



## CHRISTMAS 2025 JOY

### Cold Ashby

Lights of Love switch on – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>  
December at 6.00pm  
Carol Service – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at  
5.00pm  
Christmas Day Communion service – 9.30am

### Cottesbrooke

Carol Service – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at  
2.00pm  
Christmas Day Communion service – 11.00am

### Creton

Walking Nativity – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at  
1.00pm (especially suitable for children and  
families)  
Carol Service – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at  
3.00pm  
Christmas Communion – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>  
December at 10.00pm

### Guilsborough

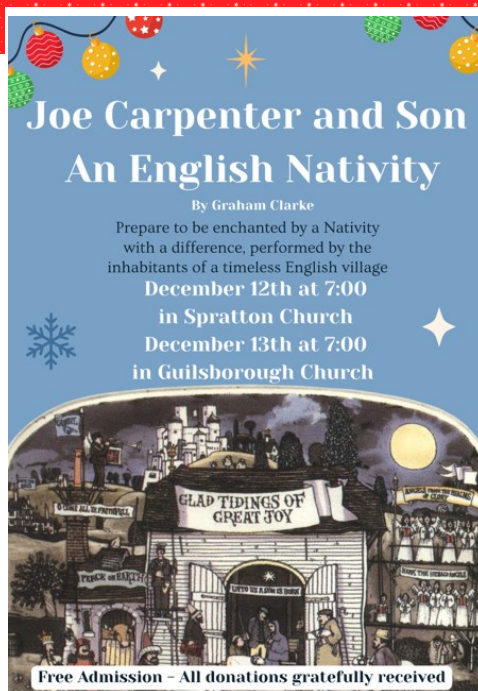
Lights of Love switch on – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>  
December at 4.30pm  
Carol Service – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at  
6.00pm  
Christmas Day Communion service – 9.30am

### Hollowell

Carol Service with Christingles – Wednesday  
24<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm

### Thornby

Carol Service - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at  
3.00pm  
Christmas Communion Service – 9.30am



THANK YOU to Hollowell Steam  
committee for their kind contribution to  
Village Link printing costs. It is much  
appreciated! Reports on page 16.

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## WHAT'S ON

### DECEMBER

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events  
6<sup>th</sup> Café Christmas Hollowell  
6<sup>th</sup> Creton Singers - Welford Xmas Trees  
7<sup>th</sup> Creton Singers - Welford Xmas Trees  
10<sup>th</sup> WI Creton  
11<sup>th</sup> Guilsborough Friends  
13<sup>th</sup> Creton Walkers  
15<sup>th</sup> MMM Christmas Party Guilsborough  
16<sup>th</sup> Carol Singing Guilsborough  
17<sup>th</sup> Carols on The Green/URC, Creton  
19<sup>th</sup> FOSM History, Creton  
19<sup>th</sup> Hopewell Café Hollowell  
19<sup>th</sup> Pop up Pub Guilsborough  
20<sup>th</sup> Creton Singers - Cottesbrooke  
21<sup>st</sup> Carol Service, St Michael's Creton

### JANUARY

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events  
8<sup>th</sup> Guilsborough Friends  
10<sup>th</sup> Creton Walkers  
14<sup>th</sup> WI Creton  
23<sup>rd</sup> Hopewell Café Hollowell  
26<sup>th</sup> FOSM History, Creton  
31<sup>st</sup> WI CPR Training, Creton

### AND REGULARLY ...

Monday mornings MMM, evenings Knitwits  
Guilsborough; Tuesday evenings, Creton  
Singers; Thursday mornings indoor bowls,  
Creton; Sunday am Tennis Guilsborough;  
Thursday evenings, Badminton  
Guilsborough and Nia Guilsborough.  
Sunday am Soul Yoga, Cottesbrooke ... and  
Long Buckby Library & Hub events on p24.

Wishing all our readers, distributors,  
advertisers and supporters a happy  
and healthy festive season - and the  
very best for 2026!

See page 3 for some light-hearted  
seasonal puzzles - something for all  
ages.



## Creton Village Shop



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Saturday: 8:00 - 18:00 | Sunday: 8:00 - 15:00

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

## COMPASS ENERGY



### Trevor Reay

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

Our vision is to build an old-style local fuel distribution. Since 2022, Trev has now been joined by his long-standing ex-colleagues, Jess McClorey, Ian Taylor & Ruth Threadgold in our Sywell office.

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**Trev on 07725 724108**

**Jess on 07525 268133**

and ask about our competitive prices and fast delivery

# 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:**  
**Monday 5th January**

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# MERRY QUIZMAS!

## The Carol Singers' Route

A group of carol singers wants to visit all 7 Village Link villages on Christmas Eve. They start and finish at the same village, and want to visit each of the other 6 villages exactly once. If they take 15 minutes to sing at each village and 10 minutes to travel between each village, what's the shortest time their entire route could take? (Assume they don't sing in their starting village).

## The Great Mince Pie Mystery



Mrs. Bennett from Thornby baked **24 mince pies**. She gave one third to her friend in Hollowell. Then her grandson in Teeton sneaked **two** for himself. Later, she shared **half** of the rest at the village carol service. How many mince pies did Mrs. Bennett have left at home?

## Christmas Word Chain

Can you find the missing Christmas words? Change one letter each time to reach the final word. We've given you the first and last to get started:

**SNOW** → ? → ? → ? → ? → ? → ? → ? → ? → ? → **GIFT**

*Hint: Think about things you might find on Christmas Day!*

## CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS

**Find four groups of four related words (like the NYT Connections format)**

Words can be connected by meaning, association, or common use at Christmas.

BUTTONS	NOBLE	YORKSHIRE	BARON
BLACK	CHRISTMAS	BLUE	FRASER
DOUGLAS	WHITE	WIDOW	LAST
MERRY	DAME	NORDMAN	RICE

Group 1:

Group 2:

Group 3:

Group 4:



# COLD ASHBY NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

### Cocktails and Karaoke Night

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our cocktail and Karaoke evening at the end of September. We all had a great and memorable evening. Big thank you to Dave and Ben



Harris for hosting. Well done to everyone who got up and sang and made the event such a success.

### Charity Skittles Night

We had a full house join us on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October for our charity skittles night. Our night was in memory of Bob Gammage and Phil Bott who were great ambassadors for Northamptonshire skittles and captained the village teams for many years. Four teams, totalling 32 players battled it out in a fun, competitive evening until one team, The Spades, were crowned champions. Thank you to Mandy Carson, Gemma Sellers and Dave Harris for their help with the evening. A total of £280 was raised for Prostate Cancer and Alzheimer's Society.



### Village Archive

Huge thanks go to Cold Ashby Parish Council for giving £500 grant towards the Cold Ashby Archive project. Work is now underway in reproducing and cataloguing many photographs and articles and will continue into next year. We plan to hold another Heritage Day in the spring where we can share our progress so far. Dates for this will be announced in the next edition.

## NEWS FROM ST DENYS CHURCH

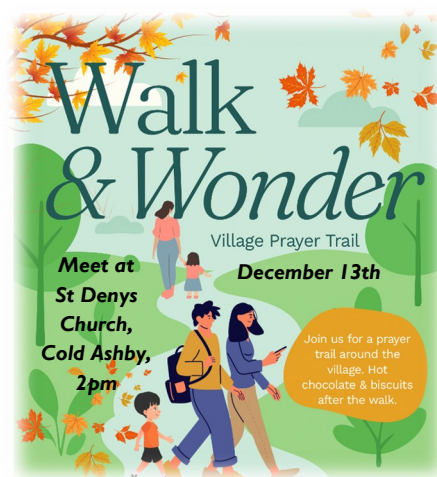
### Harvest Supper

Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Festival and Supper at the end of September. It was a lovely, well attended evening and we are very grateful to everyone that helped on the night. We raised just under £500 which, coupled with the money raised at Open Gardens has paid for the new joists and floorboards which were damaged and needed replacing. Thank you to James Ruddlesdin for carrying out the repairs.



### Lighting of Remembrance Tree

The Tree of Remembrance will once more be lit throughout December to remember those that are no longer with us. This year the grand switch on will be Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm and everyone is warmly welcome to join us where we will sing some carols before moving into the church for refreshments. To buy a bulb costs £5 and villagers will receive a form through your door which needs to be returned to Will Benney by the beginning of December.



## Sunday Cafe

**Sunday 21st December, Sunday 4th and 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Join us for breakfast between 9:30-12pm. Bacon, Sausage, Egg rolls, Toasties and Cakes available to eat in or takeaway.



# COLD ASHBY NEWS



Cold Ashby Memorial Hall  
Presents:

## **Cold Ashby Christmas Cracker**

Get into the Christmas Spirit with us on:  
**Saturday 13th December from  
7:30pm**

A festive evening hosted by  
**Dave Harris**

**Secret Santa (buy a fun present for  
around £5 and receive one in return)**  
**Christmas tabletop quiz**

**Bring a plate of food to share**

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall  
presents:



Join us on:

**Saturday 31st January at  
7:30pm**

**For our cash prize bingo  
£1 per card**

**Lasagne and garlic bread available to  
preorder at £6**

## COLD ASHBY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Everyone is welcome to join us for the following events and your support will ensure that we are able to keep these important village facilities open for entertainment, social interaction and keep the village pool and skittle teams going.

Date	Event	Place	Details
Wed 3rd Dec	Skittles CA v CSB	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Lighting Tree of Remembrance	St Denys Church	6pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Skittles CA v SFC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Walk and Wonder Prayer Trail	St Denys Church	2-3pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carol Service	St Denys Church	5pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Cracker	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Eve Social	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day Drinks	Memorial Hall	11:00-1:15pm
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Boxing Night Social	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 31st Dec	NYE Social	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v BH	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v SFC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v LBRC	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Skittles CA v KA	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm
Sun 25th Jan	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-12:00
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Bingo Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm

Pool nights some Mondays from 7.30pm at the Cold Ashby Playing Field Pavilion. Bar open. Please see village Facebook pages for more details.

## STORAGE/WORKSHOP BUILDING TO RENT IN BRIXWORTH AREA

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## Sloes - A Bumper Crop

This year has been a “mast year” meaning that we’ve had a bumper crop of fruits and nuts. Mast years typically happen every three to five years, the last being in 2020. A mast year typically occurs as a reaction to environmental triggers such as the weather. It means that certain trees overproduce in the hope that there will be an overwhelming number of fruit/nuts, enough to sustain wildlife and to also ensure that enough seeds survive to grow into trees.



Whether it’s meant more crumbles, jams, preserves or a cheeky sloe gin tipple there has been plenty of fruit to be harvested or foraged to make the most of the season’s offerings. Why not try our simple Sloe Gin recipe.

### Ingredients:

- 500g Sloe berries
- 250g Caster sugar
- 1 Litre of Gin

### Method:

- Wash your berries and check for any bugs
- Split the sloe berry skins, this can be done by pricking with a skewer, soaking in water, or freezing overnight and allowing to defrost
- Combine all of your ingredients together in a 2 litre jar or two smaller ones
- Give everything a good mix up and then shake daily for 7 days and store in a cool dark place for 2-3 months
- Line a sieve with a muslin square and set over a bowl and strain the gin through it
- Decant into clean dry bottles and then seal and label. It can be enjoyed right away but will mature and taste even better the following year

## EAGA Gospel Choir at All Saints Church



A big THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported the Gospel Choir night in October. Such a joyous and uplifting evening of music, dancing and laughter. The Choir treated us to an extraordinary selection of hymns and songs and had the whole church on their feet. Especially after a beautiful collaboration with the talented Carolynne Willey who joined the choir to sing Amazing Grace. The evening raised just under £400 which will be used towards maintenance costs for the Church and the village hall.



## J.M. BILLINGS

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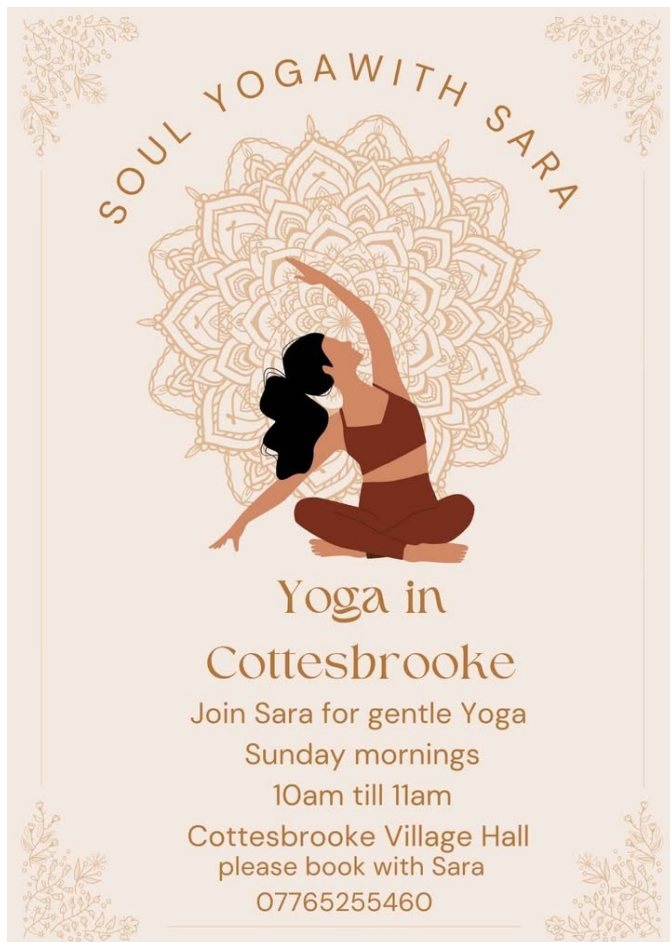
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BASED IN CREATON





# COTTESBROOKE NEWS



SOUL YOGA WITH SARA

Yoga in  
Cottesbrooke

Join Sara for gentle Yoga  
Sunday mornings  
10am till 11am  
Cottesbrooke Village Hall  
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## Cottesbrooke Past & Present



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## Walking Group



Autumn has been perfect for walking with sunshine and little rain. The colours have been magnificent and the paths dry and not too overgrown! The walkers were delighted to be joined by a visitor from London for their October walk and enjoyed explaining Ashby St Ledgers' historic link to the gunpowder plot. The walkers encountered sheep, cattle and horses and emerged unscathed to enjoy lunch at the pub.

November was a gentle walk round Pitsford reservoir with a coffee break in preparation for the all-important December walk followed by Christmas lunch at the Fox and Hounds, Harlestone. Walks are on the second Saturday of the month and start at 10am from Creton lychgate. New walkers and well-behaved dogs always welcome.



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## Creton Singers



A massive thank you to everyone who came to the Creton Singers concert on 5<sup>th</sup> October in aid of hft, helping adults with learning disabilities, the charity in aid of which Ollie Perrins May is running the Athens marathon. It was a great success and raised £722!

Preparations are now being made for Christmas so do put the dates in your diary and get into the festive spirit with your local singing group:

- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm to 3:30pm: Welford Christmas Tree Farm. Enjoy an afternoon collecting your tree, buying gifts and singing carols
- Wednesday 17 December: 7pm Carols on Creton Green and Carol Singing around Creton village followed by a Christmas concert at 7:30pm in the URC in Creton High Street. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Bucket collection for Alzheimer's Society
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2pm. Cottesbrooke Carol Service.

## St Michael & All Angels

**St Michael and All Angels' Village Carol Service and Celebration of completion of the reordering project  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 3 pm.**

You may have noticed that there has been more building work taking place in the bell tower. The bell ringers identified a problem with the new cupboards which has now been rectified by removing the cornice and raising the height of the cupboards. Some electrical work has also been undertaken to improve the lighting in the belfry.

The PCC plans to celebrate the completion of the tower screen project and the restoration of our lovely Victorian pipe organ at a social event following the village Carol Service at 3pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This will be the first event to mark the start of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded Rector of Creton in 1226.

We do hope that many villagers and friends will come and join in our celebrations and help recognize the enormous contribution which the late Simon Bown made to this project.

# CREATON NEWS

## Over The Counter

Huge congratulations to Adam Perrins-May, our Shop Manager, on graduating this summer. Whilst managing the shop, Adam completed his Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship, a relationship that clearly benefited both Adam and the shop. Adam says "I based some of my assignments on the shop and was able to apply some of what I learned to my duties".

And keeping to the academic theme, the best of luck to another of our behind-the-counter team, Archie Pygott. Archie has just started his degree in accountancy at Northampton University but is still keeping his hand in by agreeing to continue to work at the weekends.

Now, let's get down to business. Christmas business that is. I know we started early but if you didn't come to the Christmas tasting day on 22nd November you would have missed out on the lovely atmosphere and especially the many great products to taste!

From then on, it has been orders, orders, orders! If you have not placed your order for Christmas, you should know that we can supply you with turkey, goose, pheasant, pigs in blanket, pork pie. In fact, test us on what we can not supply as I reckon we can get every meat you can think of. [Hmm! You might regret that. Ed]

It's not just meat. Why not let us prepare your greengrocery order? We have a wide range of vegetables, salad, fruit, dates and

not forgetting the all-important Brussel sprouts! Don't forget the stuffing, cranberry sauce, cheese, petit fours and mints.

Then there is Champagne, prosecco, wine, beer, Baileys, gin, whiskey, cigars – we have a wide range and can help with your selection. And even some good ideas for gifts and stocking fillers. Come and browse around the shop.

So, that brings us to Breakfast! [Why? Ed] Would you like to serve your guests - or yourself - with freshly baked croissants? Just let us know the day before and we will bake them for you, as well as pain au chocolat, pain au raisins, almond croissant, maple and pecan plait, and Parisienne baguettes.

And if you cannot get all this home, do remember that we will deliver, particularly if you can't get to us.

Last, but by no means least, the team behind the shop would love to say thank you to the staff and volunteers and it was good to see so many of them at the 'thank you' party on 27th November. Big thank you too to the Jomidar for another amazing evening with great service, great staff and great food.

## Post Office Counter Assistant *Creton Village Shop*

- ◆ Are you looking for an interesting part-time job?
- ◆ Do you like working as part of a team and have excellent customer service skills?
- ◆ We are looking for an additional person to join our friendly and committed team.
- ◆ You must be numerate, learn quickly and have exceptional interpersonal skills.
- ◆ Full training given.

You will work approximately 18 hours per week on a shift pattern, and must be prepared to work on any day of the week.

For more details and salary please email Charles Matts at [Charles@CretonVillageShop.co.uk](mailto:Charles@CretonVillageShop.co.uk)

## Friends of St Michael's History Group

On Thursday 19th December John Perkins returns to ask What did happen to the Princes in the Tower?

In 2026, the Church celebrates 800 years since the appointment of its first rector. FOSM will be running a few talks that reflect the Church and Creton across the centuries, starting with Richard Hollingum looking at an architectural history of St Michael & All Angels. This will take place on Thursday 26th January.

All talks start at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated.



● SHOP  
● CAFÉ  
● EVENTS

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## Creaton WI

Free Community Training Session  
with St John Ambulance 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Are you confident in the use of a defibrillator and in giving CPR? If not, please come to our **free**, training session with St John Ambulance:

**on** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
**in** Creaton Village Hall  
**from** 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Fewer than 1 in 10 people survives an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, yet early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation can more than double the survival rate.

The WI's national campaign, "**Bystanders can be Lifesavers**", aims to take away fear and uncertainty around delivering CPR and using defibrillators, thereby giving everyone the best chance of survival.

This free session is offered to everyone in the Village Link area and beyond. Please do come, bring your friends and family, and gain the confidence to potentially be a lifesaver rather than a bystander!

The training lasts around 90 minutes and there will be tea, coffee and biscuits.

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

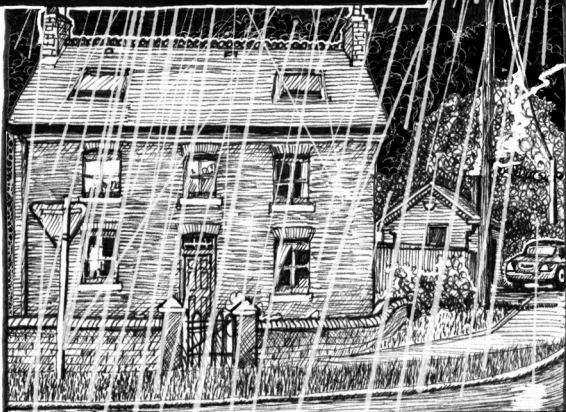
Below is our meeting programme for the next 3 months, in the URC unless otherwise stated:

- December 10<sup>th</sup> (2.30pm): Craft Session – Iris-folded Christmas cards
- January 14<sup>th</sup> (2.30pm): "Women in Blue" – a talk by Fay Tennet on women in the police force
- January 31<sup>st</sup> (10am) in Creaton Village Hall – community session with St John Ambulance, see above.

All are welcome to any of these; for more information contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546.

## Crib Nib

*The clocks go back in October,  
and we leave the Red House Barn  
and return to the High Street.*



## Creaton URC

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

### Sunday **December**

7th 11am	Morning Worship and Gift Service	Jon Heard
14th 11am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
21st 11am	Morning Worship	Allan Pope
22nd 7pm	Candlelight Service	Rev Nigel Adkinson
25th 10.30am	Christmas Morning Worship	Marion Heard
28th	No Service	

### **January**

4th 11 am	Morning Worship	Jon Heard
11th 11 am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoff Townsend
18th	Worship with St Michael's for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (time and venue to be arranged)	
25th 11 am	Morning Worship	Andrew Bosworth

Poppies coffee shop is open every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 12 noon. You will be very welcome.

## THE THERAPY CLINIC AT THREE SHIRES REFLEXOLOGY



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# CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

## Creaton Parish Council Contact Details

You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on [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: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## 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/>

## Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council has vacancies for Parish Councillors. It is a great way to meet new people and make a difference to your community. No experience is needed and training will be provided.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

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

## Litter Pick

**THANK YOU!** to everyone who attended the litter pick on Sunday 5th October. It was a great turn out and your time was much appreciated.

## Signage on Grooms Lane



Following a site meeting with West Northamptonshire Council Highways regarding Grooms Lane, new signage has now been installed:



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## FESTIVE POP UP PUB



Guiltsborough Village Hall

Friday 19th December

Open From 6.30pm, Carol Singing 7.30pm—8.30pm



Draught Beer/Draught Lager/Cider/Wine/Prosecco/Gin and Tonic/  
Soft Drinks

And

Pizza available from The Mobile Company  
"Love it Pizza Co"

Bar profits towards GPFA (Guiltsborough Playfield Field Association)

With very grateful support from The Red Lion Pub Thornby

## GPFA 2025 Review

We had a good summer of cricketing on the playing field with 6 different clubs using the field, mostly at weekends.

The West Haddon and Guiltsborough Club were the main users.

The field is always used for recreation by the village for running, walking, exercising dogs, cricket nets in the summer and kicking a football around at all times of year. Come and use it!

Thank you to those people who have supported our various fund raising events this year – The Bottle Stall at Hollowell Steam & Heavy Horse Show, The Millionaire's Evening held at the Old House (courtesy of Mr and Mrs James Berry), The Safari Supper (always popular) and the Pop up Pubs at the Village Hall. The last pop up is a Christmas Special on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, but especial thanks go to all our volunteers who make these events possible. They not only raise money for the wonderful resource which is the playing field but are also a great way for villagers to get together.

Please get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

Contact Freddie de Lisle Chair of GPFA [Freddie@delisle.co.uk](mailto:Freddie@delisle.co.uk).

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

During the summer months we arrange outside events weather permitting. Social activities include

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

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

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

Our Programme for the next 3 months:

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Party -  
Guiltsborough Village Hall**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January The Good Loaf Baker -  
speaker Suzy Van Rooyen**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February Charity Supper -  
Guiltsborough Village Hall**

For further information contact:

Janet Minney T 01604 740640

Elizabeth Southgate T 01604 740064

## Christmas Wreath Making Workshops

2-hour workshop with local artist Emily Bunn,  
including all materials, mince pie and mulled wine.

**Red Barn Farm Shop, Spratton**  
27 November, 6 - 8pm  
04 December, 6 - 8pm

**Ashley Village Hall, Ashley**  
06 December, 10am - 12pm  
13 December, 10am - 12pm

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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



## From the Headteacher

It's been a super Autumn term so far and I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the pupils, staff and parents for your continued support for our wonderful school. Our children are all very happy and settled into their new

classes. We have continued with our whole curriculum and the learning around school feels great. Thank you everyone! Since being back at school we've filled the weeks with lots of learning and also curriculum enrichment days. We've completed a Maths 'Rock Star' Day, held our European Day of Languages, as well as our Year 5 children completing their Bikeability. Our Project Friday for the first half term was all about Black History Month and commemoration of the history, achievements, and contributions of Black people in the UK and around the world. The children have been very interested and inspired by this!

Lots of year groups have also been taking part in Pacesetters tournaments. 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! 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 own school experience. Thank you, Freddie and Daisy, you did a grand job!

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.

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

Please remember, if you need any information about what's happening at Guilsborough Primary we have lots of information on our website [www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk) or you can keep up to speed by Following us on X (aka Twitter)

[@GuilsboroughPri](https://twitter.com/GuilsboroughPri) / X and Instagram account [instagram.com/guilsboroughprimaryschool/](https://www.instagram.com/guilsboroughprimaryschool/)

## Carol Singing

There will be Carol Singing as usual in Guilsborough on Tuesday December 16th. Meet at 6.15pm by the Christmas Tree, Bring a torch, children must be with an adult. Song sheets provided. All welcome!

We will be collecting for The Hope Centre Northampton.

Further information call Katie 07747 604067.



# 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 15th December**

For more information contact

Janet 01604 740640



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FLOURISHING  
TOGETHER

PROUD TO  
BE PART OF  
PDET





# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## GUILSBOROUGH SCHOOL HOUSE Charity Trustees

*Built in the early 1600s to educate village children, the Guilsborough School House building has long served the village and beyond. As you know the building lives on as a home for School House Daycare Preschool, but what you might not know is that it is owned by the Peterborough Diocese and its maintenance is overseen by a small group of local trustees.*

*We're now looking for new members to join us in caring for this space. The role involves just two meetings a year, liaising with the manager and her team and helping ensure the building remains safe and well maintained.*

*If you feel you could support Guilsborough's early years provision, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Carrie Gardner-Pett at [carriegardnerpett@gmail.com](mailto:carriegardnerpett@gmail.com) to find out more, all welcome, no experience necessary!*

## St Etheldreda's Guilsborough Harvest Festival Report



The sun shone for our Pimms and Puddings event in the afternoon of September 28<sup>th</sup>. The church was beautifully decorated for the service in the morning and enhanced by displays of paintings for sale by village artists. A wide

variety of goods, fresh and frozen, was sent to the Daventry food bank, donations were made for church funds, and the raffle raised money for the Christmas shoeboxes. Thank you to all who supported us by contributing in any way.



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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### We have a new Clerk!

We are pleased to welcome Ciara Wanstall to our Council. Carol Holifield, who was parish clerk to two councils, has decided it's time to lighten her workload and so after 11 years with us she has resigned as a stepping stone towards retirement. A presentation of a sculpture and gift voucher was made to her to mark the occasion and as something to remember us by!

Ciara came to us highly recommended and is an experienced clerk so I'm sure she will quickly settle in. If you need to contact her then the email remains the same which is [clerk@guilsborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@guilsborough-pc.gov.uk). Alternatively her phone number is 07918 329763.

### Poppies

Haven't the street poppies looked splendid! Thank you to the Guilsborough & Hollowell branch of The Royal British Legion for putting them up all around the village and helping remind us of the act of Remembrance.

### Avian Flu

A national housing order has been declared to protect poultry from avian flu by the UK Chief Veterinary Officer. This applies, in most circumstances, to all flocks of poultry and captive birds of more than 50 birds. More information can be found online at: [National Housing Order declared to protect poultry from Avian Influenza - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-housing-order-declared-to-protect-poultry-from-avian-influenza).

### On Street Parking

Public parking facilities are very limited in the centre of the village and struggle to meet the needs of all who wish to use them especially, but not only, during school start/finish times as well as when village hall events are taking place.

The parish council has no easy fix to this problem but considerate and legal parking does allow best use of the available space that we do have whilst allowing traffic to get through. We acknowledge that at the busiest times in the village it is most likely visitors to the village who place the heaviest demand on parking, but public highway is for all to use. This is subject to any restrictions which may be imposed by the Highways Authority.

## Shoe boxes 2025 - Thank you



Thank you, to everyone who contributed to the Shoe Box collection this year. We have sent 133 shoe boxes and a number of candles, in support of the Blythwood Project. They will be going to families in the Ukraine, Janet.

# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS



Image credit: John Thompson

The Hollowell Bonfire 2025 was an extraordinary structure which took 5 weeks to build. Towering 42ft high, 65 ft wide and 60ft deep, this edifice of wooden pallets and donated bits and pieces looked akin to an ancient pyramid, atop the Teeton Road, with the reservoir below. This was one of the biggest bonfires the local volunteers had ever constructed and on the night the conditions for conflagration were perfect. The weather was dry, the wind a gentle breeze and somewhere close to 8 thousand people came along to see it go up. The sky glowed orangey-red for almost an hour and the fireworks display that followed was as glorious as anticipated. Many thanks to all the volunteers and organisers for producing such a splendid event.

## Goodbye from two of Hollowell's longstanding residents

Annie and Nic Woods have lived on Church Hill in Hollowell for 28 years. Annie, a retired district nurse and Nic, a retired electrician were often to be seen walking their elderly grey hounds along the Teeton Road.

Their adult children Lorna and Liam went to Guisborough school, with Lorna becoming a guitar teacher and Liam working for a company erecting sheds.

In December 2015 the couple suffered a house fire when their immersion heater caught fire and they were extremely grateful for the support of the village at that difficult time.

Annie and Nic are leaving Hollowell and wanted to send the following message:

"It is with great sadness that we are moving out of the village. We would like to thank all of those people who helped and supported us when we had our house fire. It was truly overwhelming.

Wishing you all the very best and good health in the future."

Annie & Nic

## All fired up and giving back - Hollowell Steam Rally donates £55K to local causes

The culmination of each Hollowell Steam Rally is a "Give Away" evening in October when the money raised at this traditional country fair, is donated to local charities. It is always a moving occasion.

All the beneficiaries assembled with eager anticipation, under the roof of the Tractor Barn wedding and events venue, on the edge of Guilsborough.

The 2025 evening was led by Rally Chairman Neil Byrd and Vice Chair Jim Hollowell, who in 55 minutes presented £55,000 worth of cheques to just over 55 organisations and charities. All these organisations had either provided support and volunteers back in July, to run the Steam Rally weekend, or carried out their community work within a 20 mile radius of the Rally field.

When the final donation had been made, Rally Commentator Peter Godwin stood to thank Neil and the Rally committee for all their hard work.

Mr Godwin explained that he commentates at 20 steam shows each year, but that Hollowell "stands head and shoulders above the rest" for its amazing work for the local community. Bravo to all.



## Village Hall Lotto Winners

### September Draw:

Lee Gane, Ron Morrell, Viv Benjamin, Andrew Captainino,  
Bill Douglas, Sue Mc Cubbin, Stephanie Roberts,  
Elaine, Litchfield, Richard and Robyn Bristow,  
Tracy Doran, Eddie Litchfield

### October Draw:

Allan Ullah, Nick Mount,  
Claire Morrell, Hugh Mesquita

## Hopewell "Coffee and a Chat"

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a piece of delicious cake and a catch up with friends.

We meet in Hollowell Village Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm

For more information, or for help with transport, please call Paul on 07780 265614

or email: [wearehopewell@gmail.com](mailto:wearehopewell@gmail.com).

EVERYONE WELCOME.



# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## HOLLOWELL & TEETON PARISH COUNCIL

Gillian Greaves (Clerk) Tel: 07771980598  
12 Berry Lane  
Wootton  
NN4 6JX  
Email: [pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk](mailto:pc-clerk@hollowellandteeton.org.uk)  
Web: [www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk](http://www.hollowellandteeton.org.uk)



### Briefing on Upgrade to LED of Street - Lamps Hollowell & Teeton Parish

The Parish Council continues to review the options to upgrade the street lamps to LED as this reduces the charges for electricity and maintenance. **The Parish Council has responsibility for 32 street lamps.**

In 2023 the Council was required to undertake an inspection of all 32 Street Lamps within the parish to comply with BS 7671. This was completed by the Street Lamp Maintenance Contractor Eon, and the subsequent report identified Street Lamp No. 10, fitted on a bracket, to be 'in a very poor condition' and failed the inspection which is why it has been replaced with a steel pole and upgraded to LED 18 watt.

Eon has since advised that when they surveyed the lights, they found that some of the brackets were still in good condition and did not need to be replaced, but as part of a quotation to upgrade to LED Eon identified 8 brackets requiring replacement.

In May 2025 eight Lamps fitted to brackets were upgraded with LED lights and dusk to dawn photocells by Eon. [PLS 6, 20 & 30 CHURCH HILL HWLL, PLS 11,12,13 & 14 GUILSBOROUGH HILL HWLL, PL 24 CREATON LANE TEETON] at a cost of £3,712.80 incl. VAT.

Monies received from WNC as part of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding was used for the upgrade to LED.

### Option to Upgrade to LED:

The Council has received further CIL funding and this provides an opportunity to upgrade the remaining lamps in Teeton. PL 21 RAVENSTHORPE RD TEETON, PL 22 HOLDENBY RD TEETON, PL 23 CREATON LANE TEETON, PL 32 RAVENSTHORPE RD TEETON.

Lamp 22 would retain the PART NIGHT CELL and Lamp 23 would be fitted with a rear shield in response to comments from residents. **Total Cost: £1280.00 + vat £256.00 = £1536.00.**

A. G. Crisp, Chairman



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

# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## Pectoral Sandpiper at Hollowell

With this year's largely dry weather, water levels at Hollowell Reservoir have been favourable for wading birds, with extensive areas of exposed muddy shoreline. Late summer and early autumn – usually the peak period for waders - were however rather quiet. It was therefore pleasing in the first week of October to find a notable wader in the form of a Pectoral Sandpiper.

On the morning of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, I had completed the first half of a lap of the reservoir when I spotted a wader standing in the water, apparently asleep, just north of Guilsborough Bay Point. On first impression I thought I was looking at a Ruff, based on size, general shape and structure; I'd also seen a few of these over preceding weeks at Hollowell and Pitsford Reservoirs. I was at this point looking south in poor early-morning light, so the view wasn't good enough for a conclusive ID. I moved around to my right, across the grassy meadow and skirted around to get a view in better light.

From my new vantage point, I could now see that I was looking at a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper, a rarity in Europe. I'd only ever seen one before, also at Hollowell Reservoir in August 2009. The bird had by now started to feed along the shoreline, but seemed settled, so I put the news out on the relevant channels and headed home to start my working day. The bird ended up remaining until October 29<sup>th</sup> and seen by many local birders and some from further afield. During its stay at Hollowell it was generally faithful to the north-west shoreline but was also often

seen feeding in the mat of weedy vegetation some distance from the water's edge and made a few forays to other parts of the reservoir shoreline. At times it was highly visible but could

also be lost to view as it hunkered down among tree roots and other debris exposed by recent low water levels.

Pectoral Sandpiper is a rare or scarce bird in the British Isles and is generally viewed as an American species. Its breeding territory in fact extends from Northern Siberia eastwards through Alaska and northern Canada as far as Hudson Bay. Trans-equatorial migrants, most of the population spends the winter in South America, with small numbers making it as far as Australia and New Zealand. The North American birds which turn up in Europe are thought to be affected by wind drift as they head south, perhaps getting caught up in Atlantic weather systems and carried across to Europe and the British Isles. Although a scarce / rare bird in the UK, this occurs often enough to make this species the commonest North American vagrant to be found here. It is also thought that some of the Siberian population may also head west pass through Europe in autumn, potentially on their way to wintering grounds in Africa.

Jon Cook



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## Carol Service

Please come and join the annual Carol Service on **Sunday 21st December at 3.00** St Helens Church. After the readings & your joyful singing of the festive carols, you will be served warm homemade mince pies & refreshments

We look forward to greeting you all.



## Car Boot Sale

The first ever car boot sale in Thornby was held Sunday 28th September. After weeks of hot weather, the forecast was against us, however early drizzle went by 10.00, in time for the first buyers.



Many thanks to sellers & buyers plus village residents for supporting this first fund raising event for our parish church of St Helen. Plans are afoot for 2026, look out for future information.

## Thornby Village Hall

has 21 supporters

can we add more?



Not just for Christmas, everyday shopping too.

Shop with over 8,000 retailers via #easyfundraising and earn a free donation for us at the same time.

All the big names like eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat are ready to donate. It won't cost you anything extra!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/thornbyvillagehall>

## Thornby Village Hall

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£10 per hour

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

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

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

Contact Alex Todd - 07872839199

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Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
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10.30am - 1.15pm  
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# CHURCH NEWS



Dear Friends,

As the days grow shorter and winter settles in, the season of Advent arrives like a gentle pause in the year — a time to catch our breath, to look forward with hope, and to remember that even in the darkest days, light is never far away.

It's a season that invites us to slow down, to take stock, and to prepare our hearts for the joy and peace that Christmas brings.

In the church's year, Advent and Christmas are beautifully connected. Advent is a season of preparation, not simply counting down the days but making space for what truly matters — kindness, generosity, and love. Christmas itself begins on Christmas Day and carries on through the Twelve Days of Christmas, leading us into the brightness of Epiphany and Candlemas, when we are reminded that the light kindled at Christmas continues to shine long after the decorations have come down.

Of course, in reality, the Christmas season often starts early. There are presents to wrap, meals to plan, and gatherings to enjoy. And perhaps that is no bad thing — for at its best, all our

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

celebrations are a reflection of the deeper truth of Christmas: that love came down to dwell among us, and that love still calls us to share it.

In our villages, our churches will again be full of warmth and welcome — glowing windows, candlelight, and the sound of carols sung by heart. Whether you come to a Christingle, a Carol Service, or Midnight Communion, you will be most welcome. Each service is a moment to step aside from the rush, to rest in the quiet joy and peace that this season brings.

For me, Christmas has always been about light — light that no darkness can overcome. It is the light of hope for those who are lonely, the light of comfort for those who grieve, and the light of joy shared around a table with friends and family. It is the light of God's love, shining through the Christ Child, still reaching out to the world today.

May that light and peace fill your homes and hearts this Christmas, and may you know the love of the Christ Child — gentle, radiant, and unending — now and always.


With love and prayers,  
Reverend Allison

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

For young people aged 11+  
Join us for free food, games and  
the Bible!

**Uplands Group**

**Youth Church**



**SATURDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERM TIME**  
**@ 5-7PM**  
**ST DENYS' CHURCH, RAVENSTHORPE**

### 133 Christmas shoeboxes

were collected from Guilsborough by the Blythswood Charity, for delivery to people of all ages in countries where every day items are scarce.

Each box contains as a minimum toothpaste and a toothbrush, underwear, soap, sweets, a toy or gift, and a scarf, hat and gloves.

Thanks especially to Janet Minney who masterminds this project and to everyone who has contributed their time and resources.



Joe Carpenter & Son  
an English Nativity Play

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
at Spratton Church  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
at Guilsborough Church  
at 7.00pm

Come along and see a  
Nativity Play with a  
difference!

Suitable for children from  
around eight years old.



REMINDER



## CHURCH ROTA

Uplands Group of Churches Service Planner December and January Sundays 2025/26							
	7 <sup>th</sup> December	14 <sup>th</sup> December	21 <sup>st</sup> December	28 <sup>th</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> January	11 <sup>th</sup> January	18 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Cold Ashby</b>		10.00am Group Service <b>Guildsborough</b>		10.00am Common Worship Communion		10.00am Group Service <b>Cold Ashby</b>	9.30am Prayer Book Communion
<b>Cottesbrooke</b>	11.00am Prayer Book Communion				11.00am Prayer Book Communion		
<b>Creaton</b>	9.30am Prayer Book Communion				9.30am Prayer Book Communion	9.30am Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service Common Worship Communion	
<b>Guildsborough</b>	11.00am Common Worship Communion		Brunch @11 Village Hall		11.00am Common Worship Communion		9.30am Prayer Book Communion
<b>Hollowell</b>						11.00am Common Worship Communion	
<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	8.30am Prayer Book Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion		8.30am Prayer Book Communion		9.30am Common Worship Communion
<b>Spratton</b>	11.00am Worship for All		8.30am Prayer Book Communion		11.00am Worship for All	8.30am Prayer Book Communion	11.00am Common Worship Communion
<b>Thornby</b>	9.30am Prayer Book Communion				9.30am Prayer Book Communion		



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Christmas Menu - 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December, Lunch 12-2pm & Evenings 6-9pm

Christmas Day Drinks - 12-2pm & Boxing Day Lunches 12-3pm

Brunch / Lunch - 10.30am - 2.30pm, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December

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SAME MAN,  
NEW VAN!





St Etheldreda's Guilsborough was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Festival. Report on page 15.



Spotted at Hollowell ... the Pectoral Sandpiper. A rare visitor - find out more on page 18.



The RBL Remembrance Parade took place on 9th November and was followed by a packed Church service.



## Guilsborough Academy students would love to help tidy your village!

Representatives from the Student Parliament committee are available and very keen to come to the local communities and feeder areas of our catchment to help litter pick. We would bring a group of students and all our own equipment, just let us know where! Please contact Assistant Principal, Mr K Woolridge if you would like to arrange for us to come and litter pick. [woolridge@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk](mailto:woolridge@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk)



## Pushing the Boundaries in Impressionism and Modernism

ACE are delighted to welcome back the popular lecturer Judith Hodgkinson to present this two-part course on artists that pushed the boundaries in their careers. For details see [villagelink.org.uk](http://villagelink.org.uk) or [rvhall.online/ace-courses/](http://rvhall.online/ace-courses/).



Our **December art exhibition** will be dedicated to children's art, this time featuring that of primary school age artist, Wyatt Watts. In January, we will be holding an exhibition by Faye Spencer. All our exhibitions are in the refreshment area during opening hours. Come and have a cuppa while appreciating the work of local artists.

**James Hornsby** is performing **A Christmas Carol** at the library on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 6.30pm (doors open at 6.00). It's suitable for children aged 8 and above (as well as all adults). Under 12s should be accompanied

## Buckby Library & Hub

by an adult please. Tickets are £10/adult and £5 for under 16s. Refreshments will be available. Tickets from the library and the Peephole on the High Street.

**Steve the Magician** will be bringing his **Crimbo Limbo Magic Show** to the library on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**, 2-3.15pm.

Approximate age guide: 3-9 years. Tickets are £7/child including a drink/biscuit, balloon and choice of a book from the trolley.

There will also be a **Christmas crafts** session for children on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**, 2.30-3.30pm, with an opportunity for children (age guide: up to 8/9 years) to make their own Christmas cards.



**Monthly film nights:** we are taking a break in December and films will resume in January. Please see our website:

<https://buckbylibraryhub.org/film-nights-2/>.

**Finally**, many thanks to all who have come to events and activities, used our services or borrowed books at Buckby Library & Hub in 2025. Your support for our community managed charity is very much appreciated. Do you know we also have a **Friends** scheme? Will you become our Friend? You can find out more about it here: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/friends/>.

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## FOR SALE (CLASSIFIEDS)

Pressure Washer, brand new and unused. Selling for half the original price (£140) at £69. Please call John on 01604 505558

Blue).  
(Buttons, Baron, Dame, Widow): —Christmas songs/films (White, Last, Merry,  
CONNECTIONS: Types of Christmas Tree (Noble, Douglas, Fraser, Nordman):  
MINCE PIE MYSTERY: 7  
SOFT → LOFT → LEFT → LIFT → GIFT (10 steps, or there are shorter paths!)  
WORDCHAIN: SNOW → SLOW → BLOW → BLOT → BOOT → SOOT →  
minutes, plus 6 journeys × 10 minutes = 60 minutes. Total: 150 minutes)  
CAROL SINGERS: 2 hours and 30 minutes (6 villages × 15 minutes singing = 90

**Merry Quizmas Answers:**