Issue 137 October/November 2026

Local news from Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Teeton & Thornby
www.villagelink.org.uk

VILLAGE LINK

A Very Special Birthday and Four Golden Weddings

This issue celebrates some very special milestones across our villages. In Hollowell, Jan and Crawford Craig, Phillip and Elaine Litchfield, and Ron and Claire Morrell all mark 50 years of marriage, each with fond memories of the famously hot summer of 1976 — and weddings involving a tricky left-handed photograph, thirsty young farmers and a rather seasick honeymoon crossing. Creaton also has a Golden Wedding to celebrate for Charles and Sue Matts. Meanwhile, former Thornby resident Peggy Lade will celebrate her 100th birthday in November. We offer warm congratulations to them all; the fuller stories appear on the village pages.

HOLLOWELL



Phillip and Elaine Litchfield



Jan and Crawford Craig



Ron and Claire Morrell

CREATON



Charles and Sue Matts

THORNBY



Peggy Lade will turn 100 on 6th November, see p.19

Guilsborough Tennis Tournament Winners



Congratulations to Emma Codd & Arthur Belaiche on winning a hotly contested final against Sophie & Simon Caldwell!
It was a very enjoyable tournament, so lovely to see such a great diversity of ages, playing against the adversity of the weather…but finishing in glorious sunshine! More info and pics on p.14



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What's On

OCTOBER

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events
8th Guilsborough Friends
8th Gift Fair for RDA - Xmas Tree Farm
10th Creaton Belcanto Choir
10th Creaton Walkers
10th Guilsborough Display of poppies
10th Hollowell Harvest Supper
11th Thornby Harvest Festival
14th Creaton WI
15th Creaton FOSM History Group
16th Guilsborough Race night
18th Creaton Litter Pick
24th Guilsborough Remembrance Day ceremony and parade
30th Hollowell Hopewell cafe

NOVEMBER

See p.5 for all Cold Ashby Events
7th Hollowell Steam Bonfire Party
8th Guilsborough Remembrance day
11th Creaton WI
14th Creaton Walkers
14th Big Band Bash for Cynthia Spencer
15th Cottesbrooke Christmas Fayre
15th Thornby Hall Christmas Fayre
19th Creaton FOSM History Group
20th Guilsboroughl Quiz night
27th Hollowell Hopewell cafe
28th Creaton FOSM Cake & Coffee

AND REGULARLY ...

- Monday mornings: Guilsborough MMM
- Tuesdays: Guilsborough Pilates, Yoga & Tennis (pm), Creaton Singers;
- Thursdays: Creaton Indoor Bowls; Guilsborough Yoga, NIA & Badminton
- Fridays: Guilsborough Time to Move
- Sundays: Guilsborough Tennis; Cottesbrooke Soul Yoga

Creaton Village Shop

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

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- Verdes Sandwiches
- Sally's Freezer Meals
- Wesses Bread

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www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk
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VILLAGE LINK

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

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

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DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION: TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER.

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COUNCILLOR NEWS

News from Cllr Christine Ware



Hello everyone

I hope you have had a good Summer. It's been a busy one at West Northants Council with an extraordinary meeting in August to confirm the appointment of our new Chief Executive, Martin Henry and our new Finance Director, James Smith. Committees have carried on over the Summer and planning continues to keep me busy!

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is now in place following national consultation. This is the overarching policy framework that informs planning decisions. The consultation for the draft Local Plan has been completed and the proposal for the next stage, called Regulation 19, went to the Planning Policy Committee on 14 September. At that meeting just 3 cabinet members from the Reform UK administration at WNC voted to throw away years of work and in excess of £4m of taxpayer's money, by rejecting the Regulation 19 consultation of the Draft Local Plan with no clear reason.

WNC has been working on a new local plan since 2021, with work beginning under the then Conservative administration. The Local Plan is the document that sits with the NPPF and sets out where and how much housing, employment and other development should take place across the area and is designed to shape place and growth in a controlled manner.

On 15 September the Minister of State for Housing and Planning wrote to the Council exercising the Government's statutory powers of intervention directing the Council to proceed with the current draft Regulation 19 Local Plan. The letter instructs the Council to continue with the process for the current draft Plan by:

- Starting Regulation 19 consultation on the emerging plan by no later than 5 October 2026 for a minimum 6-week period;
- Submitting the emerging plan by no later than 31 December 2026
- Not to take any step to withdraw the Plan and report monthly to Government officials on the progress of the Plan
- Progress the Plan up to the end of the examination process.

The Government has given WNC until 29 September to set out any exceptional circumstances which suggest intervention is not appropriate.

There are more changes coming to the planning system from 31 October this year which will impact the way the council reviews planning applications. Going forward, the planning committees will only review **major** or **genuinely significant** applications. All other applications will be delegated directly to officers. At the moment 94% of decisions are made by officers.
In addition, unitary councillors lose the right of 'call-in'. This is where a councillor can request that a decision is made by committee rather than officers.

The new system creates two broad categories:

- Schedule 1 – applications that must be decided by planning officers in all cases.
- Schedule 2 – the application is considered to be a significant planning matter in relation to the development plan or material considerations, or is a significant economic, social, or environmental issue for the local area.

Committee referral will be exceptional, not routine.

The next full West Northants Council meeting is on 24 September.

As always, please do get in touch if you have issues to raise or if I can help at all - my contact details are at the back of the newsletter/ below.
With kind regards
Christine

Christine Ware
Ward Councillor for Naseby
e: christine.ware@westnorthants.gov.uk
e: christine@wnld.org.uk
Tel: 07836 368888

News from the Memorial Hall

Bingo night

Thanks to all who joined us for our ever-popular bingo night in September. We had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed a fun evening. Thanks as always to Dave Harris, our resident caller and to Carole Oliver for selling the tickets and sorting out the prizes! Our thanks also go to Gemma Sellers and Mandy Carson for cooking and serving the supper.



Cold Ashby Archive

The Cold Ashby Archive is continuing to take shape and it's lovely to see people enjoying looking at our photos when we are open for events. We are still compiling and documenting our history so if you do find anything that you think would be useful, please do get in touch. We will be continuing to build on our collection and are planning to hold another social event in the future which will be dedicated to our heritage.

St Denys Church News

Cold Ashby Open Gardens

Cold Ashby Open Gardens was another great success where just over £3000 was raised for our church of St Denys. The PCC are ever grateful for all of those who opened their gardens and everyone who helped on the day. Without the help of our community Open Gardens wouldn't be possible so we are very grateful for all of the time and support given.



Cold Ashby Memorial Hall presents:

A Charity Skittles Evening



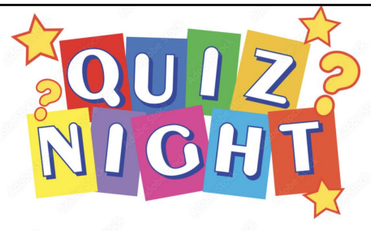
Raising money for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Join us for a fun evening on Saturday 24th October 8pm

Competing for the Bev Linnell Memorial Trophy

(It's a team game, so you will be allocated a team on arrival)
£1 to play
Raffle

Ploughman's available to pre-order @ £6



Join us for a fabulous, fun evening compèred by our very own Peter Walton

Saturday 21st November @ 8pm

Free entry, but all teams please donate a raffle prize

Maximum of 6 players per team.

(you can join a team on night if you haven't one)

Stew &Crusty Bread available to pre-order @£6

COLD ASHBY NEWS

News from the Memorial Hall

Cold Ashby events for October and November

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

Date	Event	Place	Details
Sun 18th Oct	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-11:30 am
Sat 24th Oct	Charity Skittles Night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm (see Poster)
Sun 25th Oct	Harvest Festival	St Denys Church	09:30 am
Mon 26th Oct	Harvest Supper	Memorial Hall	7:00pm (see poster)
Fri 6th Nov	Bonfire and Fireworks	Cold Ashby Playing Fields	From 6:30pm
Sat 7th Nov	Christmas Fair	Memorial Hall	11:00-2:00pm (see poster)
Sun 8th Nov	Sunday Cafe	Memorial Hall	09:30-11:30 am
Sat 21st Nov	Quiz night	Memorial Hall	From 7:30pm (see poster)

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

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall Sunday Cafe

Join us for breakfast between 9:30-11:30am.

Sunday 18th October and Sunday 8th November.

Bacon, sausage, egg rolls, toasties and cakes available to eat in or takeaway.

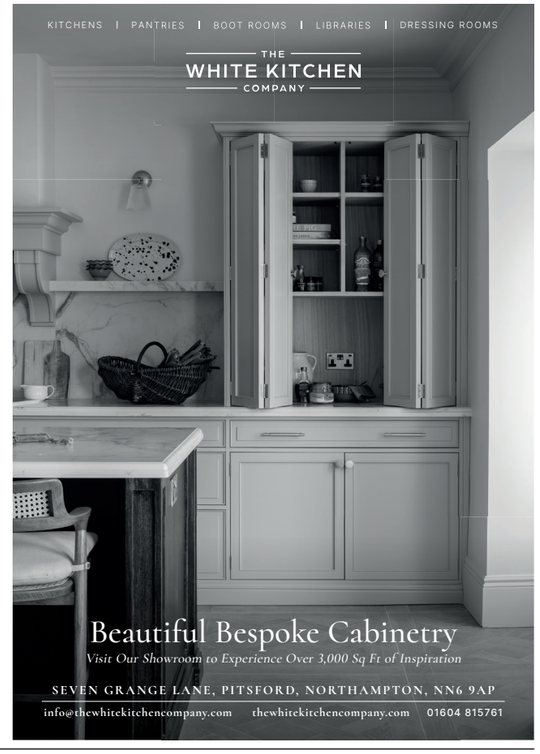
Cold Ashby Playing Field Association

FAMILY BONFIRE AND FIREWORK DISPLAY

This year our Family Bonfire Night is being held on
Friday 6th November 2026.
Gates open at 6.30 p.m.
Food and drink available from 6.30 p.m.
Bonfire to be lit around 7 p.m. followed by the firework display.
Admission charges £5—Adults, £1—Children.
Cash or Card payments.
We will be serving Joseph Morris Burgers and Hotdogs, Real Ale, Lager
Mulled wine, Hot drinks and Soup .

Come and enjoy the fun. Bring your family and friends.





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COTTESBROOKE NEWS

Cottesbrooke 8TH Annual Produce and Craft Show



The end of Summer meant it was time for the annual Produce and Craft show held at the village hall. In its eighth year we received a record number of 147 entries, raising just over £400, which goes towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Village Hall and playing fields. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to enter, those who came to support the show and lastly to our judges, Abi Shand Kydd, Derek Daw, Henry Jackson, Mark Bartlett, Rob Jones and Tim Green for giving their time and expertise for the unenviable task of choosing our winners in each category.

Another thank you to Lee from Kernow Wild Craft who very kindly donated some raffle prizes and two children's prizes for the Best Birdfeeder/ Bug hotel which was won by Frances and also for the best decorated cupcakes won by Felicia.
The trophy for Best in Show was awarded to Sue McCubbin for her beautiful Floral Arrangement which celebrated the Northampton Saints incredible success over the summer with a mix of flowers and foliage in the teams iconic colours. The Yvonne Daw Memorial Trophy for the best Dahlias was awarded to Catherine Fryer for her outstanding example of Dahlias presented.

Coffee Mornings

At the time of writing there are no further volunteers to host the monthly coffee mornings due to take place on 3rd October, 7th November or 5th December. Due to this there will be no coffee morning in October. If you are able to help with the November or December dates then please contact Sally / Holly to discuss further.

Sunday Yoga and Monthly Sound Baths

Each Sunday there is Soul Yoga with Sara at the village hall between 10am & 11am and once a month Sara also hosts a crystal healing sound bath which promotes deep relaxation using calming frequencies and soothing tones. For more information or to book in please contact Sara on 07765 255460.

Stall Holders Wanted

We are looking for local suppliers to join us for our annual Christmas Fayre at Cottesbrooke Village Hall on Sunday 15th November 2026. Please email to book a pitch:

CottesbrookeVHC@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAYRE

COTTESBROOKE VILLAGE HALL

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10 – 3

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CREATON NEWS

Creaton Walkers

What a totally wonderful summer! The Creaton Walking Group made the most of the sunshine as you can see, walking through our very dry fields. The September walk was once again linked with the churches Ride and Stride. The Group met in Foxton, as the Leicestershire villages are closer together, so more churches could be visited! We are very grateful to Patsy and Richard Hollingum for the homemade cake in Creaton church!



The group also joined the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists on their London walk from Wimbledon Park to Richmond, as part of the London Ring. The walk went over Wimbledon Common (no sign of the Wombles) through Richmond Park and along the Thames. A real change from the Midlands!

If you like walking, come and join this friendly group. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at 10am at Creaton lychgate. Well-behaved dogs welcome! Bring water and wear appropriate walking boots.
Next walks are on:
Saturday 10th October
Saturday 14th November

Creaton WI

On October 14th we have what promises to be a very interesting talk from the Wildlife Trust about their work to re-introduce the Eurasian Beaver to the Nene Wetlands, Rushden. Find out why beavers became extinct and why they are so important in the ecosystem. This talk starts at 7.30 p.m.

On November 11th we will learn about Willow Weaving with a talk and demonstration from Trudy Neale. This is an afternoon meeting starting at 2.30 p.m.

Everyone is most welcome at either of these sessions, held in the URC. Please just come along or, for more information, contact President, Daphne Clark, 01604 505546 or email wicreaton@gmail.com

Creaton Singers

By the time you are reading this the Creaton Singers will have performed their concert on Sunday 27th September in aid of the Northants branch of the MND Association. If by a miracle your Village Link has arrived early please come to the URC in Creaton High Street at 2.30pm for a wonderful afternoon's entertainment. Tickets available on the door or from Creaton Village shop for £7.50 each. There will be homemade cake and a raffle.

The Creaton Singers are now in full practice for Christmas. Please come to our annual Christmas concert on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm in the URC, preceded by Carols on the Green. There will be Refreshments and a raffle. Donations invited to Thomas's Fund, Musical Therapy Charity.

You can also hear your favourite local singing group at Welford Christmas Tree Farm from 2pm to 3.30pm on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December.

Also, the Creaton Singers are delighted to be singing at Cottesbrooke Carol Service on Saturday 19th December. Lots of dates for your diary!

COFFEE, CAKE AND COMPANY

You are invited to a Macmillan Coffee Morning

Date: Tuesday 29th September
Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm
Venue: Church House, High Street, Creaton, NN6 8NA

What's On: Coffee or Tea, Homemade Cakes, Stalls, Raffle

Can't come but would like to donate? Thank you very much.
Please go to:
https://cm26.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/cm26022719



St Michael & All Angels

The PCC are very thankful to all the people in Creaton who contributed to making Creaton in Bloom such a fun and successful event this year. We have to especially thank Jane Kimberlin and Sue Matts who work so hard for six months planning the event and then in persuading folk to bake cakes and salads, serve on the BBQ, organise parking, marquees, beer tent etc. A fantastic sum was raised which is essential for the maintenance of our beautiful church.

Next year we will have our Quinquennial survey which always causes us to worry about what will be discovered that needs to be repaired.

Creaton church chancel was closed for a few weeks in July because some chunks of very old plaster fell from high up on the chancel wall. Fortunately, we were advised by our church architect that we only needed to have the loose plaster removed and there was no need to re-plaster the area because it was high up behind a roof truss and not easily visible. The PCC is extremely grateful to the Friends of St. Michael History Group for paying for the full cost of this work.

Our next fund raising event is a concert by the wonderful **Belcanto Choir on Saturday 10 October at 4 pm in St Michael and All Angels Church.** Tickets £12 includes a glass of wine or juice, available in Creaton Shop or from Ruth Davies. (See advert). Bel Canto is an award winning female voice choir who sing a wide range of music including classical and contemporary works, gospels and musicals. Do come along and support us.



Over the Counter

In August 2018, the shop opened its doors for the first time. Eight years later we are still going, stronger than ever. What a success story this has been and thanks to the hard work of the staff the volunteers, and the support as customers. And it is the customers we must thank for a record July due mainly to the heatwave. It was not just the ice cream and cold drinks that brought our customers into the shop, but many came for the very welcome air conditioning!

The shop is run by the Creaton Community Benefit Society and on 2nd September we held our AGM. Shareholders were treated to an entertaining update on the last year in the shop (which was very good – again), followed by wine and new cheeses, chutneys, pate and biscuits, all of which are available in the shop. If you would like to join the Society and contribute to the running of the business, do ask in the shop for details.

We are very sorry to report that Sarah has been in hospital, but are pleased to say that she is recovering well and should be back in the Post Office soon.

On the volunteer front, the team of bakers have seen a change. We are sorry to see Patsy step down but are delighted to welcome Anne Heilbuth to the team. If you like getting up early do come for a taster training session any day. The smell of freshly baked bread and croissants is a real perk!
And finally we must also point out that our social media presence has improved immensely: we have over 1000 followers on Facebook! Thank you to Bernard for this. If you have not done so, do find us, follow us, and give us some feedback.





Friends of St Michael's History Group

The Saints are on the march for our next two talks! In October (15th), Graham McKechnie from the Northampton Saints Heritage Foundation will be talking about the life and death of rugby icon Edgar Mobbs.
The following month, (November 19th) Patsy and Richard Hollingum will be looking at saints of a different sort, exploring the cult of the Saints in the Middle Ages and their superpowers.
All talks start at 7:30pm in St Michael's. Annual membership is £25, guests, £5. Talks are followed by refreshments and a chance to chat to the speakers.



Creaton URC

You are warmly welcome to join us for our Sunday Worship

Sunday	October	
4th 11am	Harvest Fesitval with St Michael's	Jon Heard
11th 11am		Rev Nigel Adkinson
18th 11am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
25th 11am		Rev Geoff Townsend
	November	
1st 11am	Holy Communion	Jon Heard
8th 11:50am	Remembrance Sunday	Rev Geoff Townsend
15th 11am		Andrew Howes
22nd 11am		Rev Jay Phelps
29th 11am	No service at Creaton - service at Crick URC	

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



CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Creaton Parish Council Contact Details
You can contact our Parish Clerk for Creaton Parish Council, Katrina Jones on clerk@creaton-pc.gov.uk
Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website https://creaton-pc.gov.uk/ and are also posted on the noticeboard on Violet Lane. We also have a Facebook page.

Parish Council Meeting dates:
Meetings are held bi-monthly usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Creaton Village Hall. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 3rd November.

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/

Royal British Legion Representative
Creaton no longer has a Royal British Legion representative to carry out poppy collections and organise the poppy wreath on behalf of the village. If you would be interested in taking on this voluntary role please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Overgrown Vegetation
Please can all residents kindly check the vegetation around their boundaries and trim it back if it has become overgrown.

Dog Fouling - Please pick up after your dog!
Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the village. There is a particular problem on the village footpaths such as the footpath to Court House Close and the 'Knick Knacks' footpath between the church and the school building.

Dog fouling is not only unpleasant but it poses a serious health risk. West Northants Council officers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices ranging from £100 to £400 for environmental offences such as dog fouling.

Dog fouling can be reported on their website:
https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/street-cleansing/dog-fouling

Thank you to all the owners who do pick up.

Speed Watch
Creaton Parish Council is taking part in the Speed Watch Campaign in partnership with Spratton Parish Council who have agreed to share the purchase of a Speed Gun for both villages to use.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have agreed to take part in supporting this scheme. We will be in touch to provide further information. If anyone else would like to volunteer please contact the Parish Clerk or the co-ordinator Cllr Ian Horne.

Litter Pick - 18th October
Please join us for our next Village Litter Pick which will be held on Sunday 18th October, meeting at the Jomidar car park at 10am and finishing at 12 noon. Litter picking equipment will be provided.





GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

Parish Council News

Roads and Footpaths
We're very pleased to note that not only potholes are being repaired but also some footpaths have also received attention within the village. We are aware though that there are still areas needing attention so if you notice any, please do report it on https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk.

Vegetation
We are receiving complaints of overgrown vegetation obstructing some footpaths. This can be also be reported on the same website as above however, they will only deal with vegetation on Highways land. Residents are responsible for vegetation coming from their property so please do carry out any cutting back you need to do.

Speeding Traffic
We are still receiving reports of speeding traffic and data shows that some is in excess of twice the speed limit. This is plainly dangerous and could lead to an immediate loss of a driving licence. If you witness any obvious speeding traffic, please do let us know.

Playground
By the time you're reading this, the new climbing net will have been fenced off again. Due to the extreme temperatures we've experienced this summer, the turf (which forms part of the protection should a child fall) has failed to root properly and will have been replaced, which now needs to be given time to take root so please, do instruct your children not to enter the fenced off area. Rest assured, it will be removed as soon as possible.

Sad end of a mighty oak tree



This wonderful old oak tree, 30ft girth and 100ft canopy fell down last month in the Park, above the Fish Pond at Guilsborough.
I think it was 400-500 years old, so Oliver Cromwell could have rested under it, on the way to the battle of Naseby in 1645.
Hugh Lowther

Remembrance Day



Poppies
On **Saturday 24th October** there will be a short ceremony on the village green at 2.30 to dedicate a display of poppies created and crafted by volunteers in memory of those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

The ceremony will be followed by refreshments in the village hall. The display will be assembled in Guilsborough village hall on **Saturday 10th October** starting at 10.00am.
Pam Townsend will be designing the display with the poppies collected before 3rd October. We would welcome volunteers to help with assembling the display. please come and join us.

Parade
The Remembrance Day Service will be on **Sunday 8th November** at St Etheldreda's Church Guilsborough. The Parade will assemble in the car park at the Witch and Sow and commence marching to the church at 2.30 led by the Cadet Band. We would like to see as many people as possible join the parade.

Refreshments will be served in the church after the service.



to Guilsborough

Bernadette and David Rowell have moved to 4 The Populars, Guilsborough.

Bags & Balls!
To the kind soul who has fixed a poop bag dispenser to the entrance of the dog walking field (kindly permitted activity by the Lowthers), thank you.

Dog walkers, there are no excuses now!







Pictured left to right above: finalists Emma Codd, Arthur Belaiche, Sophie Caldwell and Simon Caldwell. And right, the winners together with co-organiser Christine Benbow.

Guilsborough Tennis Club
at Guilsborough Academy

The 22nd Guilsborough Plate Tennis Tournament took place on Sunday 13th September in (mostly) fine weather! A wonderful mix of ages took part and two teenagers were in the final. A first! Our thanks to the organisers Sarah Dalzell and Christine Benbow for sorting the draw, organising play and doing everything else behind the scenes to make it happen. A great day all round.

GMADS - October /November 2026

With a quiz and two drama productions lined up for 2027, it's shaping up to be an exciting few months for GMADS.

Our ever-popular Quiz Night returns on **20 November**, hosted by Dave — famous for his wonderfully fiendish and imaginative questions from the old Witch & Sow days. Tickets always go quickly, so message Amanda on **07508 058998** to secure your spot.

To brighten up the winter months, we're delighted to present a **Medieval Supper with entertainment** on **29 January 2027**. More details will follow soon, but if you'd like to help bring Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to life, give Pam a call on **07900 861155**. Very few lines to learn — we promise!

Our spring production will be **Murdered to Death**, a wonderfully comic whodunnit directed by Gip Ingles. Save the dates: **18-20 March 2027**.

GMADS is a friendly, welcoming group, and we're always happy to meet new members from Guilsborough and the surrounding villages — whether you'd like to tread the boards or lend a hand behind the scenes. To find out more, call our chair, Amanda Miller, on **07508 058998**.

Follow us on Facebook at **GMADSAmateurDrama** or visit **www.gmads.co.uk** for updates, photos and news.





Primary School News

I am delighted to say that we are back for the Autumn Term, energised and raring to go. It has certainly been a fantastic start to our 2026-27 academic year and it has been wonderful to see our school come back to life after a well-deserved summer break.

One of the highlights of September is always welcoming our new Reception children, along with pupils who have joined us in other year groups. I am incredibly proud of how quickly they have settled into school life and become part of our Guilsborough family. Across the school, children have returned with smiles on their faces, eager to learn, reconnect with friends and embrace the exciting opportunities ahead. It has been equally wonderful to see the enthusiasm and positivity from our staff team.

The months ahead promise to be busy and exciting. We have a range of special events planned, including a Maths Day, a Day of Languages, our Young Leaders Awards, Forest School adventures and a variety of educational trips and visits. These experiences play an important role in enriching our curriculum and creating lasting memories for our children.

At Guilsborough C of E Primary, we are passionate about providing opportunities that inspire curiosity, build confidence and encourage every child to achieve their very best. The positive atmosphere around school already suggests that this is going to be a successful and rewarding year for everyone.

If you would like to keep up to date with everything happening at Guilsborough C of E Primary, please visit our website at **www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk**. You can also follow us on X **@guilsboroughpri** and on Instagram **@guilsboroughprimaryschool** for regular news, updates and celebrations of our pupils' achievements.

I look forward to sharing more of our successes with the community as the year progresses.

K Shilliam
Headteacher, Guilsborough Primary School



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.

For more information contact
Janet 01604 740640

Where good company meets great conversation

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

Our varied programme includes:

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

£3 per meeting, unless otherwise stated, which is used to cover refreshments, costs and make charitable donations.
We look forward to welcoming new members.

Our Programme for the next 3 months:
Thursday 8th October **Ooh Matron** - talk by Steve Dimmer about the famous Carry On Films
Thursday 12th November **My Family's Heroes** - talk by Mike Milner
Thursday 3rd December **Christmas Party**
For further information contact:
Janet Minney T 01604 740640
Elizabeth Southgate T 01604 740064

Visit to Neaturn Farm Animal Sanctuary
Guilsborough Friends had a super visit to Neaturn Farm Animal Sanctuary. For once the weather was ideal. Grandparents, grandchildren, GF members and UFO members enjoyed the walk and excellent talk by Emma about the rescued animals. A real favourite was Starbucks, the piebald pony, who was found running down a main road. Starbucks was eventually cornered into one of the cafes and was consequently given the name. His mane and tail were badly matted and the sanctuary thought they would have to cut both off. Perseverance, combined with Starbucks' cooperation meant this didn't happen. £160 was donated to the charity. Pictures of the visit are available on www.villagelink.org.uk



Dates for your Diary

Harvest Supper Saturday 10th October 7pm is the ever-popular Harvest Supper at the Village Hall.
This is a fun, informal evening centred around a delicious, home-cooked meal, made with village produce.
Bring your friends and neighbours (tables usually of 6) or come alone and we'll find you a table to share. We can guarantee an enjoyable evening.
Tickets £15. To confirm your seat,
email: hollowellvillagehall@gmail.com or Tel 01604 740796.
All welcome.

Cafe Christmas- a Big Breakfast with tinsel, on Saturday 5th December – if anyone would like to reserve a table to sell Christmas gifts etc please email Emily: emilyinthegarden@gmail.com

Hopewell Coffee Mornings

Just to keep you on your toes, our Hopewell Coffee Mornings through to December are NOT always the fourth Friday of the month.
Please make a note of the Friday dates below.
We meet in Hollowell Village Hall, 10.30am to 12.30pm.
Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a piece of delicious cake and a catch up with friends?
Lifts are available for those struggling to get here. Contact Paul on 07780 265614 or email: wearehopewell@gmail.com

Dates are:
Friday 30th October
Friday 27th November
Friday 18th December

Jane Letts
(Hollowell)
Charity

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR HELP WITH YOUR FUEL BILLS?

The Miss Jane Letts Hollowell Charity was set up in 1940 with a bequest from the estate of James William Boothe Letts. The bequest established an income to purchase coal or blankets for distribution to "poor widows and other deserving poor" of the Parish of Hollowell.
In the mid 1990s, the terms of the Charity were altered so that it could also contribute towards household electricity bills.
To benefit you must be a resident of Hollowell or Teeton. Evidence that you are in receipt of a means-tested state benefit is helpful.
Please email the Jane Letts Trustees for more information at janelettscharity@gmail.com or write, care of March Barn, Church Hill, Hollowell NN6 8RR.

New Pilates Classes at Hollowell Village on Thursday Mornings

ALL WELCOME

There will be new weekly Pilates classes at Hollowell Village Hall on Thursday mornings. Exercises can be modified to suit any experience level, making the sessions ideal for total beginners and seasoned practitioners alike.

For more information or to reserve your mat space, please visit the online booking page at Bookwhen Pilates by Lola or call Lola on 07812 031780

A Trio of Golden Weddings in Hollowell bring back memories of 1976

This summer, Hollowell had the unusual and happy occasion of celebrating three Golden Weddings. All three couples vividly recalled the summer of 1976, remembering it as every bit as hot and parched as the summer of 2026.

Jan and Crawford Craig, both teachers, were married in Bath at St Thomas à Becket's Anglican Church. Their reception was held on the balcony of the Queen's Bath, at the site of the Roman Baths, in beautiful weather.

Jan chuckled as she recalled that their wedding photographer was particularly put out because both she and Crawford are left-handed. He struggled to work out the best angles for photographing them as they cut their wedding cake!

Phillip and Elaine Litchfield were married at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Moulton, with their reception held at the Guide Hall in Moulton. Elaine, a teacher, and Phillip, a farmer, both remember the extreme heat of that summer.

Elaine particularly remembers that all the young farmers were desperate for the photography session to be over so they could finally enjoy a cool glass of beer.

Ron and Claire Morrell were just out of university and about to embark on careers in accountancy and Human Resources.

They married at Claire's family church of St Denys in Southampton, something of a trek for Ron's family who travelled all the way down from Hull.

Claire couldn't understand why Ron's Mum looked a bit different to usual, until Ron explained that she'd put her bottom set of teeth in, especially for the occasion.

Claire recalled that their wedding night was particularly memorable as they'd taken an overnight ferry to France for a romantic honeymoon in Paris, only for Ron to spend the whole of that night being terribly seasick.

Congratulations to all three couples for successfully navigating the choppy waters of life and reaching this wonderful 50-year milestone.

HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

From colanders to Cadiz Hollowell Chases the Eclipse

On a glorious summer's evening, a gaggle of Hollowell residents gathered at Ravensthorpe crossroads to observe the solar eclipse of August 2026.
Armed with colanders, homemade pinhole cameras fashioned from cereal boxes and, for a lucky few, specialist solar safety glasses, they assembled to watch the Moon pass across the Sun.
There was much discussion and comparison of the best colander aperture, while the youngsters in the group rolled their eyes and wondered what the point was of staring at pinholes on a piece of cardboard when they could watch it all on TikTok later.
The whole event lasted about an hour. Although no one could claim that the sky went dark or that the birds fell silent, it was fascinating to watch the projected crescent-shaped dots becoming increasingly pronounced. Even more noticeable was the sudden drop in temperature on that otherwise parched summer evening



Two of Hollowell's more serious celestial gazers, mother and son Sarah and Benjamin Mourant, went one better than the rest of us, taking a ten-day cruise from Southampton to Cádiz. They witnessed the full eclipse just off the coast of La Coruña in northern Spain, which Sarah described as "totally amazing".
They are now planning their next eclipse-watching adventure, returning to Spain for the eclipse in August 2027.



Village Hall Lotto Winners for July and August were…

Sarah Mourant	Sheila Douglas	Cheryl Charter
Crawford Craig	Martin Leach	Mike Ratterman (again!)
Jack Hunt	Mike Ratterman	
Nigel Todd	Elaine Litchfield	
Paul Charter		



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The importance of GP registration: Why keeping your details up to date matters

In the last year, over 300,000 patients across England have been removed from GP practice lists as part of a national 'list cleansing' exercise. While these audits are intended to remove 'ghost patients' who have moved or passed away, the British Medical Associated has raised concerns that many real patients are being mistakenly removed, potentially disrupting their medical care.

Why being registered matters

Registering with a local GP practice is about more than just seeing a doctor when you are unwell; it ensures that essential local health services remain funded and available for everyone in the community. Most local health services are funded based on the number of patients registered at the practice. Even if you don't think you need medical help right now, being registered ensures that the practice is prepared and resourced to help you the moment you do.

The risk of removal

Patients are often removed from GP lists if they have not had recent contact with health services and do not respond to letters from the NHS asking them to confirm their details. This process can inadvertently target vulnerable groups or those who have recently moved. If you are removed from a list, it can cause delays in accessing treatment or receiving important screening invitations. Furthermore, it places a financial burden on local surgeries, as funding is lost for every patient removed.

What you need to do

- Stay registered: Ensure you and your family are registered with your local GP practice to protect the services in your area.
- Respond to NHS mail: If you receive a letter asking you to confirm your residency or contact details, please reply immediately. Failure to take action may lead to your GP registration being cancelled.
- Update your details: Always inform your surgery if you change your address or phone number.

Being prepared is the best way to ensure you have access to healthcare when you need it most. You can register online or in person with your local GP practice.

For residents in Brixworth, Guilsborough and surrounding villages in the Saxon Spires catchment area, you can register online at Join the Practice - Saxon Spires Practice or pop in to request paper forms at reception.

Dr Julia Railson, GP Partner, The Saxon Spires Practice, August 2026.

Trevor Lea - a very special postie



Living in the countryside we are very fortunate to always have very special posties. No less than Trevor who delivered our mail for most of the 35 years he was with the Post Office until his retirement.

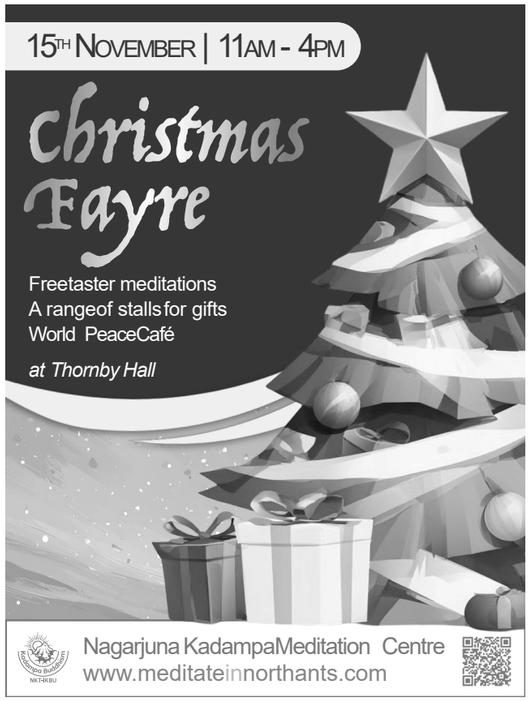
Trevor was a very generous hearted person who got to know all the families in Thornby and Cold Ashby, he knew them all by name. He always took enormous interest in the families and their children. Now grown up with their own families, those children remember he knew all their names and showed great interest in their sports, activities and school achievements.

Trevor had a great regard for tradition, national pride and patriotism. During his well earned retirement, he enjoyed visiting The Trooping of the Colour, the National Arboretum when it first opened in 2001, plus Kew Gardens, the Mary Rose in Portsmouth and the Tower of London with his family.

Trevor was born in Northampton and lived in Far Cotton all his life. His school reports stated that he was a conscientious and progressive student. He enjoyed playing football and cricket. He missed National Service by one year and started working in engineering & gained his City and Guilds in Mechanical Engineering in the early 1960's. With a love of the outside and fresh air, he joined the Post Office in 1972. After he retired in 2007 he could often be found in Thornby helping with gardens and ground maintenance.

Following his funeral at the end of July, his family, friends plus households he had delivered when our postman joined together in Thornby to celebrate his life and say farewell.

Trevor John Lea 29th March 1942 - 26th June 2026



IMPORTANT DATE & TIME CHANGE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Please note that our traditional Harvest Festival will this year be part of the 9.30 service Sunday 11th October.

All are very welcome, refreshments & auction of donated produce will take place at 10.45. We appreciate 9.30 is early, thus all are welcome to join us at 10.45



Peggy Lade is 100 years young

Former Thornby resident Peggy Lade will be celebrating her 100th birthday this November.

Peggy was born in Thornby the first child of Harry and Annie Wiggins on the 6th of November 1926. They lived at Rectory Cottage, Welford Road, Thornby where a few years later Peggy was joined by her sister Betty; the family was complete.

Her father Harry worked for Captain Wills of Thornby Hall, and her mother was the eldest of 11 children whose family worked for Sir Charles Lowther moving with him from Yorkshire around 1910.

Peggy attended Thornby School followed by Cold Ashby School until she was 14, after which she worked with other local girls at Elkington Lodge in the Elastoplast factory. She did this for 11 years travelling to work by bicycle in all weather. She then moved to Lodge Plugs, Rugby.

She met Arthur Lade at a local dance in Brixworth Village Hall, and they married in Thornby Church on the 4th of September 1954. They moved to a house in Brixworth where they lived all their married lives and it holds many happy memories for her.

Peggy and Arthur had two children, a son Tony and a daughter Valerie but sadly both passed away in their 60's. Peggy has a great knowledge of people and places from years gone by and has kept a tie with Thornby throughout her life, enjoying social occasions with family and friends.

CHURCH NEWS

Spires and Towers
Uplands Churches in the Village Link area

St Etheldreda, Guilsborough



Guilsborough Church has been in existence for over 800 years and is possibly on the site of a Saxon church before that. Over the millennia it has been developed and extended a number of times and the internal layout has changed over the years with the addition of the two side aisles in the 14th and 15th centuries and the installation of a second altar in the area known as the Lady Chapel. The addition of seating, be it the Georgian box pews of which two examples still exist today, or Victorian pews in the central area of the church or nave or more modern pews built in the 1920s in the Lady Chapel and the north aisle where the band sits on Remembrance Sunday, also demonstrates changes over time. Before this seating, people stood at services or sat on benches within the body of the church.

Today, we are looking at modernising the internal layout to make it more user-friendly, more accessible and available for uses beyond its function as a place of worship. Following the consultation with the village in 2018/19, the church council have been looking at the ideas to improve the heating, accessibility, the kitchen and toilet, lighting, flexible space for multi-purpose community use while also safeguarding its historical features.

Taking on board all those ideas and suggestions, we have prepared plans which show a raised floor, allowing underfloor heating, and therefore a level floor from the porch all through the centre of the church, the removal of some of the pews to free up space for other uses, a new servery and installation of a new toilet, relocation of the Rector's office (vestry), new lighting and upgrading of the audio-visual system and lastly a new wood and glass door leading into the porch.

Plans have recently been published and shared at two public meetings demonstrating these ideas and are currently with the appropriate authorities for final approval. Once this has been achieved, it is our programme to start work on the physical project in early next year with completion in the summer. These plans can be viewed in the church during October.

A Thousand Years on the Hill: the story of Guilsborough Parish Church

Most of us walk past it every week. Fewer of us realise that the building at the top of the village has been standing, in one form or another, for something close to a thousand years — and that the ground beneath it may have been sacred for a good deal longer.

Before the record begins

Wetton's guidebook of 1849 notes that when an embankment west of the church was removed, around 1809, a quantity of human bones came to light. Local tradition put them down to a Roman burial place. There was certainly a Roman fort there, preceded by an Iron Age and Bronze Age fort. This was long before anyone locally wrote things down.

The first firm record comes in 1086. The Domesday Book lists at 'Gisleburg' - one church with some land, held by Count Robert of Mortain, half-brother of William the Conqueror. Crucially, it also names the man it was taken from: Leofwin, a Saxon freeman. So the church was already there before the Normans arrived, which places its origins somewhere between roughly 700 and 1000 AD.

Saxon clues in the stonework

Little Saxon fabric survives anywhere in England, but three details are suggestive. There is a small window cut from a single block of stone, with a narrow un-splayed opening — the same "hole in a block" design found at Brixworth and Ravensthorpe, typical of the mid-Saxon period. The tower stands on foundation stones that look too large for its 13th-century base. And the church's original dedication was to St Wilfrid, a name that only came into use after his canonisation in the 8th century, and up to about the year 1000.

Knights, dragons and the Seven Ages

The church we see today is largely 13th and 14th century. Warmer weather, better tools and a thriving wool trade filled parish coffers, and stone churches went up across the county.

Around 1225 the church and its lands were given by William de Dive, Lord of the Manor of Nortoft, to the Knights Hospitaller — the Order of St John, still going today as the St John Ambulance. They appointed our first named vicar, Richard de Standen, and remained in charge of the church until the Order was dissolved in 1560.

Their masons left plenty behind. Look up and you will find sixty-eight carved heads in stone and wood, including a set representing the Seven Ages of Man. On the chancel arch sits a wyvern — a two-legged dragon standing for plague and pestilence — pinned down by the weight of the building, barred from the sacred space beyond.

Reformation, riot and repair

Change came hard. The rood loft with its statues went under Elizabeth I. During the Civil War the glass was removed and any wall paintings whitewashed. Soon after, the dedication quietly changed from St Wilfrid — too Roman, too troublesome for Henry VIII's and the Puritan's taste — to St Etheldreda, the Saxon abbess of Ely.

The 19th century brought the sharpest conflict. A new roof in 1815 cost £850, levied on every villager, and the parish's reply to this and other 'high church' changes was blunt: the church was defaced in 1816, stones thrown at the roof during services in 1817, windows broken by Dissenters, and in 1833 the tithe barn was set alight. Calmer decades followed, and by the 1870s the church was gaining stained glass by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, some of it in memory of Countess Adelaide Spencer.

Still going

The gallery put up in 1700 came down in the 1920s, heating arrived in 1926, the Lady Chapel in 1965, and roof and structural repairs in the 2020s. Further improvements are planned for 2027. A thousand years on, the work never quite stops — the building continues to evolve to meet the times.

David O'Neil

CHURCH ROTA

2026		4th Oct Harvest	11th Oct Harvest	18th Oct Harvest	25th Oct Harvest	1st Nov All Saints	8th Nov Remembrance	15th November 2nd before Advent	22nd November Sunday before Advent	29th November Advent Sunday
		Green	Green	Green	Green	White	Red	Red	Red	Purple
Cold Ashby					9.30am BCP Communion		Joint with Thornby 9.30		9.30am BCP Morning Worship	10.00 Group Service Cold Ashby CW Communion
Cottesbrooke				11.00am BCP Communion			10.50 Remembrance Service	11.00am BCP Communion		
Creaton		11.00 URC service				9.30am BCP Communion	10.50 Remembrance Service			
Guilsborough		11.00am CW Communion		Brunch @11 Village Hall		11.00am CW Communion	3.00 pm Remembrance Service	Brunch @ 11 Village Hall		
				6.000pm Evensong				6.00pm Evensong		
Hollowell			11.00am CW Communion				10.50 Remembrance Service			
Ravensthorpe		8.30am BCP Morning Prayer Community Led		9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All	8.30am BCP Morning Prayer Community Led	10.50 Remembrance Service	9.30am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All	
Spratton			11.00am Worship for All		11.00am CW Communion	11.00am Worship for All	10.30 Remembrance Service		11.00am CW Communion	
Thornby			9.30am BCP Communion				9.30am BCP Communion (Joint with CA)			

LONG BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB

Our art exhibition in October is **'The Painting and Pencil Pals. A Journey Through Nature, Landscape and People'**. Louise Harrison and Chris Ebbage join forces once again to bring a unique exhibition of graphite sketches and watercolour paintings, encompassing nature, landscape and people.

Every Body Tells a Story! Former top crime scene investigator, David Sweeney, will be giving a talk on Thursday 8th October at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm) for what is sure to be an unforgettable evening. Refreshments will be available. Please get your free tickets from the Library. Donations welcomed on the night.

Long Buckby Ukulele Group: This popular group will be performing again on Thursday 22nd October from 7.30-9.00pm. Doors open at 7pm. Come and enjoy our friendly café style evening. Refreshments are available before and during the evening. Get your free tickets from the Library or the Peephole in the High Street. Donations welcomed on the night.

Green Libraries Week: This national event runs from Wednesday, October 21st to Wednesday, October 28th. We will be organising a family-oriented 'green' hunt around the village. Free entry and a certificate on completion. Please look for further information on our website nearer the time.

Great Expectations, Tuesday 17th November. The one and only James Hornsby is returning to enthral us with his performance of Charles Dickens' famous story. James will bring to life a host of wonderful characters including: Magwitch, The Gargerys, Uncle Pumblechook, Estella, Herbert Pocket, Miss Havisham and of course, Pip. The doors will open at 7.00pm, with the performance starting at 7.30pm. It is also suitable for children of 10 years and above. Refreshments will be available beforehand and in the interval. When available, tickets will be £10.00 – under 16s £5 - from the Library and the Peephole in the High Street.

Film Nights: our film nights are monthly on the last Tuesday of the month. On Tuesday 27th October, we are showing **The Sheep Detectives**. And on Tuesday 24th November, we will be showing **The Devil Wears Prada 2**. All films start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Tickets are £7.50 and will be available from the Library and the Peephole in the High Street. Refreshments including ice creams are available.

Please do check our website and calendar for our many regular activities, including all our health and wellbeing support.
https://buckbylibraryhub.org
https://buckbylibraryhub.org/calendar/

Buckby Library & Hub is a community run Charity established to provide services and activities to the Northamptonshire village of Long Buckby and its surrounding villages.

OPENING TIMES	
Tuesday	1000-1300 & 1400-1630
Wednesday	1400-1630
Thursday	1000-1300 & 1400-1630
Friday	1000-1300 & 1400-1630
Saturday	1000-1230







TO LET

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2027 (April - October)

In Hollowell

Suitable for Sheep and Young Stock

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Maggie's provides free practical, emotional and psychological support for anyone affected by cancer - whether they have a diagnosis themselves or are supporting a loved one. Our centres are warm, welcoming spaces where people can access expert support at any stage of their cancer journey.
Many people are unaware that this help exists, and by sharing information here, we can help ensure that no one faces cancer alone. If you or someone you care about has been diagnosed with cancer, Maggie's can help.
Call us: 01604 218425 Email us:
northampton@maggies.org
We're open: Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.
You don't need an appointment - just come in. Maggie's Northampton is at the Diana Russell Building, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BD



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STOP PRESS!

Creaton Singers Concert
Sunday 27th September 2:30pm
URC, Creaton High Street
Tickets: £7:50 each (children free) from Creaton Village Shop
Tea / Coffee and Homemade Cake Raffle
In aid of MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Association
Come and enjoy a great afternoon
Thank you for your support

COFFEE, CAKE AND COMPANY
COFFEE MORNING
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

You are invited to a Macmillan Coffee Morning

Date: Tuesday 29th September
Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm
Venue: Church House, High Street, Creaton, NN6 8NA

What's On: Coffee or Tea, Homemade Cakes, Stalls, Raffle

Can't come but would like to donate? Thank you very much.
Please go to:
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Gorgeous GIFT FAIR

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Copy deadline for the December/January edition: ***Tuesday 27th October***