

Nature Notes

From STEVE, Newbold Pacey

So as Spring stood poised in the doorway...

As so often happens, Winter slammed the door shut again. No sooner had I thought the lawn could have its first mowing it started snowing.

Frogs had already laid their spawn in the cold water of the pond. I'd only glimpsed one frog. They'd obviously carried out their business and hopped it. The eggs are developing despite the freezing temperatures. Frogs a brave lot!

We had our first Hedgehog out and about at the beginning of March, but when the cold snap came it snuffled back to bed. Haven't seen it since.

Snow brought in by North and East winds made it tougher for livestock and wildlife. Bird tables and feeders were a lifeline. There's a Great Tit that has a large pink lump on its cheek. This turns out to be a viral pox. It was originally spotted in Scandinavia on birds in the 1960s. As it swells it makes it harder for the bird to see as well and so more at risk to predators. Apparently it can regress in Great Tits so maybe this bird will survive. It is contagious so each morning I spray the table and feeders with disinfectant. Its all I've got so fingers crossed.

On a brighter note the hedgerows in mid March have

clouds of white flowers on the Blackthorn and sprinklings of small green leaves on the Hawthorn, always the first fresh green leaves - love 'em! Down below the Primroses are in bloom, snow or not. 'Primrose' meaning first, so its the 'first Rose'. Although not a rose at all there is a hint of Dog Rose about the shape of the flower. Just a touch more culture there. Early Honey Bees and Bumbles are checking them out.

Ravens are still very busy, often flying as a pair. A couple of weeks ago the two of them flew low over the cottages. You could actually hear the air beneath their powerful wing. Now you won't hear that from a Carrion Crow. Another time the Ravens flew over our cottage each one with a twig in its beak. I reckon that was symbolic and the pair were adding new twigs to their nest; a nest that will be there for years. Well that's my theory and I'm sticking to it.

Along with the Primroses and Violets wild Arrum and Garlic are pushing through. So are the Stinging Nettles, nothing much holds them back.

The Muntjac are still around the cottage. Looks as though the male that was calling (barking) morning and night achieved his dream of finding a wife because we regularly see the female and her calf. So lovely to see the calf following its Mum, stopping to sample emerging vegetation along the hedgerows down the lane.

We've had a single Long-tailed Tit on the bird table. Unusual to see that in Winter. The "Billy no mates" of the Long-tailed Tit world. Glad to say within a couple of days half a dozen others had turned up. Maybe he was their scout and went ahead to find food. Well, it paid off - they've hit the Jackpot here!



Ashorne and Moreton Morrell Cricket Club

The 2023 'Ashes' cricket season will commence in April. The Cricket Club will commence playing at the highest level in its history, having secured promotion to Division 1 of the Cotswold Hills League last summer.

Pre-season training has recently commenced as excitement mounts for the challenges ahead. The Club is always looking for new players and members - whether for Saturday league cricket, Sunday friendly cricket, or midweek evening 20/20 matches. Anyone interested in joining the Club is welcome - regardless of age, ability, etc. Please contact the Club Secretary, Mark Freeman, on 07958 830339 or freemanfamily4@hotmail.co.uk for further details associated with joining the Club.

The Club built its original pavilion to commemorate Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. In this coronation year, the Club is likely to launch an appeal to seek help with funding for a new pavilion roof covering. Unfortunately, our beautiful building is now suffering with having roof tiles which, through age, have become damaged and brittle and require replacement. More details of the fund-raising appeal will be notified in due course. In the first instance though, if anyone thinks they may be able to advise or assist the Club with this matter, please contact our Secretary via the details above.

Let's hope for another dry and hot summer and success for the Club in the heady heights of CHL Div 1, along with a long overdue return to the UK for the Ashes!!



THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 163, March 2023

Parish Council Report...

Parish Council elections will take place on 4th May 2023.

Anyone who wishes to be a Parish Councillor needs to submit a nomination form in person to Stratford District Council by 4pm on 4th April 2023.

The relevant paperwork can be found here: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/elections.cfm> or on the The Electoral Commission website, <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england>

There are 10,480 Parish Councils in England and they are the smallest form of Local Government. They provide vital services to the communities which they represent for example, defibrillators, maintenance work within the local community which is not undertaken by larger authorities, allotments, representation on planning applications and other consultations. Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Parish Council will have six vacancies to be filled and to ensure the work of the Parish Council remains local it will be beneficial if all the posts can be filled from the community.



Newbold Pacey Hall and Church feature in 'Stonehouse' ITV Drama-documentary

Eagle-eyed parishioners who watched the 3-part ITV mini-series 'Stonehouse' would have spotted several familiar settings, including Newbold Pacey Hall and Church used as the location of the imposing mansion which the disgraced Labour Cabinet Minister John Stonehouse bought before faking his own death and fleeing to Australia. St George's and its churchyard provided the picturesque backdrop to an authentic-looking funeral including a properly-dug grave and crowds of mourners.

The commitment can be as small or big as residents want it to be. The least commitment is to attend 6 meetings per year, each meeting will last no longer than two hours. Training will be provided, and whilst it is not compulsory, it does equip Cllrs to understand their role and how to fulfil it competently and legally.

Do come and join us, yes it can be formal at times, but there are also many benefits and on occasions, fun to be had.

Jackie Chapman

Clerk to Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Parish Council
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Parish Council
Tel 01926 716191

Village Hall News...

At our AGM on February 15 the Management Committee was re-elected to serve for another year with no change to officers.



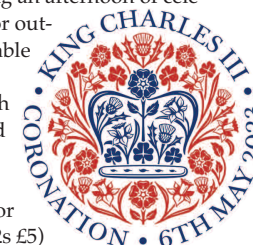
As the hire charges had not been changed since 2019 they were reviewed and some minor amendments to new booking charges made from March 1. Prices will be reviewed in September and it was agreed to set the rates for 2024 prior to January 1. A full list of the current prices can be seen on the noticeboard outside the Hall and on the Village Hall website. For any booking enquiries please contact Jim or Chris Thornton on 01926651436 or email jimandchris@gmail.com.

Save the Date
Sunday May 7 2023 2.30 onwards...

...to celebrate the King's coronation. Ashorne Events Committee is holding an afternoon of celebrations in the village hall or outside it if the weather is suitable

There will be a 3 course unlimited buffet served with tea, coffee or soft drinks and a tombola, cake stall and other things going on.

Contact Jane or Andrea for tickets (adults £10, under 12s £5)



Emily's Blog News from your Medical Practice, Hastings House



Happy Easter everyone



If you haven't already, there is still time to pop down to the surgery to buy raffle tickets to win our amazing **Easter Chocolate Hamper**. All proceeds are going to Friends of Hastings House.

New to the surgery...

Meet our First Contact Physiotherapist (FCP) – **Louise Bolton**

I qualified from Coventry University in 2006 with a BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy.

In 2016, I completed a Masters Degree specialising in Musculoskeletal Assessment and Treatment.

I have 15 years' experience of assessing a wide variety

of orthopaedic and musculoskeletal conditions; I have worked across both the NHS and Private Practice.



My role as a **First contact Physiotherapist (FCP)** is to assess patients with soft tissue, muscle and joint pain and to plan the most appropriate management pathway.

By seeing an FCP you will have access to specialist musculoskeletal assessment. If further Physiotherapy input is required, you will be referred to the main physiotherapy service at the hospital.

Types of conditions an FCP will see.

Joint pains and arthritis. Soft tissue injuries such as sprains, strains and other soft tissue injuries e.g. ankle, shoulder, wrist sprains, heel pain.

Back and neck pain which may radiate into the arm or leg including nerve type symptoms such as pins and nee-

dles and numbness.

FCPs do not see children under the age of 16, house-bound patients, those who are acutely unwell, or those with neurological or respiratory conditions.

How do I see an FCP?

In most cases, you do not need to see your GP with a musculoskeletal condition, so the reception team may suggest that you see the FCP instead of the GP. You can also request an appointment directly with the FCP through your doctor's reception team. This will take place within the GP practice and will provide you with a thorough assessment and advice about the best way forward for you.

The practice is currently looking at opportunities to support carers in the local community.

Are you a carer?

The Care Act 2014 defines "carer" as "an adult who provides or intends to provide care for another adult".

Do you spend a lot of time caring for someone?

Is this person unable to care for themselves because of disability, mental health issues, frailty or illness?

Does this care involve things like helping someone to do necessary everyday things like eat, wash and do their shopping?

Is your caring work unpaid?

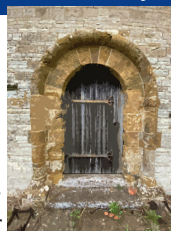
Make sure that you have told us you are a carer. Pop into the surgery and we will note it on your records.

St George's Newbold Pacey

Good Friday Walk with the Cross

Do join us for our regular Good Friday Walk with the Cross, led by Richard Woodfin, on April 7th. Everyone is welcome, either for the whole trek or just a leg or two of it, depending on how energetic they're feeling. We'll be starting out from Chesterton Church at 9.00 am and taking a leafy route arriving at Lighthorne Heath around 10.15 am, on to Lighthorne green (10.45am) and Moreton Morrell bus stop (11.45pm) Next stop, Ashorne at 12.30 pm for a light lunch of soup, rolls, fruit and, appropriately enough, hot cross buns in the Village Hall, prepared by St George's PCC members. There will then be an hour of contemplation at St George's, Newbold Pacey from 2 – 3pm.

Richard will be walking the cross from Ashorne to Chesterton first thing that morning, so for



theWI Report

March

We were joined at our March community coffee morning by Parish Council representatives seeking ideas from villagers for inclusion in the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Later that week, on **International Women's Day**, our walking group braved the sleet and wind to enjoy a four miler along the river Avon. We were delighted to find Bobbie's Café open, housed in a railway carriage along the Stratford Greenway and welcoming of coat-dripping walkers for a restorative cuppa!

'North winds doth blow and we shall have snow' has been very much the way of the past week but despite that we had a fantastic turnout of members and guests for our **March meeting**. Our tutor, Jo Chorley of Chase-meadow Crafts gave a potted history of **canal art** and how it was used by families living on canal barges to personalise their cramped surroundings with simple motifs of roses, peonies and castles.

Jo provided us with terracotta pots, paint, brushes and motif suggestions and off we went, letting our artistic juices flow. Everyone departed, delighted with their creation and some planning to invest in a few pots and some acrylic paint to do more at home.

In April as we start our new membership year, we'll

be looking at **Climate Change and our Gardens** with Lucy Hartley. We are also planning a circular walk taking in Moreton Morrell and coffee and cake at the recently re-opened Black Horse pub and we're also planning to get out doing a morning's Litter Picking. In May we have our AGM and will elect our new committee amidst the coronation celebrations.

Why not come along and give WI a try? We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30pm – 10pm in Ashorne Village Hall.

Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email: npandawi@gmail.com if you want to find out more.

Trish Handsley 01926 651978

Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI

Npandawi@gmail.com

Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire

Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashorne

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 on jimandchris@gmail.com by 15th May.

anyone with plenty of energy who'd like to join him, he'll be leaving from Ashorne at 7.30am.

Scarecrow Walk

We are planning to hold a Scarecrow Walk around Ashorne and Newbold Pacey this autumn, with a slap-up Tea and Cakes at the Village Hall and St George's Church. This will probably be staged some time around Harvest Festival. Do you fancy making a scarecrow, however offbeat and quirky, to display in your garden or elsewhere? Could you bake a cake or two, help serve teas or just come along, admire the different straw men (and women) and



tuck in? If so, please contact our organiser and PCC Secretary Pam Cook on 01926-651508. The date will be announced shortly - all volunteers are very welcome

Knit or crochet for our Remembrance Day Poppy Cascade

Well done to our nimble-fingered knitters and crochet enthusiasts, including Krysz Pietrecki, Margaret Freeman and Pam Cook. They've al-



ready produced several hundred of the thousands of poppies needed for our Remembrance Day display, a cascade of poppies at the church. But we still need many more to make an impressive show and we're recruiting anyone interested in joining our happy band of poppy makers. For more information and for the crochet and knitting patterns to make your own poppies, please contact Pam on 651508.