CAKES:

Sorry!

There will be no Christmas Cakes from Esme Godden this year. She has supplied over 70 cakes a year to people in the area for charity for many years. What an achievement!



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VIRTUAL PRODUCE SHOW WINNERS continued from front page. Sarah Mourant with her four tomatoes (Best Array of four fruits) and left, Tom Harper, from Guilsborough, who wins “Most Unusual Vegetable” for his Tromboncino Squash.



Bouncing with the blooms is Sophie Caldwell aged 8 from Guilsborough, winner of the child category for the “Summer Sun” entry. She planted bright Sunflowers and Marigolds, and lots of beans, all from seed, in the border around the trampoline.

Below is Maggie Jones from Highfield Park, Creton, who is the runner-up in the adult flowering plant “Summer Sun” class.

All prize winners will receive a certificate. Our thanks to everyone for taking part and brightening up these pages!

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