



## Uplands welcomes new Associate Priest

*It is with great delight I inform you that a new Associate Priest has been appointed to Minister alongside us in the Uplands Group of Churches. Reverend Caroline Burnett (right) will be licensed to the benefice on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Please join me in praying for her as she prepares to move to The Vicarage in Guilsborough. Reverend Allison*

### Reverend Caroline writes...

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm a Watford girl, that's the big Watford in Hertfordshire where Elton John and George Michael came from. I went to the same school as George Michael; he was three years younger than me but I do remember him very well. After school I worked in the civil service for a few years then moved into the area of social care, first in a residential setting and then an admin role. I was involved with my parish church from a teenager, moving through different responsibilities as my life changed, including running the Sunday School when my two children were born. I trained for ordination on the St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course starting in 2000, was ordained deacon in 2003 and priested in 2004 in a packed St Albans Cathedral. I served a curacy in a Watford suburb and then served as Associate Minister, also near Watford, before moving to Surrey, near Godalming where I was Priest in Charge of three churches. I currently have Permission to Officiate in Leicester Diocese and have been working to support the vicar in Earl Shilton where we live.

I live with my husband Tim who is a verger at Coventry Cathedral. My two sons Paul and Nicholas live in Cardiff and Gerrards Cross respectively, pursuing their careers; Tim's sons Joseph and Jack live in Ireland with their mother and are both at university.

I so look forward to meeting the folks of the eight villages that make up the Uplands Group of Churches and to hearing your stories and sharing your experiences of life and faith.



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*With luck we will continue to step out of isolation (see Reverend Allison's letter on page 14). However, as we go to press there is very little announced. Please keep an eye on [www.villagelink.org.uk](http://www.villagelink.org.uk) plus your village Facebook pages for updates.*

### WHAT'S ON

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- Coton Manor 'click & collect' p16
- Guilsborough member **tennis**, p9
- Annual Parish Meetings: Guilsborough Mon 12th April see p9, Creton Tue 11th May, see p6.
- PC Election Hollowell, 6th May, p10
- Cold Ashby **Golf** Centre reopens, p3
- Hollowell **Sailing** Club reopens, p12 or visit [www.hollowellsc.org.uk](http://www.hollowellsc.org.uk) and like their facebook page for news of an exciting competition.

*And as our banner reminds readers, social distancing is still required!*

## HARRY AND HOUDINI: A HEDGEHOG'S TALE



Hedgehogs have been voted Britain's favourite mammal so it's a very sad fact that hedgehogs are now critically endangered and have been classed vulnerable to extinction. Luckily for our spiny gardener's friends, the residents of Cold Ashby are championing these little, delightful creatures and have established a thriving colony in the village who are supported, well cared for and well fed. Central to the success of our hedgehog population is the fact that we have numerous hedgehog highways throughout the village which allow hedgehogs to roam and meet a mate and because of this we have been successful in supporting numerous litters for the past few years.

Being a friendly village, residents chat regularly about nature and how to help nurture it throughout the village. This has been crucial to the success of our hedgehog population and ensures that we're all doing our bit to make our gardens wildlife friendly places where all species of wildlife, not just hedgehogs can survive and thrive.

...cont'd page 3

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## 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 Angela Hubbard, The Old Sun, High Street, Guilsborough.

### 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.

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**  
**Monday 3rd May 2021**

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## HARRY AND HOUDINI ...cont'd from Page 1

In our garden, we have been lucky to have hedgehogs for quite some years and it has been a joy to watch their night-time antics whilst sitting out at dusk and recording them through a trail-cam. For the past couple of years, I have delighted in seeing 2 families born and raised in the hedgehog houses I bought and tucked away in a quiet overgrown spot in the garden.

Last year we noted that one particular litter was born very late in the season, sometime in September, which worried us as being born so late in the year it was vital that they put on enough weight to support their first hibernation. One day in early

October, we noticed a very small hedgehog out in daytime. She was tiny and we knew that it would be unlikely that she would make it through the winter, so armed with gardening gloves we picked her up, wrapped her up warm in a blanket and put her in a box where we thought she was secure (but she escaped and had to be recaptured, so we named her Houdini). Not really knowing what to do next, we phoned our vet, who said they'd take her as one of their nurses ran her own hedgehog rehab centre at her home.

After treatment for ticks and lungworm at the vets, Houdini was transferred to her rehab with Zoe, the veterinary nurse and after 7 weeks of TLC, Houdini was ready to come home after gaining a staggering 600g. Now weighing in at over 800g she stood a real great chance of making it through her first winter. Houdini came home at the end of November and was accompanied by Harry (a young male who could not be returned to his original home as it was too dangerous) and both were put in their own individual hedgehog house, filled with straw. We set the trail camera up to observe their behaviour over the next few days. Harry did not appear on camera... he must have decided that he was ready for his big winter sleep. On the other hand, Houdini remained active and eating and only finally decided it was hibernation time by the end of December.

With spring around the corner, Harry and Houdini will soon be up and about and we look forward to recording and watching their night-time activities once more and who knows we might be lucky enough to see another family of hoglets raised again in Cold Ashby.

Fiona Gunn-Stokes



If you would like to encourage hedgehogs into your gardens and help conserve these wonderful little mammals some useful information and tips can be found on The British Hedgehog Society website: <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>

## COLD ASHBY GOLF CENTRE

Cold Ashby Golf Centre looks forward to welcoming everyone when we reopen on the 29<sup>th</sup> March following the Government and England Golf's planned four phases of the safe return to golf.

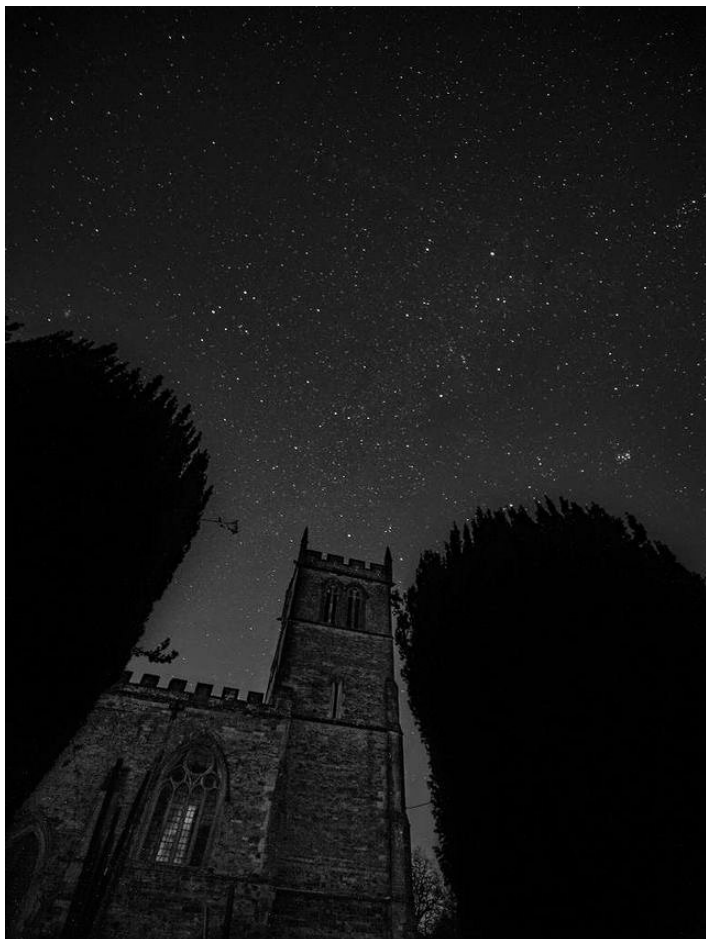
A testing 18 hole parkland course, a well stocked golf shop with two resident professionals, an 8 bay floodlit driving range with contactless ball dispenser.

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email [info@coldashbygolfcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@coldashbygolfcentre.co.uk)

# COTTESBROOKE NEWS



## THE CHURCH AND YEW

This wonderful picture of the sky at night over Cottesbrooke Church comes from Steve Nicholas. Taken in February it clearly shows what is up above our heads when the light pollution is limited.

John Betjeman included All Saints Cottesbrooke in his Best British Churches and Pevsner has a fairly lengthy description of the building and its contents.

According to the National Churches Trust, yew trees are renowned for their longevity. There is one in Sheffield that is over 2000 years old. They are found in many church yards and because of their great age, were associated with pre-Christian burial grounds. Indeed, recent research shows that Bronze Age round barrows were encircled with yews. In symbolic terms, yews do not only represent death, but also resurrection. Their evergreen foliage was highly valued, and used for religious and secular festivals, often carried on Palm Sunday and used at funerals.

A practical use of the yew was to deter 'commoners' grazing their cattle on church ground as the yew is very poisonous. Now is the time to spot the yew's flowers, though they can difficult to recognize as such. The male flowers are insignificant white-yellow globe-like structures; the female flowers are bud-like and scaly, green when young but become brown and acorn-like with age. Yews are dioecious, which means that male and female flowers grow on separate trees. See if you can spot both in the village.

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# CREATON NEWS

## WELCOME TO CREATON!

Oliver and Emily have recently moved into the village after living in Northampton. "We wanted to live in a village and chose Creaton as it had a lovely community feel to it" they said. "We also wanted a house with a project and we absolutely love the views over the fields to the front of the property."

The young couple found their new home through Creaton-based estate agents EweMove, run by Paul and Jane Chant. Jane says that their "Ewe-nique" agency offers a bespoke service and they really are open 24/7. Since launching their business in 2019, and despite the restrictions from COVID-19, EweMove have helped over 130 families move home. Arranging the sale for Oliver and Emily was particularly pleasing to Jane and Paul as this was their first sale right on their home patch. To find out more about EweMove, call 01604 267772 or look at the advert on Page 8 of this issue.



As for the lucky couple who have come to live in the village, they found the whole experience of moving in not as daunting as it could be. "It was a beautiful sunny day," they said "and the seller provided a really nice touch with a welcome lunch and home made pies from Creaton Village Shop & Post Office."

**Oliver and Emily - Welcome to Creaton!**

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# CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

## Creaton Parish Council Contact Details:

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

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the village website [www.creaton.org.uk](http://www.creaton.org.uk)



Meetings are held bi-monthly at 7.30pm on zoom. You can join by telephone if you do not have access to the internet. Joining details are in the agendas. The first 15 minutes is reserved for the public forum.

## Parish Council Meeting dates 2021:

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. The dates for 2021 are: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## Planning Applications:

Please look on the Daventry District Council website for full details of all Planning Applications:  
<https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-and-building-control/search-comment-planning/>

## Dog Fouling

We would like to remind residents to please keep your dogs on leads when walking across the playing field and please pick up after your dogs.

Residents can report incidents of dog fouling or out of control dogs directly to the dog warden via the Daventry District Council website.

## Information from Northamptonshire Police About Dog Thefts

Northamptonshire Police is sharing advice to help dog owners keep their pets safe following a number of dog thefts in the county. Reports about stolen dogs have been received from across Northamptonshire, including recent incidents where both pets and working dogs were taken from homes and gardens.

Advice to help keep your dog safe at home

- Practice good home security – keep doors locked even when you are at home
- Ensure all your microchip details are up to date
- If your dogs are kept outside in a kennel, consider bringing them inside your home

If your dogs must live outside, fit locks on kennels that are type-approved by [Secured by Design](#), or available on the [Sold Secure](#) website

- Install CCTV, consider motion cameras that send alerts to your mobile phone
- Fit PIR sensor alarms and lighting
- Consider setting up boundary alarms and door alarms

Do not advertise your dogs on social media. Check your profile settings and ensure your photos and information aren't visible to people you're not already friends with.

Advice for out and about

- When out walking with your dog, ensure that they are

either on a secure lead, or close by

- Don't leave them tied up alone outside shops or in your car unattended
- Always have a mobile phone with you
- Be aware of your surroundings and any suspicious activity, such as anyone paying particular attention to your dog or asking questions

Report all suspicious incidents to the police. Note registration numbers of vehicles, take good descriptions and take photos (if it is safe to do so).

## Bus Survey

Thank you to all those who completed a survey as part of the parish council's bus consultation. The parish council received 88 responses from Creaton residents of which 87 replied that a rural bus service is an important village amenity and 81 said that they supported the principle of continuing to financially support the No.59/60 bus service which serves Creaton.

The parish council have therefore listened to residents' views and have agreed to make a contribution towards the funding of the bus service for the next financial year. At the time of writing, a final bus timetable is still being decided but it is hoped the new timetable will include the addition of travelling to Brixworth. The timetables will be available to view at the village shop and online when finalised.

## Churchyard Risk Assessment

As part of the requirement to undertake regular risk assessments of the closed churchyard and burial ground, the parish council has instructed a contractor to carry this out and provide a report. If at the time of the risk assessment any headstones are identified as posing an immediate risk of injury then steps will be taken to make them safe, such as laying them flat. We will take steps to trace the families concerned where this happens. If you have any concerns please contact the parish clerk at [creatonpc@gmail.com](mailto:creatonpc@gmail.com)

## Fix My Street

Residents are reminded to report any problems with roads or pavements via Fix My Street:

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# CREATON NEWS

## CREATON SINGERS

Where there's a will there's a way! The Creaton Singers have managed to find a way round not being able to meet face to face and sing! The Singers have met every 2 weeks on zoom for over a year now, but only to chat, not sing, due to the transmission delay which made a cats' chorus sound more attractive! The solution is for our wonderful Musical Director Glennis to play for us and her very obliging husband Tony to sing, whilst the rest of us sing along lustily, on mute! It makes us all very happy. We are currently following the news carefully, eagerly anticipating the day when we can get back together and even more importantly put on a concert for your enjoyment. It's been a long year but the Creaton Singers have stuck fast together, united by friendship and our love of music. We will be recruiting new singers as soon as we are able to get back together, so if you enjoy singing for fun, please get in touch.

## CREATON WI

We are delighted to have mastered the intricacies of Zoom so that we can now hold "virtual" monthly meetings and see one another, despite lockdown. Each month we have a guest speaker; last month Roy Smart gave us a fascinating presentation about Wallis Simpson. In April our talk will be "The Mighty Oak" by Dr David George. You will be most welcome to join us so please contact Daphne Clark on 505546.



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## CREATON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

### Sunday Worship

In line with the current COVID 19 Government restrictions Creaton URC, together with the congregations of Long Buckby, Crick and Kilsby URC's, are holding Services on Zoom at 11am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Sunday Worship Services will continue to be held on Zoom until further notice.

The Sunday Worship Services for April and May are as follows;

#### Sunday Worship April

11am 4th (Easter Day)

11am 18th

#### Sunday Worship May

11am 2nd

11am 16th

The Zoom services held so far have been very successful, enjoyable and well attended. Everyone appears to have conquered the Zoom technology enabling all to join in the prayers, message and singing along with hymns old and new. There is even an opportunity to chat and catch up with one another on Zoom after the service.

The Elders are doing a great job by keeping in touch by telephone with everyone during these very difficult times.

**First and foremost of course, we are all looking forward to the time when our Church will be able to open its doors for Worship again.**

Hopefully it will not be too long after when we shall be able to re-open Poppies Coffee shop. In the meantime let us continue to look out for each other.

## WALKING GROUP

Undeterred by the rule of 2, the Creaton Walking Group have temporarily renamed themselves Noah's Walking Group and have been out walking the local paths!



Spring is in the air, the sheep are looking 'fatter' and the flowers are budding. At the time of writing it has even stopped raining and the fields are drying out!

There are some wonderful 3-hour circular walks from Creaton to East Haddon or Chapel Brampton or Scaldwell or Maidwell or West Haddon – the list goes on and on!

The group hope to be walking in teams of 6 for the April walk and even start including an outdoor pub lunch from May!

Once lockdown restrictions are lifted, if you enjoy walking for about 3 hours, come and join this friendly group. Well-behaved dogs are very welcome.

Meet at Creaton lychgate at 10am on the second Saturday of the month.

Next walks (hopefully!) are on:

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May



# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

## CRICKET

Haddon CC formed from Guilsborough, West Haddon and East Haddon CCs in 2020 are preparing for a huge summer of cricket across the three villages. Covid restrictions allowing, the club aims to run six adult Men's sides, a Ladies team and junior cricket for all ages from 5 – 16 across the Northamptonshire and Rugby District Leagues. With these teams the club aims to offer both serious and social cricket to suit anybody who would like to be involved, new players of all levels of experience and ability are welcome. Please contact [jim.Houghton@olivehorse.com](mailto:jim.Houghton@olivehorse.com) or on 07748920176 for more information.

As there will be increasing use of the cricket square this season, and the need to ensure that the square is safe and fit for cricket especially during dry spells, the automatic irrigation system is being repaired and improved, following a successful application to Northants Community Foundation who awarded the GPFA funds from the Winwick Wind Farm Fund, for which the GPFA are very grateful. Four "pop-up" sprays at each corner of the square can be sequentially set and started from a control panel in the tractor shed. This automatic irrigation system significantly reduces the manual (human?) effort that would otherwise be needed, as a hose would have to be regularly moved from location to location on the square.

## FOOTBALL

Since the last update there have been no more youth football games but we are hoping to get going again soon. The NDYAL are currently investigating whether to start a new league that will play April to June to make up for lost time. The NDYAL football season normally finishes during April so this will be a change but should mean playing conditions are better. If they do decide to restart football we will back to playing U12s on a Sunday morning and U18s on a Sunday afternoon. There will



GPFA

village sport & recreation

need to be careful planning to avoid clashes with cricket but we are hopeful to get the juniors doing some exercise and it could be a busy time at the playing fields.

## HISTORY OF CRICKET AT THE PLAYING FIELD

The earliest reference to cricket in Guilsborough is in 1775, when "The members of the Northampton Cricket Club have chosen eleven of its society against the towns of East and West Haddon and Guilsborough, to play for a silver cup value £5, at Gayton near Northampton; the laws of the game to be strictly observed in playing". Northamptonshire Cricket - A history by J.D. Coldham.

It is not certain when Guilsborough Cricket Club was formed (does anyone know?) but it played on different fields around the village until 1977, when Sir John Lowther realised the need for a permanent cricket home and village recreational facility, and sold land for its use on the West Haddon Road.

The Guilsborough Playing Field Association was established, a charity with trustees and a management committee.

Guilsborough CC had played Sunday friendlies and in the 1980s, with the introduction of leagues, it ran two Saturday senior sides, as well as junior cricket for ages from 8 to 18. Houses in Guilsborough, like many villages, have become unaffordable to many of an age who play senior cricket, and hence a few years ago West Haddon & Guilsborough Cricket Club was formed to pool resources and players, with games at both grounds. More recently this club has combined with East Haddon to form Haddon CC, with Guilsborough on the logo, again with games at three grounds as there are six teams. There is also a very active and successful junior section run by Jim Houghton from Guilsborough, plus a ladies Wednesday team who play at Guilsborough.

## COVID QUILT



Thank you to everyone who made a square for our quilt/wall hanging. Now we have the job of putting them together and quilting the whole project! The photograph is not quite the finished article, there are still a few squares to be completed. Hopefully the finished quilt will be in the next issue of Village Link. Sue Needham

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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Guilsborough Covid Volunteers Group on this award, a well deserved recognition of all their great efforts throughout the pandemic.



## Guilsborough Tennis Club

at Guilsborough Academy



Following the Government announcement in February, outdoor tennis will be allowed as from **Monday 29th March**.

Our first Club Evening of 2021 will be on:

**Tuesday 30th March at 6pm**—Spring is here!

Our first Club Morning, with coaching sessions from Bobby Brooke, the LTA coach from 10am—12noon is on:

**Sunday 4th April**

We play on Guilsborough Academy courts in daylight, out of school hours. We will be able to use the courts throughout the Easter school holidays.

Our Summer Membership starts on 1st April, and new members are very welcome, we are informal and friendly. We have Individual, Student and Family membership.

We will have a coaching programme during this summer for Juniors, Students and Adults; building on the very successful sessions we had in 2020 with our coach Bobby Brooke.

If you're interested in joining, please contact Sarah on:

07917 608238 or email at:

SarahDalzell57@gmail.com



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm on Monday 12th April 2021. Every parishioner is invited to attend but due to the current Covid restrictions, this will be held via Zoom. Details of how to join us online will be on the agenda which will be posted on the notice board or from our clerk by emailing [Guilsborough.pc@gmail.com](mailto:Guilsborough.pc@gmail.com)

### LOCAL ELECTIONS

Guilsborough is one of the very few Local Councils that are not due to hold elections this year. Our next planned election will be in 2025.

### COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillor Ashworth has resigned from the council for personal reasons. We thank him for his contributions over the time he's been with us and wish him well in the future. By the time you read this, there will be information on the notice board regarding the process we have to follow to fill this vacancy.

### COMMUNITY OIL BUYING GROUP UPDATE

So far GOBS has ordered 57800 litres of oil with Compass Energy, with 45 different customers ordering oil. The total raised in the three months from 1st Dec 2020 to 28th Feb 2021 is £289.00 for the village. If you would like to try the service and raise money for Guilsborough please see the advert on page 2.

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- Arrange your own buckets and flower subscriptions
- Farm gate events – opening dates are on our website



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# GUILSBOROUGH NEWS



## PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were delighted to welcome all of our Guilsborough family back into school on Monday 8th March; we've certainly missed the lively hustle and bustle of having classrooms full of pupils.

During the January lockdown we were very grateful to receive some funding from the Wilson Foundation to support our bike shelter project. I'm pleased to say, that over the half term break we were able to get our bike shelter installed on our front playground, ready to be used by pupils who want to ride their bikes and scooters to school. Thank you to everyone who supported this project and for our School Council for proposing the idea at the start of term.

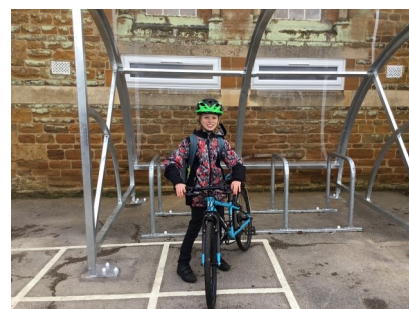
On Thursday 25th February our Magnificent Mind Champions (MMC) were invited to attend the Northamptonshire Business Excellence Awards 2020 (NBEA) for a nomination in the 'Community Project of the Year' category! Although we didn't win, we were very proud to be in a category with such inspirational competition. Pacesetter Sport and Wellbeing, together with our school, created the opportunity for a group of our KS2 children to become Magnificent Mind Champions. This is a Wellbeing and Mental Health Course tailored for the children and then ultimately managed by the children themselves.

The course covered topics such as team building, looking after your wellbeing and signs to look out for if someone is feeling low. The MMC children themselves have had a positive impact on the rest of their peers. The MMC 'Wellbeing Committee' have had several meetings so far. They've also led assemblies

and created their own ideas to further enhance the wellbeing of the school. It has given those directly involved the confidence and belief in themselves for the good of the Community. We are very proud of how we develop our young leaders at Guilsborough!

On Thursday 4th March we celebrated World Book Day! Even though we were still in lockdown, we made it a day to remember. Our wonderful PTA helped us to fund virtual drama workshops for all pupils throughout the day and everyone was invited to dress up as a character or dress a teddy as a character.....the costumes, as always, were super. It was definitely a day to remember for all.

Please remember to follow us on our website [www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.guilsboroughprimary.co.uk), or through our Twitter profile - @guilsborough



**PRE-SCHOOL** The Pre School is still under refurbishment. Awaiting a date for Ofsted inspection. Tours will be allowed from April so please email if interested. Thanks so much, Charlotte: [shdcguilsborough@gmail.com](mailto:shdcguilsborough@gmail.com)

## GUILSBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL—RESTRICTIONS ARE EASING!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back to our lovely Hall.

In order to help you plan for re-starting your class or booking a new event see below a summary of the likely dates for the 4 stages of the relaxing of restrictions.

Contact Sue Needham 07342 382706 or [info@guilsboroughvh.uk](mailto:info@guilsboroughvh.uk)

### Step 1 from 8 March

Primary school can use the hall for after-school sports max of 6 people for wakes and funerals.

### Step 2 from 29 March – but with social distancing i.e. no mixing of different households

Max of 15 people for wakes and weddings.

All indoor children's activities can open including dance classes, brownies and music parent and child groups can open indoors with up to 15 adults plus under-fives.

### Step 3 from 17 May

Controlled indoor events can take place with up to 50% capacity. Rule of 6 applies.

Hospitality settings will be able to open in accordance with the "rule of 6", so community cafes, coffee mornings and social clubs can take place.

Film shows, plays, concerts can take place, subject to social distancing.

Indoor sports activities, including exercise classes, table tennis, badminton can take place.

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions, funerals, and wakes. Christenings and bar mitzvahs will be allowed.



## BIRDING NOTES - LITTLE OWL



For this edition I thought I'd talk about the Little Owl, *Athene noctua*. Now is a good time to look for these characterful mini predators, as they are establishing breeding territories - and are also often more visible because trees and hedgerows are not yet in leaf. The Little Owl is the smallest resident owl in the UK and, like most owls, mainly nocturnal in their habits. They are also however often active and visible in the daytime, spending much of the day perched, using prominent locations such as fence posts, hedgerows, or trees in open country, often habitually using certain favourite perches. They feed on small mammals and birds and also extensively on beetles, earthworms and other invertebrates.

Heading out of Hollowell on a walk a couple of days ago, I was delighted to see a Little Owl back in a regular haunt from last year, in exactly the same spot, on top of a gnarled old hawthorn hedge running along the edge of a sheep pasture. Having not seen them there since last summer I had feared that they may have moved on. They may have instead become less visible as the hedgerow came into leaf and the birds then perhaps dispersed elsewhere through the winter. Little Owls were not recorded as being resident in the British Isles until they were introduced in the 1880's at several locations, most successfully at the Oundle estate of the naturalist, Lord Lilford. From there they spread across most parts of England, where they remain widespread to this day. On account of the connection with the county, an image of the Little Owl has, since its first publication in 1969, been used as a logo for the Northants Birds Annual Report. According to the newly-published European Breeding Bird Atlas 2, the Little Owl is now declining in many parts of the UK and across several parts of Europe; this is believed to be due to habitat loss, reduction in number of suitable nest sites and reduction in insect biomass. That said, we still have reasonable numbers in our part of the county and you are quite likely to see them in pastures and other farmland, or at the edge of villages. On the walk mentioned above I bumped into some former residents of Hollowell who said that they'd had Little Owls visiting their garden in Guilsborough at the

end of last summer.

So keep your eyes peeled as you go about your daily exercise and other activities: you might just find a favoured Little Owl site of your own.

As always, I'd be interested to hear of any sightings you have of this or any other birds; feel free to contact me at

[joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com](mailto:joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com).

Jon Cook, Hollowell, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

## CHRISTMAS STAMPS –UPDATE

In the December /January edition of Village Link we reported on the feature of the stained glass window from Hollowell Church on the £1.45 Christmas stamp. A letter from the Royal Mail to our Editor gives more information on the basis of the selection of the window.

"Here's a little more detail on the stamp selection. Every year Royal Mail issues Christmas stamps, and for 2020 decided to explore the art of stained glass windows. This is a topic we had not explored for about 10 years so was timely to return to. We work at least two years ahead on our stamp issues, to allow for subject selection, determining what each stamp should be, and the time to permit design and approvals, including final approval from Her Majesty the Queen. All new stamps are approved by Her Majesty before printing.

Our criteria for the stamps to make up the 2020 Christmas set was that each was to depict Mary and Jesus within the context of the nativity story, the image had to crop into the very small format of the stamp and still be legible, have different colours to create variety, and be recognised as a fine example of stained glass art.

We looked at many thousands of images of glass from British churches. We came across the windows of the church of St James and were struck by the colours and the design. We liked the brightly coloured pieces, especially of ruby glass, and turquoise, blue, pink and purple tones demonstrates the wide variety and high-quality of the glass made at the glassworks of J Powell and sons in the 1860s". So now we know!

## HOLLOWELL PILATES CLASSES 8AM TUESDAYS

Pilates classes in the village hall moved smoothly onto Zoom at the start of the first lockdown and have remained there ever since. They are currently at 8am on Tuesday mornings, led by Pilates instructor Lola Adekanmbi. It is a really enjoyable way to start the day and there's even time for a quick Zoom catch-up after each session. Online classes cost £5.00, payable by the half term block. For more information email:

[pilatesbylola@gmail.com](mailto:pilatesbylola@gmail.com) ALL WELCOME.

# HOLLOWELL & TEETON NEWS

## HOLLOWELL AND TEETON PC

The elections on 6 May 2021 may include an option for selection of eight Parish Councilors for Hollowell & Teeton. As a Warded' Parish, two Councilors have to represent Teeton. If there are eight or less candidates there will not be an election and any vacancies after the 6 May could be filled by the Council Co-opting' a resident onto the Council. That will not affect the other elections taking place on 6 May 2021 – Unitary Authority and Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner.

Anyone who is clinically vulnerable or does not feel able to visit a polling station on Election Day should register to vote by post or proxy as soon as possible. People are urged to apply for postal votes ahead of the deadline of 5pm on 20 April and those wishing to vote by proxy can also do this before the deadline of 5pm on 27 April.

Anyone who is not yet registered to vote must do so by Monday, 19 April in order to take part in this Spring's elections.

## HOLLOWELL POCKET PARK

As soon as the ground in the park is sufficiently dry, work will begin to remove one damaged bench and to install two more picnic tables. Some maintenance work will also be carried out on some of the play equipment. It may be necessary to close all or part of the park whilst the work is carried out.

## HOLLOWELL VILLAGE HALL LOTTO

The first winners have been drawn for the newly revamped Village Hall Lotto. The lucky winning names for Jan and Feb each receive a crisp £10.

There are still a few numbers up for grabs so if you want to purchase one or two, please contact Becky Gane [beckygane@gmail.com](mailto:beckygane@gmail.com)

Numbers are £10 each. Participation is not confined to residents of Hollowell & Teeton.

All funds raised will go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

The first winners were:

Chris Webb, Michael McDonald, Ali Cooper  
Norah Daykin, Cameron Brown  
Jan Winterburn, Roger Partington  
Amanda Thomas.

Regarding reopening the Village Hall, government guidelines currently indicate that community centres may be able to reopen from mid April. We look forward to reopening our Village Hall at some stage soon once we know what the Covid requirements for opening will be.

## WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Michelle Wilkins and Nick Foots, with children Jackson, Harley and Asher at The Lodge at Highfield Park, and Martha May Corby and Robert Sutton at No 2 Creaton Road.

## 2021 STEAM RALLY CANCELLED

It is with the heaviest of hearts that the Committee have to announce that Hollowell Steam & Heavy Horse Show 2021 has been cancelled. With the current lockdown in place, and the uncertainty of the duration of said lockdown alongside the uncertainty of rules after the lockdown is lifted we feel we have no other choice if we want to keep the event alive for future years. So the new date for your diary is the weekend of 2nd & 3rd July 2022 !!!!



## Fancy trying sailing, windsurfing or SUP?



Hollowell Sailing Club is offering COVID compliant taster sessions May-July. Email [info@hollowellsc.org.uk](mailto:info@hollowellsc.org.uk)

for details. Visit [www.hollowellsc.org.uk](http://www.hollowellsc.org.uk)

## COTTESBROOKE HALL & GARDENS



WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE  
OUR OPENING DATES FOR 2021

**Gardens only open from Bank Holiday Monday 3 May**  
**Hall & Gardens open from Thursday 1 July**

**NGS Open Day Sunday 25 April**

Entry for NGS with prebooked tickets **ONLY** available via NGS website  
[www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

The Old Laundry Tearoom will remain closed until further notice

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**Please visit our website for more information & updates**

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**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON**



# THORNBY

## THORNBY FARM WALK

Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to proceed in the usual month of May.

We are hoping that we may be able to arrange this much enjoyed walk in early July.

Details nearer the time.

*Below: Picture from the 2019 Thornby Farm Walk.*



The Farm walk is in aid of St Mary's Church, seen here in its Spring splendour.



## HEDGE LAYING CRAFTSMANSHIP

This magnificent example of hedge laying skills (left and below) is to be seen on the road from Thornby to Naseby.





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

## CHURCH NEWS

A long time ago I journeyed alongside a friend who had broken her arm quite badly following a fall. She needed surgery and to have things pinned back together and then to spend six long weeks in a cast. The day that she was due to have the cast removed was a day full of real excitement. She believed that this was her day of freedom – the day when she would finally get back to normal.

*Except that it wasn't.* As we returned from the hospital on that first day of "freedom" she went into the kitchen saying that she was going to make me a cup of tea to say thank you for all that we had done for her while she had been incapacitated. Things didn't quite go to plan though, the grip in her hand was so weak that she couldn't even separate two teabags. She stared at her hands in disbelief. It was a long process of rehabilitation and it was painful but with care and careful exercises she eventually returned to full health.

As we begin to think about coming out of lockdown, we may envisage ourselves returning to doing things exactly as we did them before- but the reality will probably be different.

We will probably find that we are in fact nervous about doing things we used to do unthinkingly. We may be made more nervous than we used to be in crowds, or if we hear someone coughing right next to us. We may find things that we haven't done for a while, like trying on clothes in shops or singing in

church feel really, really odd, and not at all comfortable.

Or it may be that we feel ready to go straight back to doing everything, but that our friends and family members do not.

I have already heard quite a few people expressing real anxiety about whether a return to "normality" will be safe. We have all become a little institutionalised, and we will all need time to heal and regain our strength- our emotional and psychological and spiritual strength. So, if you find that the idea of "unlocking" actually makes you feel apprehensive, be gentle with yourselves- don't rush it- and try not to rush anyone else. Take time to listen to your own feelings and to one another. Many people are coming out of this lockdown bereaved, impoverished and depressed. It's not all going to be magically "over" in June.

The letter to the Colossians says  
*"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."*

It may take a while, but we will get there. One cup of tea at a time.

Reverend Allison

(With thanks to Kalantha Brewis... who broke her arm)



**Uplands Group of Parishes office (answerphone): 01604 743444**

**Email: [uplandsgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:uplandsgroup@btinternet.com)**

### Easter Services 'Live' but you must book your place (see below):

#### Easter Day – 4<sup>th</sup> April

Cold Ashby 9.30 Contact Debbie 740773

Creton 9.30 - Contact Bob 505966

Guilsborough 9.30 - Contact Paul 743792

Thornby 9.30 - Contact Paul 743280

Cottesbrooke 11.00- Allison 846099

Ravensthorpe 11.00 - Alice 07803 595106

Spratton 11.00 - Contact Bill 847457

Hollowell 6.00pm Contact Gill 740418

### CHURCH PLANNER

At the time of the Village Link being prepared for publication, it was not possible to confirm the pattern of services in the Uplands Group of Churches for April and May.

Please check with our Website or contact the Rector or Churchwardens. Notices will also be displayed in church.

<http://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk>

Reverend Allison Twigg

[revallisontwigg@gmail.com](mailto:revallisontwigg@gmail.com) 01604 846099

### ST ETHELDREDA PLANT A DAFFODIL

In September/October this year we hope to plant lots of daffodil bulbs in both the churchyard and the cemetery. The aim is to offer people the opportunity to remember any loved ones buried in Guilsborough or elsewhere, or maybe those unknown to us who have lost their lives in the pandemic. You may wish to sponsor - as a group - some bulbs on behalf of a village organisation you belong to. Any money raised will be used for the ongoing daily ministry of St Etheldreda's in what has been a very difficult year financially. Further details will follow in both the Uplands weekly newsletter and in the next edition of Village Link. In the meantime if you have any questions, suggestions or would like to help with preparation and planting please contact Hilary Worton.

[hilary.s.worton@gmail.com](mailto:hilary.s.worton@gmail.com)



*A warm welcome to our new Associate  
Priest, Reverend Caroline Burnett, turn to  
the front page to find out more about her.*





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From 1st April 2021, Guilsborough's Amanda Lowther becomes High Sheriff of Northamptonshire. She is appointed by the Queen and provides support for the judiciary, the police and emergency services. The High Sheriff provides encouragement and recognition to the voluntary sector and actively encourages crime prevention. Our congratulations to Amanda, pictured here in her finery!

### Saxon Spires Virtual Carers Drop-In

The SSPPG is working with the Practice and Northamptonshire Carers to offer a Virtual Carers Drop-In session on Zoom. The past few months have been a difficult and lonely time for carers. Carers past and present join together for a chat, relaxation exercises and quizzes at the fortnightly gatherings. They will be held on the first and third Tuesday each month 1.30pm - 2.30pm. To join the meeting, contact Kay Giles at Northamptonshire Carers on 01933 677907 for log-in details.



**SSPPG Meetings** - The bi-monthly SSPPG Meetings are now being held on Zoom. The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30pm. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in supporting the work of the Practice and would like to join the meeting, please contact the Secretary Barbara Hogg on 01604 880552 or email [hoggbc66@gmail.com](mailto:hoggbc66@gmail.com). There is more information about our meetings and events, on the Saxon Spires website.

### COTON MANOR GARDEN

Everyone has been working very hard over winter, not only in the garden and nursery, but the tech folk have created a lovely new website which is worth a look. If you like all things gardening there is a link there for you to subscribe to the mailing list advising of key events at Coton. If you who are currently on the mailing list you should re-subscribe to ensure you receive these updates. Not being able to open for snowdrops and hellebores in February, and with these uncertain times, Coton Manor has re-introduced its 'click and collect' service that was so successful last year. If you would like a copy of this year's plant stock list, please email [nursery@cotonmanor.co.uk](mailto:nursery@cotonmanor.co.uk)



### LOCKDOWN HEROES ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨

Paul and Pauline Jacobs have been spending time clearing ivy and other overgrown plants from Guilsborough Churchyard. The transformation is dramatic, we can now see graves that were completely submerged in greenery; a great reward for all their hard work.



Years of overgrowth have been chopped away by Paul and Pauline



### ALPHABETICAL ADVERTISERS

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- Aga Wise - p15
- J.M. Billings Plumbing & Heating - p4
- Brixworth Osteopathic Clinic - p2
- Carrie Billings Nutrition & Kinesiology - p7
- Compass Energy - p2
- Cottesbrooke Hall & Gardens - p12
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- Ewe Move - p8
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