

Nature Notes

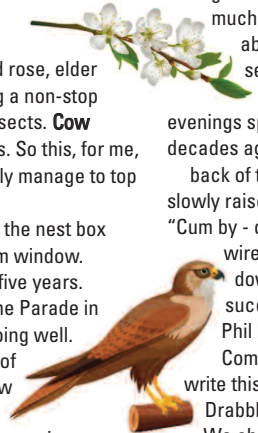
From STEVE, Newbold Pacey

Well, if I had to pick a favourite time of the year it would be April into May - not too hot and not too cold, everywhere is bursting with fresh green leaves. Birds are singing, wild flowers decorate the hedgerows and verges – oh “the darling buds of May!”

Blackthorn has faded to brown as hawthorn (May blossom) takes over. Wild rose, elder and honeysuckle are on their way casting a non-stop Nectar Bar for the Bees and countless insects. Cow Parsley reach up to touch the mayflowers. So this, for me, is the peak. I reckon summer doesn't really manage to top the explosion of life spring has to offer.

There's a pair of blue tits going for it in the nest box way up under the eaves near the bedroom window. That box has never been used in the last five years.

Meanwhile, up in the clock tower on the Parade in Leamington, the peregrine falcons are doing well. A couple of weeks back I was there, one of the peregrines was calling loudly as it flew near the tower. Maybe the falcon was calling in frustration. It had no element of surprise or any real sense of speed at that moment. The peregrine continued to out call its loud echoey cry. I looked at the people below it and no-one seemed to look up; life carried on oblivious to dramatic nature above. I recently had a couple of close encounters with the young muntjac. It is now completely independent and looking good. I've seen



it close to the cottage eating sunflower hearts of the ground under the cedar tree. I had no idea I was going to see it much closer.

Up at the top of the garden I've got a veg plot. I've surrounded it with wire to keep the rabbits out - all very "Mr McGregor", although the rabbits don't come as close nowadays. Now the young muntjac entered the veg plot through the little gate I'd left open. There was nothing much to eat there at that time so, after a mooch about it realised there was a fence and couldn't seem to remember where the gate was. So at this point I will be forever grateful for the evenings spent watching "One Man and His Dog" several decades ago. Trying not to panic the deer I moved to the back of the plot at the opposite end to the open gate. I slowly raised my arms and uttered the immortal words, "Cum by - cum by". After a couple of head butts to the wire fence the Muntjac found the gate and was off down the garden like there was no tomorrow. A successful "unpenning" and no points lost. If only Phil Drabble had been there!

Come to think of it if anyone has inspired me to write this 'scribble' in an informal chatty way it was Phil Drabble. I met him in Leamington many years ago. We chatted and I shook his hand.

We understand, Steve, our writer of Nature Notes, has fallen from his ladder whilst pursuing his job as a widow cleaner. He is receiving hospital treatment for his injuries and we all wish him the very best and a speedy recovery.

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 164, June 2023

A Right Royal Time was had by all!



On May 6th 2023 the nation celebrated the coronation of King Charles 3rd. On May 7th 2023, the villagers of Ashorne and Newbold Pacey came together for their own celebration.

The sun was shining and the Village Hut and car park looked amazing with red white and blue bunting and decorations.

The village events committee put on a celebration buffet fit for a King, with food including Coronation chicken, coronation quiche, and a coronation cake centrepiece.

Martin provided live music in the hall, and villagers enjoyed playing boules, jenga and giant pick up sticks in the sunshine. The youngsters (and some youngsters at heart!) Had a go at pinning the diamond to King Charles crown. Well done to Heidi and Elliott for getting it spot on! The games concluded with a Royal quiz, which was won by Trish Handsley and her team. Well done!

An extra bonus was the arrival of the local ice cream van allowing us to enjoy a traditional 99 ice cream. It all felt very British!

The celebrations continued into the evening with live streaming of the Coronation concert. Thanks to to Paul for setting this up.

Thanks to the events committee for another successful event, which was enjoyed by everyone.



Ashorne Coronation Celebrations 1953

See the Coronation Special Insert for photos and write-up of the recent celebrations

The Village Hut

Future Events

Please join us for the following:

Pop Up Pub Nights 19 th May, 23 rd June
From 7.30pm byo drinks, nibbles available to purchase

Village Walk 25 th June. Walk at 10.30am to be followed by **Gardeners Plate** in Hall [soup and sandwich]

Gin Tasting 4 th November

WHIST CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2023 Ashorne Whist Championship was won by John Beale while his sister, Sheila Wyatt, came a close second. John also won the Mary Beale trophy for highest single score for the second consecutive year.

Jim Thornton collected the wooden spoon trophy for the lowest single score.

The Parish Council

Unfortunately, at the moment, there are only 2 Parish Councillors and a minimum of 3 with a maximum of 6 are needed to be quorate and to vote. You should have received a flyer asking people to think about joining the Council and having a say in the future of the village. Please consider if you can volunteer for this important community role.

STEVE BOLTON Twenty- three Years of Service to the Parish

Steve Bolton, who recently resigned from the Parish Council, had been an elected member for 23 years and for quite a few of those was its chairman. The whole Parish of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Steve for his years of dedicated work on our behalf and we wish him well in his retirement.



St George's Newbold Pacey

St George's Coronation Peal for King Charles and Queen Camilla

Together with hundreds of churches across the land, St George's celebrated the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla with a joyful peal of bells and the flying of the flag of St George on the morning of the ceremony. Listening to the familiar changes floating amid light mist over the surrounding countryside really heightened the atmosphere and made a moving prelude to the inspiring ritual at Westminster Abbey. God Save the King!

Huge thank you to Victoria and Christophe

Our (relatively) new parishioners Victoria and Christophe will be married in June at St George's and have very generously opted to set up a fund-raising initiative for the church instead of a wedding gift list. We are hugely grateful for their kindness particularly when they have so much to organise, including extensive repairs to the Hall. We will all be raising a toast and a heartfelt thankyou to the happy couple and wish them a splendid wedding day and a wonderful life together.

Scarecrow Walk – the theme is FILMS

We are holding our Scarecrow Walk around Ashorne and Newbold Pacey on Sunday, 10th September from 11 am to 4 pm, with a slap-up Tea and Cakes at the Village Hall and St George's Church. Everyone is invited to make a scarecrow, however offbeat and quirky, to display in their garden or elsewhere and the theme this year is Films. There will be leaflets showing the position of every scarecrow, including a section where you can vote for your favourites: the most popular will win a prize.

Also, could you bake a cake or two, help serve teas or

Proposed 2023 Parish Plan

Stage 1 of the production of a new Parish Plan was completed in March, with questionnaires being delivered to all houses and responses received.

Thank you to all those who responded, but the returns fell short of the 25% required to justify the expense (over £2500) and effort needed to complete the plan.

However, the responses showed a large degree of satisfaction within the Parish, but there were concerns over traffic (speeds and parking), lack of public transport, dog fouling, fly tipping and others.

An analysis of the results, together with transcriptions of all responses, can be viewed on the Village Hall website (<https://ashornevillage.weebly.com>). Also displayed on the website will be demographic information from the 2021 census.

The analysis can also be viewed on the notice boards in Ashorne and Newbold Pacey.

just come along, admire the different straw men (and women) and tuck in? If you would like to make scarecrow, provide a cake or help with the teas for an hour or so, please contact our organiser and PCC Secretary Pam Cook on 01926-651508. All volunteers are very welcome.



Our thanks to green-fingered Ray Cook and all our volunteers

Our glorious eco-churchyard is a riot of wild flowers: violets, cow parsley, dog rose and buttercups, a haven for bees, butterflies and other wildlife as well as a quiet, restful spot for calm reflection. It's also beautifully-kept and we'd like to thank green-fingered Ray Cook for all his hard work and dedication in keeping it looking so welcoming.

A big thankyou also to our dauntless little band of cleaners, flower-arrangers and other volunteers who keep the church looking immaculate despite the 'calling cards' of our resident colony of bats in the roof beams above the chancel.

Newbold Pacey Flower Festival

Our Flower Festival will be staged over the weekend of July 15th – 16th from 11am to 4pm with the church open for everyone to admire the displays. We will be serving refreshments throughout the weekend, including delicious cream teas, home-baked cakes and biscuits.

We are lucky to have several talented flower-arrangers in the parish, but novices and newcomers are equally welcome, with plenty of help and advice on offer plus a variety of blooms to choose from.

If you would like to take part, either creating a display to reflect the house name of your choice, or baking a cake, scones or biscuits, or helping to serve the refreshments for an hour or two, we'd love to hear from you. Everyone welcome. Please contact our Secretary Pam Cook on 651508

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: Judy Cooper at judycooper21@btinternet.com by 15th July.

theWI Report

May has been a month steeped in ceremonial for our WI: watching the Coronation, voting in our new committee at our AGM and hearing from one of our members who was actually 'at the Abbey on the day.'

At our AGM, Secretary Vicki Paffett reflected on the number and variety of activities we'd enjoyed in the past year – raising £600 for three local charities was a highlight. The current committee, with addition of new member Jackie Barnett was voted in. President Helen Oakley, gave tokens of thanks to her team and was given a bouquet in appreciation of her year at the helm. Prizes were given out for monthly competitions and the 2023/24 programme shared.

New member, Abigail Sheridan de Graaff was thrilled to receive an invite to attend the Coronation as one of the recipients of a British Empire Medal due to her volunteer efforts during the Covid pandemic. Abigail was instrumental in setting up the Warwickshire Scrubbers, co-ordinating many local crafting volunteers to make scrubs, headbands and wash bags for NHS staff across Warwickshire medical settings. On the Wednesday prior to the Coronation, Abigail and her husband had also been to Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party held for the BEM NHS recipients. She had met some inspirational volunteers and had a fantastic week!

In June our 'first Saturday of the month' coffee morning

will be back 10am -midday in Ashorne Village Hall. Then on Thursday 8 June we'll welcome sisters Erica and Pam who run Hats & Co of Leamington and are coming along to talk about the British hat industry. They are bringing lots of hats and accessories for us to try, there will be a distinct 'Ladies Day at the Races' vibe and fizz! Visitors will be very welcome, we start with a half hour business meeting at 7:30pm,

Later in June, a group of us are off to Tutbury Castle for afternoon tea in the presence of BBC historian Lesley Smith in the persona of Anne Boleyn, we'll also be off to Henley in Arden to participate in the Warwickshire Federation annual Treasure Hunt. In July we're learning how to dry flowers and August we don't have a speaker meeting but are looking forward to afternoon tea in a Moreton Morrell member's garden. Our walking group will be out for a ramble as the weather improves, the craft and chat group continue to meet every week and work continues on our allotment.

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

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



I am feeling patriotic this month with the coronation of King Charles on the 8th. I know not everyone follows the royal family but even if you don't, then enjoy your extra-long weekend.

There are 3 bank holidays in May so please remember we are closed on those days and we would appreciate you ordering repeat prescriptions that bit earlier than normal so that our dispensary staff can spread the workload.

After some previous confusion, I can now definitely say "save the date, Saturday the 8th July!" Come to our summer concert.....Friends of Hastings house do Meet on

the Ledge! Tickets will be on sale throughout June and there will be a bar and raffle, all to raise funds for Friends of Hastings House.

This month is Make May Purple, stroke awareness month. Would you know the signs of a stroke? Act FAST...

FACE – the face may have dropped on one side, the person may not be able to smile, or their mouth or eye may have drooped. ARMS – the person may not be able to lift both arms and keep them there because of weakened or numbness in one arm. SPEECH – their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake; they may also have problems understanding what you're saying to them. TIME – it's time to dial 999 immediately if you notice any of these signs or symptoms.

My final reminder is Don't forget that the minor illness pharmacy referral is available by choosing option 3 on our phone system. You will be put through to a receptionist who will take your details and refer you to a local pharmacy for a convenient same day call back to discuss any minor ailment that you may have.

See you in the summer