

# VILLAGE LINK

## Jomidar Jubilation!!



Khayrul Islam (left) and Chad Miah

The Jomidar Lounge in Creton has had a double success in recent food awards. In October it won the prestigious title of "East Midlands Region - Restaurant of the Year" at the Asian Restaurant and Takeaway Awards. And then, hot on the heels of that accolade, gained the Editor's Choice Award 2024 at the Curry Life Awards. This is pretty good going for a restaurant that has not been open a year yet. Owner Khayrul Islam said that winning these awards has been an unforgettable and heartwarming experience. "These achievements are a testament to the hard work, love, and support of everyone on this journey. A huge thank you to my incredible team, my family, and our amazing customers

– these awards belong to all of you!" In addition to the wonderful food, the staff of the Jomidar support the community in many ways and in November gave a thank you meal to Creton for its support. *Ed: See page 9 for Jomidar discount offer.*

## TRAVELLING CRIB



This year, Advent Sunday is 1st December, so the Travelling Crib sets will be blessed at one of our Uplands Services and start on their travels around the Parishes finishing again at our Crib Service in Spratton Church at 3pm on Christmas Eve. If you wish to be part of this and host Mary & Joseph, then please contact Pauline Jacobs 01604 743792.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Among the more unusual occupations in our villages, Guilsborough has a specialist repairer of Cuckoo Clocks.



Read our interview with Richard Franklin on page 14. And do get in touch with the editorial team if you would like to talk about your own unusual occupation or hobby!

## Inside this issue:

Puzzle Page	P3
Cold Ashby	P4 –6
Cottesbrooke	P7-8
Creton	P9 -12
Guilsborough	P13-16
Hollowell & Teeton	P17-18
Buckby Library & Hub	P19
Thornby	P20
Church	P21-22
Courses and Vacancies	P24

## WHAT'S ON

### DECEMBER

See p6 for all Cold Ashby Events  
1st Lights Switch On at G'boro Church  
5th Guilsborough Friends  
7th Cafe Christmas Hollowell  
7th Coffee Morning Cottesbrooke  
7th & 8th Creton Singers at Welford Xmas Tree Farm  
8th Wreath Making Cottesbrooke  
10th Village Hall AGM Guilsborough  
11th WI 'Women in Art' Creton  
14th Creton Walking Group  
16th MMM Xmas Party Guilsborough  
17th Carol Singing Guilsborough  
17th Carol Singing & Concert, Creton  
19th FOSM Creton with quiz  
20th Hopewell Coffee & chat, H'well

### JANUARY

See p.6 for all Cold Ashby Events  
1st & 11th Creton Walking Group  
4th Coffee Morning Cottesbrooke  
8th WI 'Bookbinding' Creton  
9th Guilsborough Friends  
16th FOSM 'Mary Burbidge' Creton  
24th Hopewell Coffee and Chat

### AND REGULARLY ...

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



THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

*Merry Christmas!*

To all of our wonderful Village Link volunteers, from village correspondents, to distributors, drivers, advertisers and more.

Wishing all our readers a happy and healthy 2025!

# Creton Village Shop

## Opening Hours

Monday-Friday **7.30am-6pm**

Saturday **8am-6pm**

Sunday **8am-12 noon**

**The post office is open whenever the shop is open!**

Take advantage of cash withdrawals, banking and foreign currency facilities

**POST OFFICE**

We stock a wide range of fresh and frozen produce, all your kitchen and household essentials, as well as, delicious bread and pastries from our in-store bakery.

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## We offer FREE home delivery!

It couldn't be any easier to shop with us! Just call to place your order.

Within 5 miles and minimum basket of £10

## Enjoy our NEW bean to cup takeaway coffee

We now offer a wide variety of takeaway coffees, which pair perfectly with a fresh croissant baked on-site!



Save 50p if you use your own reusable cup!



## Shop Local

While we stock a wide variety of well known brands, we are proud to champion local makers, such as:

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- Jo's Your Cool Ice Cream
- Verdes Sandwiches
- Sally's Freezer Meals
- Wesses Bread



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# HAPPY QUIZMAS!

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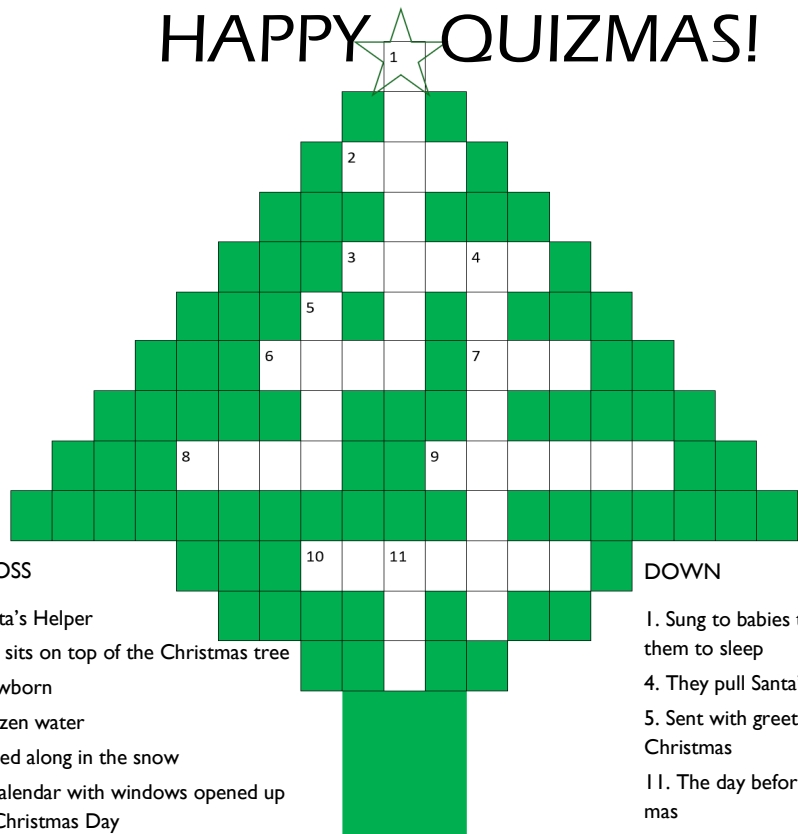
Wherever possible **please email** your contributions to.  
[editorial@villagelink.org.uk](mailto:editorial@villagelink.org.uk). This saves considerable time re-typing information! When providing hard copy materials, please post to Sarah Dalzell, Five Springs, Nortoft, Guilsborough, NN6 8QB

### Advertisements

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

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
FEBRUARY/MARCH EDITION:  
Tuesday 7th January**

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



### ACROSS

2. Santa's Helper
3. She sits on top of the Christmas tree
6. Newborn
7. Frozen water
8. Pulled along in the snow
9. A calendar with windows opened up until Christmas Day
10. No time like the.....

### DOWN

1. Sung to babies to get them to sleep
4. They pull Santa's sleigh
5. Sent with greetings at Christmas
11. The day before Christmas



## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

R	C	L	C	D	T	G	R	I	B	B	O	N	S
C	R	G	A	C	G	L	N	S	O	S	T	A	R
B	C	N	R	R	E	I	O	T	L	E	C	T	N
T	S	O	O	E	U	T	T	N	I	H	O	K	P
L	T	E	L	H	E	T	A	E	G	P	T	S	E
H	R	C	S	D	O	E	E	S	H	L	T	G	O
O	O	Y	H	L	A	R	R	E	T	O	E	N	T
L	S	B	R	E	E	S	C	R	S	D	S	I	E
L	N	N	O	T	S	I	H	P	N	U	B	K	L
O	T	R	O	U	D	T	R	B	R	R	R	C	T
W	R	O	B	R	O	T	N	B	Y	B	O	O	S
E	E	H	N	K	D	C	S	U	A	T	O	T	I
L	E	T	T	E	E	T	O	N	T	G	K	S	M
L	B	E	N	Y	R	T	G	R	C	S	E	N	E



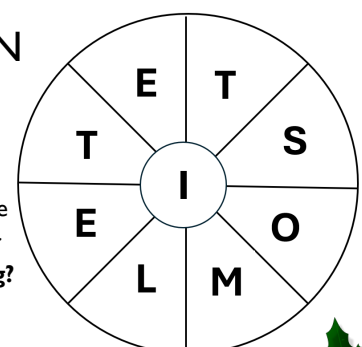
COTTESBROOKE  
GLITTER  
TREE  
HOLLOWELL  
RUDOLPH  
GABRIEL  
THORNBYS  
PRESENTS  
TEETON  
COLD ASHBY  
MISTLETOE  
LIGHTS  
CAROLS  
STOCKINGS  
STAR  
TURKEY  
CHESTNUTS  
CREATON  
RIBBONS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7722017/>



## POLYGON

From these letters make words of three or more letters always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford English Dictionary and cannot include plurals, proper nouns or past participles! The nine letters make up a seasonal word. How many words can you make, together with this 9-letter word? **Can you beat 40 without cheating? 55 should be possible!**



*All puzzles compiled by Village Link unless otherwise stated.  
Answers will be published on our website: [villagelink.org.uk](http://villagelink.org.uk).*



# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

### LLOYDS BANK TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE

Cold Ashby provided fabulous support for the cyclists when the tour of Britain passed through the village on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September when lots of the village and other visitors turned out to cheer on the riders. It was fabulous to even make it onto the TV with the village being shown on ITV4's coverage which has put Cold Ashby on the map.



### CLUB TROPICANA 80s NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Club Tropicana 80's night back on September 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a fantastic evening and was great fun to take a step back in time. Huge thanks to our host Dave Harris for setting a brilliant 80's tabletop quiz and for being compère and DJ. Thanks also goes to Mandy Carson for her spectacular 80's platters and puddings, Andrew Bott for manning the bar and Julie Webb for her help with everything. It was lovely to see new people joining us and we look forward to seeing you again.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE AND SOCIAL EVENING

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Macmillan event on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September and made donations to this very worthy charity. A grand total of £210 was raised.

### PAIRS SKITTLES KNOCKOUT COMPETITION



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our pairs skittles knockout competition on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. It was a fabulous evening, and everyone had great fun. Thanks to everyone's generosity we have raised enough money to buy a new set of match skittles for the village. Huge thank you to Mandy Carson and Gemma Sellers for the lovely ploughman's suppers, Andrew Bott for scoring, Julie Webb for collecting the money and Ann Brumby for selling the raffle tickets. Congratulations to Fiona Gunn-Stokes and Ann Brumby for becoming pairs champions and winning the Bev Linnell Trophy and to Billy Douglas and Ruth Rolls for being runners up.

### FAREWELL TO JOYCE GUNN

In October, Cold Ashby said goodbye to its eldest resident Joyce Gunn. Joyce had lived in the village for over seventy years after moving up from North London. In 1947, Joyce joined the Women's Land Army and was posted to Thornby where she lived in the Stone House. During this time, she met her husband Gerald and after their marriage she moved to the village. Joyce was well known throughout the area for her dedication to her community and village life. She was involved with many organisations throughout Cold Ashby including Mother's Union, Women's Institute and The Bowls Club but her biggest legacy will be being a village leader of The Merry Comrades. During the 60's, 70's and 80's the village Merry Comrades raised hundreds of pounds for local hospitals by regular fundraising through carol singing, bazaars, coffee evenings and the traditional village May Day. Joyce and her fellow leader, Joan Bott will be remembered by generations of children for their role in teaching the meaning of charity and helping others and installing such values in all.



Joyce was also a passionate gardener and along with Gerald they produced a garden to be proud of and were one of the pioneers of Cold Ashby Open Gardens. People would return year after year to see the beautiful blooms and perfect fruit and vegetables at Paddock Cottage. In honour of Joyce's service to the village, a quarter peel was rung from the church bells on the day following her funeral. Joyce will be sorely missed by all who knew her, but her cheerful spirit and her proud sense of community will always live on in Cold Ashby.

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall  
presents:



**Saturday 25th January**

Chicken or Vegetable curry, rice and  
naan £5

(Please see Fiona/Mandy to prebook)

**Curry served between 7:30-8pm**

Eyes down at 8:15pm

Bingo tickets £1 each - Cash  
prizes

## Christmas Services

**Cold Ashby Church**

**All are welcome**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>7</b><br>DECEMBER  | Switch on Lights of Remembrance<br>6.00 p.m.  |
| <b>21</b><br>DECEMBER | Walking Nativity - Creton<br>1.00pm <small>Starts at 12 Brikworth Road, Creton<br/>and finishes in Creton Church. Great for children.</small> |
| <b>21</b><br>DECEMBER | Traditional Carol Service<br>5.00 p.m.  |
| <b>25</b><br>DECEMBER | Communion with Carols<br>9.30 a.m.  |

Follow The Star  
CALM and BRIGHT



**Christmas  
Cracker**

Get into the Christmas Spirit  
with us on:

**Saturday 14th December from  
7:30pm**

A festive evening of music, fun  
and games hosted by our very  
own

**Dave Harris**

Christmas tabletop quiz  
Festive Cocktails  
Complementary Christmas  
Buffet



Cold Ashby Memorial Hall

**Sunday Cafe**

Join us for breakfast between  
09:30-12pm

**Sunday 8th December**

**Sunday 5th January**

**Sunday 2nd February**

Bacon, Sausage, Egg rolls,  
Toasties and cakes available to eat  
in or takeaway

# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Date	Event	Place	Details
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Skittles CA v CSB	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Cold Ashby Christmas Cracker	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm - see poster
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Skittles KO Cup	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Social Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Eve Social and Raffle	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day drinks	Memorial Hall	11am-1pm
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Boxing Night Social	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	NYE Social	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v KA	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00pm
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v SFC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Curry and Bingo	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm - see poster
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Film Night	Pavilion	From 7:30pm £5 for cheese & wine
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v LBRC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm

Pool nights some Mondays from 7.30pm at the Cold Ashby Playing Field Pavilion. ALL ARE WELCOME. **Bar open**.

## NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

### HARVEST SUPPER

The PCC would like to thank everyone who attended the Harvest Supper on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and made it such an enjoyable evening. A huge thank you to all who helped on the night and to everyone who donated produce and flowers for the auction raising much needed funds for our church. A real community effort...well done to all! A grand total of £340 was raised for church funds.

### TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

Once again, the Tree of Remembrance will be lit throughout December with the grand switch on being at 6pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December and everyone is invited to join us for this. We will be singing a few carols before heading into the church afterwards for a glass of mulled wine. To buy a bulb in remembrance of a loved one costs £5, and forms will be posted through your doors and need to be returned to Will Benney by the beginning of December.



## J.M. BILLINGS

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M 07810 800876  
E JIMBILLINGS@ROCKETMAIL.COM

BASED IN CREATON



# COTTESBROOKE NEWS

## HONOURING OUR HEROES: Remembrance Sunday

As the leaves turn golden and the crisp autumn air settles in, our village came together to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by the brave men, women, and animals in the armed forces. The Remembrance Sunday Service, held at All Saints Church, was a time to honour those who gave their lives in the service of our country, as well as those who continue to serve in various capacities, both past and present.

John Harris had researched one of the names on the War Memorial in the church and told us about John Fredrick Hearn, who's family had lived at Myrtle Cottage and were gardeners at Cottesbrooke and other local halls. John was only 19 when he was killed at Passchendaele, it was a very poignant moment to reflect on how families were and continue to be effected by war at home and around the world..



**Christmas Services**  
**Cottesbrooke Church**  
**All are welcome**

<b>15</b> DECEMBER	<b>Traditional Carol Service</b> 2.00 p.m.
<b>23</b> DECEMBER	<b>Walking Nativity - Creton</b> 11.00 a.m. <small>Starting at 12 Brixworth Road, Creton and finishing at St Michael's Church. Particularly suitable for children and families</small>
<b>25</b> DECEMBER	<b>Communion with Carols</b> 11.00 a.m.

**Follow The Star**  
CALM and BRIGHT

## A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL TALENT

The Village Christmas Craft Fair is a cherished seasonal event that brings together a diverse group of talented makers, crafters, and artisans from within our community and beyond. Whether you were searching for beautifully knitted scarves, handcrafted jewellery, unique home décor, or intricate wooden carvings, there was something for everyone.

This year's event had over 15 local crafters, each offering a wide range of products, from fine art to seasonal decorations, candles, soaps, knitted goods, pottery, and much more. Every item was lovingly handmade, showcasing the incredible talent within our community. Another highlight was the crêpes van, which served delicious morsels, that were enjoyed by many. By shopping at a Craft Fair, you not only support local businesses, but you also get to take home a piece of something truly special.



**PAPILLON SCHOOL OF DANCE**  
**Ballet classes for everyone**

Creton Village Hall,  
Creton, Northamptonshire, NN6 8NL



**CHILDREN**  
From 2 ½ years. Classes develop children's musicality, creativity and coordination, establishing technical, musical and performance skills. Option to take exams from the age of 5.  
**Pre-Primary to Grade 4**



**ADULTS**  
Suitable for dancers of all ages, our adult classes are fun and lively sessions with a focus on the joy of dance while improving ballet technique. Every class starts with a warm up, stretching and barre work before moving into the centre for simple exercises and adapted repertoire.  
Adults are also welcome to join our syllabus classes and take RAD examinations.

**TEENAGERS**  
Classes enable students to develop a secure technique and a passion for dance, with the option to train 10+ hours a week. Classes include pointe work, classical repertoire and conditioning. Frequent performance opportunities available. Students have successfully gained places in associate schemes and full time vocational training.  
**Grade 5 to Grade 8**  
**Intermediate Foundation to Advanced 2**  
**Discovering Repertoire Levels 2, 3 & 4**

**SILVER SWANS**  
Perfect if you have always wanted to try ballet or are returning after many years. These classes have been specifically designed for the over 55s, based on research into dance practice for older learners.  
**Term starts Monday 16th September FREE Trial Lesson**



**SILVER SWANS**



REGISTERED  
ROYAL  
ACADEMY  
OF DANCE  
TEACHER

Contact Zoe Dando (LRAD)  
07585 774945  
zoe.dando@yahoo.co.uk  
papillonschoolofdance.co.uk

# COTTESBROOKE NEWS

## Cottesbrooke Village Kitchen

### Cheese Straws

#### Ingredients

- 4oz Self raising flour
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of mustard
- 2 oz margarine
- 3oz grated cheddar (or your favourite hard cheese)

#### Method

1. Sift together the flour, salt and mustard
2. Rub in the margarine
3. Mix in the cheese
4. Beat the egg and add to the dry mix
5. Mix them all together until a stiff paste
6. On a floured surface, roll the mix into a thin sheet
7. Cut into strips, circles or whatever shape you'd like
8. Bake in the oven at 170°C (fan assisted) (or 180°C) for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown

Recipe courtesy of Cerian

## Temporary home to the Creaton Silver Swans

Cottesbrooke Village Hall was very happy to accommodate the Silver Swans, who were looking for a temporary home while the village hall at Creaton was being redecorated. The Silver Swans offer dance classes for the over 55s. Ballet on a Tuesday and Friday mornings and tap on Wednesday evenings and Fridays morning. If you are interested please contact Zoe Dando (LRAD) 07585 774945.

## Christmas Wreath Making at the Village Hall

**8th December  
2-4pm**

**£12.50pp**  
(materials and refreshments included or bring your own)

Contact Stef for more details or book your place  
message on facebook  
email: cottesbrookevhc@gmail.com

## Join us for Coffee break

**Cottesbrooke Village Hall  
Village Residents Coffee Mornings**

A perfect opportunity to catch-up and enjoy some delicious treats together.

We look forward to seeing you there!

7th December  
4th January  
8th February



## No room in the garage or the attic?



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*Competitive prices, with concessions*

*for seniors, students and juniors*

*Free Consultations*

*Complimentary Tea and Coffee*

*8.30 - 6.00pm (1.00pm Saturdays)*

*National Hairdressing Federation Registered*

## CREATON PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

Charity No:1085011

### Curry Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Curry Night to support the playing field. A great time was had by all and we raised £540.50. Thanks also go to Jomidar Lounge for hosting us once again.

### Hollowell Steam Rally

The Association is very grateful to Hollowell Steam Rally for making a donation towards our cause.

### Pipe



The water pipe across the playing field had become blocked and collapsed, which led to a number of issues with flooding. We are grateful to Cot-tesbrooke Estate for fitting a new, larger pipe which will hopefully avoid this problem going forwards. Now we just need a downpour to test it out!!

## Christmas Services

**Creaton Church**

**All are welcome**

DECEMBER

**21**  
DECEMBER

**Walking Nativity**

**1.00pm**

Starting at 12 Brixworth Road, Creaton and finishing at St Michael's Church. Particularly suitable for children and families

**22**  
DECEMBER

**Traditional Carol Service**

**3.00 p.m.**

**24**  
DECEMBER

**'Midnight' Communion**

**with Carols 10.00pm**

**Follow The Star**  
**CALM and BRIGHT**



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6 Welford Road, Creaton, Northampton, England, NN6 8NH, United Kingdom

# CREATON NEWS

## CREATON WI



To celebrate the milestone that is 100 years of Creaton WI, members and guests enjoyed a wonderful Afternoon Tea from Creaton Cuisine, accompanied by songs from the decades performed by "Three in Accord". The delicious fruit cake was made by our Secretary. President, Daphne Clark, received a commemorative certificate from Jeryl Stone, Chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Non-members are very welcome at our meetings. The next "in-person" one is in the United Reform



Church at 7.30 p.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup> with a talk on "Women in Art" by Grainne Purkiss.

The January and February meetings will be on Zoom and the guest speakers are:

January 8<sup>th</sup> Caroline Bendix 'Bound to Learn - western bookbinding'

February 12<sup>th</sup> Geoff Lambert 'Canal Mania'

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

## CREATON VILLAGE HALL

Creaton Village Hall Management Committee, in an effort to improve facilities, are pleased to announce that the decoration works to the main hall are now complete and it is looking clean and bright, to accompany the new kitchen put in last year.

We are planning further improvements as funds allow like replacing the external fence at the front.

We are also glad to report that Gigaclear's Community Hub



Team have agreed to continuing to provide complimentary high speed Broadband to the hall. We would like to express our gratitude to them.

Whilst the hall is well used regularly for Dance classes, Zumba, Indoor bowls etc, there are still sessions available for parties, fund raising and other classes. Please contact Kate on 505406 for details and bookings.

## FOSM History Group

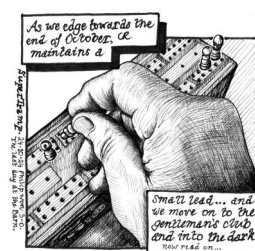
December's meeting, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, will include a history quiz and a chance to look at the developing Creaton Heritage website. Many of the pictures on the website have been donated by members of the village and if you have any old, and not-so-old pictures of life in Creaton, do contact members of the Committee.

The January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting welcomes Wendy Raybould with an interesting talk about Mary Burbidge, an 18<sup>th</sup> century innkeeper's widow. A fascinating insight into life at the time, and the role played by women.

All talks start at 7:30pm and are followed by an opportunity to have a free glass of wine and a chat. All events are in St Michael & All Angels unless otherwise stated.

## Crib Nib

Following a short run of good luck, CR succumbed to a 3-0 defeat, followed up by 2-1. Feeling his game needs a boost, he arranged for a four-hand version to start at the end of November.



## CREATON WALKING GROUP

Despite the weather, the Creaton Walking Group have been able to get out and about to admire the autumn colours. For the October walk the Group were delighted to be joined by four walkers from Preston in Lancashire, who were very complimentary about our wonderful Northamptonshire landscape. A few sunflowers were spotted as well as a hare. The photo shows the group near Braybrooke before heading back to Arthingworth pub for lunch.



The December walk will involve a Christmas lunch at Little Brington and it is hoped as many as possible of the supporters, who don't walk, will join the walkers for lunch. There will be an extra walk on New Year's Day at 11am from the lychgate. Monthly walks are on the second Saturday of the month from Creaton lychgate at 10am. Bring boots and water. Well-behaved dogs are always welcome. This friendly group walk about 8 miles before an optional pub lunch. Next walks are on

Saturday 14th December 10am

Wednesday 1st January 11am

Saturday 11 January 10am

## CREATON SINGERS

Why not make Christmas even more enjoyable by coming and listening to your local singing group? The Creaton Singers have had a very busy Autumn, preparing for Christmas, but also learning new music for a friend's funeral at Market Harborough Catholic Church in November. This included John Rutter's beautiful Gaelic Blessing.

The busy schedule continues into December. On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December from 2pm the Creaton Singers will be performing at the Welford Christmas Tree Farm. Come and say hello whilst choosing your tree.

The following weekend on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, the singers have been asked once again to support the congregation at Cottesbrooke Carol Service at 2pm in the church. They will also be singing a John Rutter carol they have not performed before.

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December it is the annual carol singing starting on The Green at 7pm followed by a concert in the URC at 7:30pm. This will be Glennis' final concert as Musical Director of the group so a very poignant occasion. Please come and support the Creaton Singers as they thank Glennis for all her amazing work over the last 15+ years. There will be mulled wine, mince

## Creaton URC

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

Sunday

**DECEMBER**

1 <sup>st</sup> 11am	<b>Toy &amp; Gift Service and Communion</b>	Jon Heard
8 <sup>th</sup> 11am		Suzie James
15 <sup>th</sup> 11am	<b>Service &amp; Church Meeting</b>	Rev Geoff Townsend
16 <sup>th</sup> 7pm	<b>Candlelight Service</b>	Rev Ann Jack
22 <sup>nd</sup> 11am		Jon Heard
25 <sup>th</sup> 10:30	<b>Christmas Morning Service</b>	Andrew Bodsworth
29 <sup>th</sup> 11am	<b>Joint Service at Long Buckby URC</b>	

**JANUARY**

5 <sup>th</sup> 11am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Jon Heard
12 <sup>th</sup> 11am		tba
19 <sup>th</sup> 11am	<b>Joint Service with St Michael's for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>	Rev Geoff Townsend
26 <sup>th</sup> 11am		tba

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

pies and a 'bucket' collection for the charity Baby Basics Northampton.

If you would like to consider taking over as Musical Director please come along on any Tuesday at 7:30pm to the URC in Creaton High Street and see if this is for you.

## OVER THE COUNTER

Christmas planning is in full swing. A very successful tasting event was held in November sampling wine, cheese, ice cream and a wide range of Christmas products.

Why not let Creaton Village Shop take the hassle out of food shopping for Christmas? Order all your meat requirements, including turkey, and veg, fruit, salad, and all those special sauces and condiments, not forgetting alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. No order too large!

If you would like fresh bread, including Parisienne baguettes and croissants remember to order them in advance, to avoid disappointment.

Have you tried the new cheeses? Creaton Village Shop is getting a reputation for the range of interesting cheeses on sale.

A huge thank you to our staff, volunteers, customers and suppliers for your support in 2024. Creaton Village Shop wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

# CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

## Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

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

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

## Parish Council Meeting dates:

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The next meeting date is: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## 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/>

## 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/>. WNC will investigate and provide updates on the website to each report.

The Parish Council is responsible for mowing and street lighting. Any concerns regarding these matters can be reported to the Parish Clerk.

## Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council has two vacancies for Parish Councillors which can be filled by co-option. In May 2025 all seats on the Parish Council will be up for election. The Parish Council is a civil local government authority and serves an important role representing parishioners. No experience or qualifications are necessary to become a Parish Councillor.

To be eligible you must:

- ⇒ be at least 18 years old;
- ⇒ be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights;

And meet one of the following qualifications:

- ⇒ a registered local government elector
- ⇒ occupying as owner or tenant any land or premises in the parish
- ⇒ your main or only place of work is in the parish
- ⇒ living in the parish area (or within three miles of it)

## WillsDirect

### Will Drafting Service

1 Judges Court, Creaton, Northampton NN6 8NS

Office: 01604 505170

Mobile: 07899 938255

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

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

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

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



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We're looking for:  
Creaton residents to join the Parish Council.

Do you want to make a difference to the local community and improve your local area? If yes, why not become a Parish Councillor?

For more information email:  
the Parish Clerk at  
[creatonpc@gmail.com](mailto:creatonpc@gmail.com)

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## CAROL SINGING

We will be singing in the village as usual this year in aid of The Hope Centre Northampton. Meet on The Green by the Christmas Tree at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17th December. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. Everyone welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.



## VICE VERSA

20th-22nd March 2025

GMADS (Guilsborough Music & Drama Society) next production is a comedy romp through ancient Rome. It is ripped off from the Roman comedies of Plautus, written by Phil Porter, especially for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Directed by Pam Townsend, rehearsals are going well with the cast regularly in fits of laughter. Tickets will be available from February.

## Christmas Services Guilsborough Church All are welcome

1 DECEMBER	Switch on Lights of Remembrance 4.30 p.m.
17 DECEMBER	Family Christingle 4.30pm With Guilsborough Primary
22 DECEMBER	Traditional Carol Service 6.00 p.m.
25 DECEMBER	Communion with Carols 9.30 a.m.

Follow The Star  
CALM and BRIGHT

## GUILSBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Planning:** Details of any planning application can be found on West Northants Council's website ([www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)) and searching for planning. We endeavour to post applications on our own website ([www.guilsborough-pc.gov.uk](http://www.guilsborough-pc.gov.uk) and search planning matters) as well, but West Northants are the planning authority and will have the information first. We have to wait for them to notify us. WNC are also responsible for posting the notices at the location that the planning application refers to. These used to be a yellow, A4 sized notice but recently some have been orange.

**Road Safety:** As you will have noticed, as well as the fixed speed awareness devices, Guilsborough also has a portable device that can be moved to different locations which captures as well as notifies road users of their speed whilst in the village. So far it has captured data from the West Haddon Road, Cold Ashby Road, Nortoft and the High St areas of the village, with the purpose of providing the Parish Council with verifiable data on the activity in those locations which, so far, can be summarised as:



Showing mean speeds of between 28.3mph and 32.7mph and an 85th percentile of between 31.5 and 36 mph. (The percentile is a standard metric from the 1940's stating that 85% of

road users were travelling at or below a stated speed. It's also the figure that Police forces look at when considering where to target speeding drivers).

West Haddon Rd and Nortoft experienced the majority of vehicle movements—up to C4,000 per week, measured in one direction only, with an as expected peak flow at 08:00hrs and 16:00hrs.

We are also able to see at what time the highest speeds are recorded for each 10mph band and these are at 07:00hrs and 20:00hrs. The highest recorded was a very concerning 68.9mph!

**Parking:** Now the dark evenings are with us, please remember that vehicles parked on the public highway at night should be parked in the direction of travel otherwise they should be displaying parking lights.

**Vegetation:** There are several areas in the village where street lights are being partially obscured, footpaths are being impeded and junction sight lines reduced by vegetation. If you are responsible for any such vegetation, please arrange for it to be cut back.

If you notice any street lights not working, please notify our Clerk by either email [clerk@guilsborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@guilsborough-pc.gov.uk), by phone on 01788 824425 or by asking any Councillor to pass on the information.

In May of 2025, every Parish Council will be holding elections. We currently have two vacancies, so if you feel being a councillor could be for you, don't hesitate to contact any member of the PC for more information.

# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## INTERVIEW WITH ...

Richard Franklin (Horologist),  
Cuckoo Clock Hospital, Guilsborough



### What got you started in this hobby?

During a family holiday in Hamburg many years ago I purchased a cuckoo clock, brought it home and it ran well for several years until it stopped completely. The clock then remained in a box for several years. I couldn't find a repairer interested in fixing it. Later, having retired, I decided to take it on as a project. I undertook training in horology and brought the clock back to life. This was immensely satisfying and rekindled memories of that family holiday in Hamburg.

### How many clocks do you estimate to have repaired or refurbished over the years?

I started purchasing old cuckoo clocks from eBay, repairing and refurbishing and reselling them. Sometimes for little or no monetary gain. But the experience was great for skill and knowledge development. This then evolved into creating my own website and advertising my services. In the last few years I have successfully repaired and refurbished over eighty clocks, from all over the UK and many in Northamptonshire.

### This seems like quite a niche skill/hobby - do you have a feel for how many other specialist repairers there might be in the UK?

Most mainstream watch and clock repairers avoid cuckoo clocks. Perhaps they don't take these seriously or they find repairing them unprofitable. There are two or three companies that might take cuckoo clocks in for repair in the UK but waiting times can be up to a year. By specialising in cuckoo clocks only I can reduce turnaround times to a couple of weeks in most cases.

## A 'Potty' History of Cuckoo Clocks

The history of Cuckoo Clocks stretches back to the 17th Century in the Black Forest; an area in the southwest of Germany known as Baden- Württemberg. They are a splendid and varied combination of music, the cuckoo and its call, and a gong. The movement inside is designed to operate these features on the hour and half hour. The movement's design has changed very little since the mid-19th century. Movements generally come in 1-Day and 8-Day variants. All driven by the familiar fir cone style weights of varied sizes.

The cases can be quite plain or highly decorative and follow two basic formats. Chalet style clocks recreating Swiss/Bavarian mountain chalets, some with animations including dancers, musicians, sawyers, water wheels. Hunter style clocks are of a more gothic style with flint lock rifles, a hunter's satchel, nesting birds or dead game hanging. The cases are a mixture of Lime (boxwood) and ply.

Cuckoo clock movements have a typical shelf life of about 15 years. At this stage wear to spindles, wheels and escapement takes its toll and repair or replay becomes necessary. But cuckoo clock owners hate giving up on their clocks. Which is where the Cuckoo Clock Hospital comes in. Returning broken worn-out clocks back to life and with them the memories of loved ones and holidays. Richard is self-taught and has practiced his hobby for many years now for people far and wide across the UK.

## GUILSBOROUGH FRIENDS

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

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

Social activities include

- Guest speakers
- Garden visits
- Meals out
- Visits to local places of interest
- and much more

**We look forward to welcoming new members.**

Our Programme for the next 3 months:

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Party**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January Photography – How to use and take the best photos on your mobile phone. Talk by Mary and Graham Fowler**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February Money Raising Supper for Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service**

For further information contact:

Janet Minney T 01604 740640  
Elizabeth Southgate T 01604 740064

# URGENT



HELP !!!!  
Guilsborough  
Village Hall

We need more **volunteers** to help keep our successful and viable hall going, including a new Chairperson to bring fresh ideas and energy.

Please get in touch, even if you only have a spare hour or two.

The hall depends on volunteers with a wide range of skills such as :

- I.T.
- practical and DIY skills
- making cakes for fundraiser events

Please help if you can – SPEAK TO one of the current volunteer team: Sue O'Neil (07713 622 127);

**Sue Needham**; Carl Barnes; Sue Barnes; Richard Furnell; Ally Phillips; Emily Cheney

OR COME TO OUR AGM

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 at the Village Hall. Thank you!



## MMM



### Monday Morning Meet

Guilsborough 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.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**Monday 16th December 9-11am**  
For more information contact  
Janet 01604 740640



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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### *From the Headteacher...*

It's been a super Autumn term so far and we've filled it with lots of learning and also curriculum enrichment days. We've completed a Magical Maths day, held our European Day of Languages, as well as our whole school seasonal walk!

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

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

We've completed our first parents evening appointments of the year and I hope you all felt well informed. Thank you to all parents who were able to attend. If you didn't make parents evening then your teacher will be in contact for a quick phone call appointment.

Our Year 5 children have taken part in their Bikeability sessions, with the instructors expressing that our pupils did our school proud! Well done Year 5, you're all superstars. Lots of year

groups have also been taking part in the Pacesetters tournaments this half term. Again, we couldn't be prouder of our children for representing our school in such a positive way, and of course we're grateful for the support from our parents, it's greatly appreciated. Our trophy cabinet is getting crowded again!

Looking ahead, we have lots to look forward to. We have various fundraising events planned, Quicksticks hockey and Winter Olympic tournaments by Pacesetters and, of course, our Christmas celebrations. Our Year 5 and 6 children have also been invited to Guilsborough Academy to watch their Christmas performance.

Please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilsborough Primary we have lots of information on our website – [www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk) or you can keep up to speed via our X (aka Twitter) profile – @guilsboroughpri/x and our Instagram account -Instagram.com/guilsboroughprimaryschool.



*Pupils enjoying Bikeability*



*Wendy Yvonne*

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# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## HOLLOWELL BONFIRE

A dry week of uncharacteristically mild November weather and little wind meant conditions were perfect for the 2024 Hollowell bonfire.

Five thousand excited revellers thronged the rally field to watch the huge stack of pallets, topped with a shed and several guys, go up in flames.

The fireworks that followed were glorious, the beer tent was packed and the earlier than usual opening of the fairground (3pm) meant there were thrills for all ages.

The organisers said it had been a wonderful night and thanked all the hard-working volunteers involved.



Photo by The Jolly Pedlar



## HOPEWELL "COFFEE AND A CHAT"

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January  
join us for a cuppa, a piece of delicious cake and a catch up with friends. We meet in Hollowell Village Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm.

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

## CAFÉ CHRISTMAS

Café Christmas will be taking place in Hollowell Village Hall on Saturday 7th December 9.30am to 12 noon. Hot sausage and bacon rolls, homemade cake, coffee & tea and local crafts and produce on sale.

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTO WINNERS:

Graham Leah, Rachel Cook, Ali Cooper, Wendy Evans,  
Sean Cooksley, Hilary Worton, Crawford Craig,  
Richard Furnell, Sue Tomalin

## Christmas Services Hollowell Church All are welcome

**21** DECEMBER Walking Nativity - Creeton  
1.00pm

Starting at 12 Brixworth Road, Creeton  
and finishing at St Michael's Church.  
Particularly suitable for children and families

**24** DECEMBER Christingle Service with  
Carols 6.30 p.m.

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CALM and BRIGHT

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# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## HOLLOWELL HARVEST SUPPER 2024

Forty-six people packed the Village Hall to celebrate the end of the harvest with a scrumptious meal of charcuterie and pickle platters, cottage pie and a glorious array of homemade puds, baked by the Hollowell Hens. Silly games were played, quiz questions were puzzled over and a good time was had by all. It was lovely to meet some of Hollowell's newest residents. We are particularly grateful to Jan Craig who offered an amazing handmade quilt for auction, showing in incredible detail, every house in the village.

Thank you to everyone who came along, to the catering team and all the other helpers - particularly our washing up team who didn't stop all evening. The event raised vital funds to keep the Village Hall going in its 54th year.



## HOLLOWELL RALLY GIVE-AWAY 2024

The Hollowell Steam Rally Give Away ceremony was held at a new venue at the end of October. After a stormy, muddy night in the rally field tent the previous year, it was great to be hosted by the Tractor Barn, wedding and events venue, outside Guilsborough. The "Give Away" is always an impressive event, at which all the surplus raised during the July Rally, is handed over to local organisations and charities.

This year £24,000 was donated to 53 organisations ranging from local schools, churches and playing fields to the Samaritans, the Fire Service, Riding for the Disabled, the Air Cadets and scout groups.

My favourites were a donation to the Nene Consort recorder group for a replacement great bass and to St Denys PCC in Ravensthorpe, for a new belfry ladder. Rally Commentator, Peter Godwin, thanked Chairman Neil Byrd and the Rally Committee for all the enormous time and effort taken to organise the 35<sup>th</sup> Show. Of the 20 plus steam shows Peter commentates at during the year, he says Hollowell is truly unique in its charitable giving. Almost

2 million pounds has been raised for good causes by Hollowell Steam in the 35 years it has been running. As the speeches closed, the audience roundly cheered the many volunteers who do so much for our community.



# H&T.

## HOLLOWELL & TEETON PARISH COUNCIL

Website: <http://www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk>

GILLIAN GREAVES (Clerk)

12 Berry Lane

Wootton

NN4 6JX

Tel: 07771980598

Email: [pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk](mailto:pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk)

### Hollowell and Teeton Parish Council – Vacancy for Councillor

The Parish is comprised of two wards (Hollowell with 6 Councillors and Teeton with 2 Councillors).

There has been a long-standing vacancy for a Councillor for Teeton ward and residents of Teeton are urged to consider stepping up to fill the vacancy.

There will be an election for all 8 Councillors in May 2025 and residents of both wards are encouraged to put their names forward.

### Budget and Precept: 2025 - 26

One of the primary responsibilities for the Council is to set an Annual Budget and determine the level of Precept (Council Tax).

The Council considered draft proposals in November and will submit a demand for Precept to West Northants Council in January.

Residents were requested to make their views known to the Council, to assist in the decision making, but recognise that the cost of maintaining services and expenditure over the next 12 - 18 months is likely to require an increase in (Parish) council tax.

May I remind you that information about the Council, Minutes of meetings, Policies and Budgets can be found on the Council web site.

A. G. Crisp

Chairman

# Buckby Library & Hub

**Seasons' greetings to all and thanks from all of us for your custom and support during 2024!**

We would like to thank all who came to our **Auction of Promises** and who so generously donated promises, as well as Vinnie Collins for being a superb auctioneer. The evening was a fund-raising success, generating over £2,700 towards the library & hub. Thank you!

**Flash book sale.** Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> December for one week only - all books 20p!

**Pre-Christmas arts and crafts sale:** our Art Club will have gifts for under £10 and under £20 on display from Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> during opening hours. Come and see if there is something for family members or friends.

**Our big Christmas hampers raffle!** This is to raise funds for our community managed Library & Hub. Please come and buy your raffle tickets, which will be on sale at the library, the Peephole in Long Buckby High Street and other local venues (please check our website). Donations for the raffle are welcome – please bring them directly to the library. **The winning tickets will be drawn on 17<sup>th</sup> December at the film night** (see below).

Our **seasonal film** for December (with mulled wine and mince pies) is on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> and is **Holdovers** (highly recommended, 92% rating). "Nobody likes teacher Paul Hunham. With no family and nowhere to go over the Christmas holiday in 1970, Paul remains at school to supervise students unable to journey home. Joining Paul is a trouble making 15-year-old named Angus and head cook Mary. These three very different shipwrecked people form an

unlikely Christmas family sharing comic misadventures during two very snowy weeks in New England, USA." Come and buy your glass of mulled wine, a mince pie and have a chat from 6.15pm onwards, while listening to your favourite Christmas songs. The film starts at 7.30pm. Tickets for the film are £7 from the library or the Peephole in Long Buckby High Street.

**Books for teens and young adults:** we now have special shelves of books and publications. Please do tell the teens and young adults in your family so that they can come and have a browse. It's free to join the library and we can join anyone up in no time at all.

Buckby Library & Hub is a designated **Warm Space**. We offer complimentary afternoon tea with scones, jam and cream every Friday afternoon, 2-4pm. Do come along to relax and have a chat.

Also, do you know about our **Chatty Café**? Every two weeks on a Tuesday morning, 10.30-12.00, there will be a Chatty Café table in our refreshment area with one or more volunteers to have a natter. Look for the yellow sign. December and January dates are Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Late evening opening hours:** we are now open until 7pm on Wednesday evenings. If you are coming back from work, school or college, this is your chance to drop in and use the library. All welcome!

**Christmas closing:** 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December. We are open 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> but then closed again until 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

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



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appointment please call or email:**



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

# THORNBY NEWS

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

was well attended with all in good voice for the traditional hymns. Following the service refreshments were enjoyed prior to the popular auction of donated produce & cakes. All proceeds for our village church of St Helens.



## FARM WALK

Unable to walk due very wet conditions in April, the walk was rearranged for 20th October. The walkers were certainly 'weather warriors', Storm Ashley was forecast to hit Thornby on the same day. After a little drizzle during the morning, the rain-storm didn't arrive until after the hot refreshments. An enormous thank you to all the walkers, Thornby Farm, Peter Moyes & the Thornby House team.

The very enjoyable walk went through unseen local countryside, seeing the magnificent herds of cattle & sheep. The tractor & trailer enabled the walk to go further and see new pastures. Hot refreshments & home made deserts at Thornby House concluded a great autumnal morning. Fingers crossed for good farm walk weather 2025!



## Christmas Services

### Thornby Church

All are welcome

- 15 DECEMBER** Traditional Carol Service 3.00 p.m.
- 21 DECEMBER** Walking Nativity -Creaton 1.00pm  
Starting at 12 Brikworth Road, Creaton and finishing at St Michael's Church. Particularly suitable for children and families
- 25 DECEMBER** Communion with Carols 9.30 a.m.

Follow The Star  
CALM and BRIGHT

## Half-day meditation courses

with Kadam Bridget Heyes  
NKT-IKBU National Spiritual Director for the UK



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compassionate  
purpose



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
10.30am - 1.15pm

Karma  
The power  
to change



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
10.30am - 1.15pm

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



Dear Friends,

As the nights draw in and the crispness of autumn gives way to the chill of winter, we are once again reminded of the unique joy this season brings. There is a kind of peace in winter evenings, a quiet invitation to pause, reflect, and gather in warmth together. Whether it's the crackling of logs on the fire, the rich aroma of spices in a hot drink, or simply the comforting weight of a cosy blanket, these little pleasures remind us of the beauty found in the simple things.

Winter also draws us closer to the heart of Christmas. Although it's easy to become swept up in the bustle of preparations, there is a deeper calling within this season. Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas, is a time for reflection and anticipation, a chance to step back and consider the real gift of Christmas. For Christians, it's a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus—a light shining in the darkest of times, a reminder of hope, peace, and love for all.

In our villages, as we begin preparing our homes and church for this season of joy, I am filled with gratitude for our shared traditions. I look forward to seeing our community come together, whether at the Advent services, Christmas Services, or the much-anticipated carol singing at our village Carol Services! These gatherings remind us that we are never alone, that each of us is a part of something bigger, especially when the world can feel colder and quieter.

So, as you take time this winter to rest, gather with family, or perhaps try a new recipe for those Christmas treats, I hope you'll also take a moment to savour the season's true spirit. May we each find peace in the small joys and prepare our hearts for the blessings of Christmas.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Allison



## BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX UPDATE

Many thanks to all those who supported the Blytheswood Appeal this year, those who donated items, those who packed boxes, those who contributed to knitted blankets, with particular thanks to Janet Minney and the Monday Morning Meet team for their huge effort in co-ordinating this week.

121 shoe boxes and 43 handknitted blankets were received by Derrick on behalf of the Blytheswood appeal in November. These will be heading to Ukraine where they will bring a little Christmas joy to those who have suffered loss and displacement due to the ongoing effects of the war.



Thank you so much to all – and well done!

## A LIGHT FOR A LOVED ONE

As well as at St Denys in Cold Ashby (see page 6) Guilsborough Church invites villagers to remember a loved one from whom they are parted this Christmas, by sponsoring a simple white light on the trees by the churchyard gate. Each light will shine out through the Christmas season as a symbol of comfort to all. As well as the light outside the church there will be the opportunity to have a message written on a star to be hung on a tree inside the church.

The lights will be switched on at a short outdoor ceremony on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4.30pm to which all are welcome. To request a light please complete the form below and return to either: Guilsborough Post Office **or** Janet Minney, Hollowell Spring, Nortoft, Guilsborough, **or** Rev Caroline Burnett, The Vicarage, 15 Church Mount, Guilsborough.



Name of person(s) to be remembered

.....

Short message to be written on a star

.....

.....

Amount enclosed (suggested donation £10)

£..... cash or cheque to Guilsborough PCC



# CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group of Churches Service Planner Sunday services December 2024 and January 2025 (Christmas/Carol Services are shown elsewhere)									
	1 <sup>st</sup> December	8 <sup>th</sup> December	15 <sup>th</sup> December	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	29 <sup>th</sup> December	5 <sup>th</sup> January	12 <sup>th</sup> January	19 <sup>th</sup> January	26 <sup>th</sup> January
Cold Ashby		10.00am  Group Service Thornby			10.00am  Group Service Ravensthorpe		10.00am  Group Service Creaton		9.30am BCP Communion
Cottesbrooke	11.00am BCP Communion					11.00am BCP Communion			
Creaton	9.30am BCP Communion		9.30am CW Communion			9.30am BCP Communion		11.00am WOPCU service @ URC church	
Gulfsborough	11.00am CW Communion		Brunch @ 11 Village Hall			11.00am CW Communion		Brunch @ 11 Village Hall	9.30am BCP Communion
		6.00pm Evensong					6.00pm Evensong		Communion
Hollowell				11.00am CW Communion					11.00am CW Communion
Ravensthorpe	8.30am BCP Communion		9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Communion		9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All
Spratton	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Communion	11.00am CW Communion		11.00am Worship for All		8.30am BCP Communion	11.00am CW Communion
Thornby	9.30am BCP Communion					9.30am BCP Communion			



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to all our clients*




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## FOR SALE

Mobility Scooter: Road King Class 3. A sturdy 8mph scooter suitable for roads and pavements. £650 ono. Contact Chris Reading - readingandson@btinternet.com

## THANK YOU TO HOLLOWELL STEAM



Hollowell Steam kindly made a donation to the running costs of Village Link again this year. Pictured, Andrea King accepting the cheque from Jim Hollowell, on behalf of the Village Link, with Hollowell Steam Chairman Neil Byrd smiling in the background.

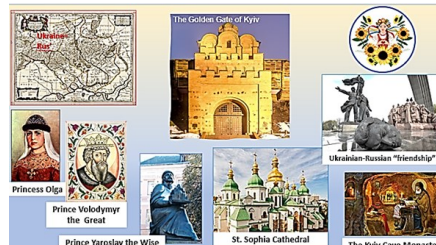
## WANTED: NEW MUSICAL DIRECTOR FOR CRETON SINGERS

Are you musically gifted? Have you ever fancied leading a singing group, finding them the right material and training them? Perhaps you already do this or are just setting out on your musical career. The Creton Singers are looking for a new Musical Director, as sadly their current one is retiring. Why not come along on and see if this is for you? We meet on Tuesday evenings in the URC in Creton High Street at 7:30pm. You will be given a big welcome.



## Ravensthorpe Village Hall

### Discovering Ukraine Through its Culture



We are very pleased to welcome back Marina Burrell to lead us through this course. She will introduce Ukraine's most popular writers, musicians and artists who through their work gave expression to Ukraine's unique identity. We will explore the historical contexts which produced the valour and resilience of her people as seen in the present conflict in the region

Every Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> March [ half term 17<sup>th</sup> February]

Time: 2-4

Fee: £60 for 10weeks 55 places available

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

Book your place with either: The village hall website [www.rvhall.online](http://www.rvhall.online) or Mo Cobbe

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

Advanced booking and payment to reserve a place is necessary. Online payment can be made using the RVH website under ACE courses. For cash or cheque payments please use the contact details for Mo Cobbe above.

**BOOKING FROM DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

Registered charity no: 278283

## TIME TO SPRING INTO ACTION!

Fancy trying something new? Look no further than Rugby's independent Percival Guildhouse, which has added a wealth of new courses to its regular adult education offering from January.

Booking is open now for anyone interested in Eat Well, Live Well – a timely post-Christmas-indulgence choice. The six-week long course starts on 9 January, with another starting in late February.

Also new are courses in Tai Chi, Chair Yoga, Shibori Resist Dyeing and Clay Head Sculpture. For those planning trips to Europe next summer, new beginners' courses in French (4pm start), Italian (morning) and Spanish (both daytime and evening classes). Lastly, a new evening class, Modern Calligraphy for Beginners. For full details of all courses, start dates and times, please phone 01788 542467 or visit [www.percival-guildhouse.co.uk](http://www.percival-guildhouse.co.uk).

## ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS

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