

# Nature Notes

From STEVE, Newbold Pacey

It was on Christmas Night that I heard the Fox barking; short, sharp barks with a wild urgency about them, different to that of a Dog. A male calling for a female under the twinkle of stars on a cold night. December, January - its breeding time again, old year ending, new year beginning with Foxes preparing to set up a family for cubs in the Spring. At the same time our Tawny Owl called as it headed across the fields, thankfully with an answer from its companion. It was all going on with a busy night ahead.



As first light arrived it was a different scene with a shroud of mist draped over the fields and the Jackdaws gathering around the cottages. There's a couple of them with white wing feathers and one of these has a foot with its toes curled up almost into a ball. Now, probably due to necessity, this bright bird has become more brave and will fly down ahead of the other Jackdaws and land near me at feeding time. Landing is awkward and possibly painful. If its near me it gets more food so I'll wait until it seems to have had enough. Once I step back



the more timid ones quickly push in. I reckon its got enough to cope with in life without being hungry. Meanwhile, down amongst the leaves the Snowdrops that first showed their green tips in November are beginning to reveal their buds. Can't beat a simple Snowdrop with just that hint, something better is on its way. Up above them Hazel Catkins that began to bud in October are now showing signs of pollen as they hang down. Crocuses are pushing through. Wild Garlic won't be long. Outside the bedroom Window a Bluetit has been checking out the nest box, peeping inside, possibly looking for a safe place to roost on these cold nights, but I reckon its already looking for this Spring's nest site; probably one of last year's very successful pair.



The Ravens have been very active since November. They seem to relish windy weather, riding the air currents and calling. We have the pair fly over most days, the male flipping over in flight, showing off and displaying - always love seeing that. Recently we've had a mini squadron of five Ravens flying together. I'm guessing last year's youngsters flying on. The Victorians called them an 'unkindness of Ravens' because they wrongly thought they were neglectful parents. Well the youngsters take a couple of years to be breeding adults and often hang around with their parents so I think they should be called a 'tolerance of Ravens'.

## HASTINGS HOUSE MEDICAL CENTRE SURGERY NEWSLETTER January 2024



As we put 2023 behind us and look forwards to 2024 a full round up of last years highs and achievements can be found in this months Wellesbourne and Walton News. Emily's Hastings House blog has lots of up to date surgery news, information and chat, that is too long for this newsletter. She welcomes feedback and requests for any topics that you would like her to cover. Please email her on emily.taylor33@nhs.net

**Coming up in 2024** – Results of our Patient Survey,

### Items for the next edition of VHN...

If you have news or views (that are printable) along with our regular contributors – please send (including pictures) to: Chris Thornton at jimandchris@gmail.com by 15th March, 2024.

Carer's Event No.2 and a Park Run!  
**When you telephone the surgery**, please do not be offended by the reception team asking you questions. There is a reason why we ask these questions and this is to get you to the most appropriate clinician in the appropriate time frame and take into account continuity of care. You don't have to be specific, we only want to know so we can provide details for the Doctor or Nurse. This way we can determine multiple things:

- How long the appointment will take
- If the clinician needs to make any arrangements (equipment, assistance, reserve a certain room) if the clinician needs to do any research in advance. (Maybe you're coming back because the previous treatment didn't work, in this case he needs to think about a new treatment.)
- If it's likely they'll need something from you (urine, bloodtest etc) they might inform you about this too. Especially if it's a follow up appointment.

It's nothing personal and you don't have to go into deep details, but it will probably help you out if you give us some information.

# THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 168, January 2024

## Un-emptied Bins?, Fly Tipping?, Dog Mess? Get your Council to deal with it. Here's how.

Bin Missed from regular collection rounds	→	<a href="http://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm">www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm</a>	Report to your district councillor - xxxx@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Overflowing litter/dog mess bin Dog mess or litter on street Graffiti on SDC Property	→	<a href="http://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/street-cleansing-form.cfm">www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/street-cleansing-form.cfm</a>	
Fly Tipping	→	<a href="http://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/fly-tipping-form.cfm">www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/fly-tipping-form.cfm</a>	
Abandoned vehicle	→	<a href="http://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/abandoned-vehicles-form.cfm">www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/abandoned-vehicles-form.cfm</a>	
Grass verges or village greens not mowed Queries with flower beds, planters, open spaces, village greens	→	<a href="http://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/grounds-management-form.cfm">www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/grounds-management-form.cfm</a>	
Overgrown hedges and trees obstructing paths or highways *	→	<a href="http://warwickshire-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices">warwickshire-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices</a>	

**Other useful contact details -**

**Waste & Recycling App:**  
[www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/waste-and-recycling-app.cfm](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/waste-and-recycling-app.cfm)

Email: 123collections@stratford-dc.gov.uk  
 Telephone 01789 260123

**Streetscene contact details -**

Email: streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk  
 streetscenedutyofficer@stratford-dc.gov.uk  
 Telephone 01789 260616

**A** Please ensure that you have logged issue on website as it enables officers to log it correctly and drives performance metrics for Biffa, idVerde, etc. Please ask councillor to report if resident unable to get online. Please note reporting information for SDC property only.

**B** If the issue is a repeated problem please contact District Councillor to escalate. Please make sure that you enclose all the facts so that officers can link your email to prior reports.



A great show of fabulous Xmas lights throughout the village this year. Literally brilliant!



Frosty Fred keeps an eye out in NP graveyard

**Significant Parish Council and Village Hut News – inside.**



St George's  
Newbold Pacey

### Mysterious Disappearances! Please help us locate the church table and key.

In mid-January we noticed two unexpected disappearances from the church. The key to the outside lavatory and shed had mysteriously vanished from the drawer where it is normally kept and the table at the back of the church from where refreshments are served had also 'walked', though its cloth had been left carefully folded near where it had previously stood. If you happen to know where one or both of these might be, or if someone has borrowed or 'liberated' them, we'd be grateful for news of their whereabouts and their safe return, no questions asked!

### A new bank account is on the way.

Late last year, Barclays Bank unhelpfully closed our long-standing parish bank account in error, having failed to upload the mandate our Treasurer had sent them. This meant gifts and payments to the church via online transfer, cheque, cash and Standing Order could no longer be transferred to the parish account in the usual way.

Our Treasurer is setting up a new St George's account with Lloyds Bank which should be operational by the end of January, so we'll notify everyone as soon as this is up and running. For now, we'd be grateful if anyone intending to make a payment to the church could wait until the new account is functioning, after which all donations and fees

will be very welcome. We will be in touch with the details the moment we know them.

### Interregnum – a big thankyou to everyone helping to keep the church going.

During this time of interregnum, while we wait to hear the diocese's plans for our parishes, we are specially keen to keep the church running as smoothly as possible and continuing to offer a warm welcome to everyone, regulars and newcomers alike. We'd like to say a particular thankyou to the local clergy, readers and laity who have kindly stepped in to take services and organise various church events. For the moment, Ruth Worsley, the Bishop Suffragan of Taunton, part of the diocese of Bath and Wells is overseeing and advising us on where we go from here.

### Come and get involved

Our beautiful church and its peaceful eco-churchyard are great places to enjoy a time of calm and reflection whether or not you are a believer or a regular churchgoer. Everyone is welcome and we'd love it if you could spare an hour or two a month, perhaps taking part and helping to run social activities or doing readings and prayers at our services, arranging flowers or taking an occasional turn on the cleaning rota – and there's always a friendly welcome plus good coffee and home-made cake!

Please contact Pam on 651508 if you'd be willing to give us a hand.

Andrew has been a Parish Councillor before this will be of huge benefit to the Parish Council and we look forward to working with him. The Parish Council still has one Councillor vacancy, if you are interested in joining the Parish Council and working for the benefit of your community please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

**Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Parish Council is pleased to advise residents they have a new website,** it can be accessed by going to;

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/newbold-pacey--ashorne-parish-council-20519/>

The website will be populated and updated over the coming months. If anyone has any queries please contact the Clerk, Jackie Chapman on npacclrk@gmail.com

## Parish Council NEWS

**At its meeting in January 2024,** Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Council discussed its financial commitments and the budget required for the financial year 2024 - 2025. After much discussion the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept by 5%; this will take the precept from £8717 to £9153 an increase of 5%.



**At the same meeting** the Parish Council co-opted Andrew Marshall (right) as a Parish Councillor. As

## theWI Report

**Happy New Year to our neighbours from all members of Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI.**

We had a **busy time in December:** hosting a village Xmas Wreath Making Workshop, a very busy and well-supported Xmas Crafts and Coffee Morning, carol singing at Bromson Hill Nursing Home and an enjoyable Xmas meal at The Malt Shovel at Gaydon.

Thanks to everyone that has supported our monthly **coffee mornings** we were able to make three £200 donations to local charities: Leamington Winter Support Night Shelter, Warwickshire Hearts first responder service and Welcome Here, a charity that works with refugees in the Leamington and Warwick areas. All three charities were delighted to be chosen.

Since November we have been nurturing our **amaryllis bulbs**, sharing photographs and at our January meeting declared our Moreton Paddox member, Sue Barraclough, the winner with her bloom reaching a height of 88cm with a splendid pink flower. The real competition is to see if we can get them to flower again next year!



**We started 2024 with a talk from Tracey Barnbrook of bsynergy on gut health** – how to look after your

microbiome to keep your gut in balance. Eating more fibre, vegetables and fruit will be our aim for 2024.

On 8 February our speaker will be **Dr Urvashi Sahni.** She is coming from Warwick University to talk about her work promoting **'Equal opportunities for women and girls in Asia.'**

In March we will be having an

**Easter Cake Decorating Demo and Workshop.** Our Craft & Chat Group continue to meet on Tuesdays and our **Walking Group will be striding out around Warwick Race Course** at the end of January.

**Why not make it your New Year Resolution to give WI a try?** We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30pm – 10pm in Ashorne Village Hall. £5 per meeting as a guest including raffle, homemade cake and a cuppa. Contact Trish by phone or email: npandawi@gmail.com Trish Handsley 01926 651978 / 07919 392588 Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI.Npandawi@gmail.com Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashornewi

## Village Hut NEWS

**We were delighted to welcome so many villagers, friends and neighbours to the New Year breakfast on January 1.**

**It was great that this year we had enough helpers and a new booking system which enabled us to reinstate this much enjoyed traditional start to the new year when 44 people and several very well-behaved dogs were able to enjoy a cooked breakfast together.**

**Thank you to all the helpers and guests**

**We have several social events planned so make a note on your new diaries**

**Sunday 25th February- Village Walk and Meal**



**Sunday 19th May – Village BBQ**

**Final details are still to be confirmed.**

**The Village Hall Committee**



**AGM will be held in the Hut committee room on Monday February 5 at 7pm to be followed by a meeting of the new committee. Everybody is welcome to the AGM**

## Ashorne Table Tennis Club



### Success for Ashorne TTC.

We are really pleased to let everyone know that after losing their opening game of the Autumn season our 2 aside team of Richard and Alex went on to win their remaining 9 games to win Division A of the Leamington & District Table Tennis season. This is a really great achievement for our club and hopefully they can go on to win the Spring division too?

In addition to the 2 aside team above we also have a 3 aside team playing in Division 3 of the Leamington league and a further 2 aside team playing in the Stratford league.

**If you are interested in playing** again/taking up Table tennis, then do please give me a call. Competitive Table tennis goes on now until the end of April/May thereafter we practice in the village hall on a Monday night throughout the summer.

Steve Handsley. Secretary

Ashorne Table Tennis Club 07484-287728