

St George's, Newbold Pacey Remembrance Sunday

A big thank you to our parishioners led by Pam Cook who came together at short notice to run our moving Remembrance Sunday Service, laying wreaths at the war memorial and remembering the casualties from the parish in two World Wars. Among those taking part were Margaret Freeman, Linda Partington, Chris Thornton and Roger Wright. Chris has also kindly volunteered to rejoin our depleted Parochial Church Council, along with PCC newcomer Purdie Proudman, both exemplifying the old saying that if you want something doing, ask a busy person. Many thanks, ladies - the injection of fresh blood, energy and bright ideas is much appreciated.

Joining our PCC

Ever thought about joining our friendly, close-knit PCC, the group which helps to keep our beautiful, historic church going? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

PCC membership is not time-consuming and

offers the chance to take part in social activities, fund-raising, decorating the church for festivals like Easter and Christmas and joining working parties in our eco-churchyard. If you're interested in getting involved or would like to learn more about the PCC, please contact our Rep, Sally Jones 07860-346878

Tree of Light Ceremony

Richard Woodfin will again lead the popular Tree of Light ceremony, at 4 pm on December 4th. The service of readings and hymns will be followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree in the churchyard while the names of the departed are read out. (Do come well wrapped up.) If you would like to add a name to the Remembrance Book please contact Pam Cook 01926 651508.

Midnight Service on Christmas Eve
Amid all the Yuletide preparations, do join us for this magical service which starts at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. What better way to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas and escape - briefly - all that present wrapping and turkey stuffing as we "salute the happy morn."



Village Hall Events - a Big Success

The Events Committee has been very busy organising events such as the very successful Pop-up pub and the Italian Evening and here are the things which are currently being planned.

Sunday, 18th December 2022 Christmas Afternoon Tea
[more details to be published in early December]



The very successful Italian Night was hugely enjoyed by all



New Year Murder Mystery Event Early in 2023

Any suggestions for social events to be held in 2023 will be very welcome. Please contact Mary Cobb on 07854 106727 or mhccobb123@gmail.com

Volunteer Archivist Needed

The Village Hall has a number of archives and items which may be of interest to future generations. The Scrapbooks which you may have seen at the Jubilee event in June are with us too as being a central location. We have recently acquired a filing cabinet and would like somebody who has the time and interest to sort out and catalogue what is there.

Please contact Jim or Chris Thornton by email at jimandchris@gmail.com or phone 019256651436

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 161, November 2022

Parish Council Report...

New councillor

At the November meeting the Parish Council was pleased to co-opt Paul Darnell as a councillor. We now have a full complement of councillors for the first time in several years.

Jubilee Tree

Those of you who walk the footpath between Ashorne and Newbold Pacey will have seen the newly planted oak tree commemorating the platinum jubilee of the late queen. A plaque will be put in place shortly. Thanks to Cllr Bolton and Struthers for their work on this and thanks also to William Little for giving permission for the tree to be placed on his land.



You may have noticed that a couple of trees planted between Ashorne and the crossroads for an earlier jubilee have died. The PC will be replacing these with whips kindly donated by Cllr Struthers.

Primary Health Care

Over the last few meetings information has been shared about the provision of GP services for the growing number of homes in the Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath (Upper Lighthorne) area.

While on the face of it this may seem to have little relevance to our parish, it is an important issue which could affect all of us. Several options are being discussed, some of which could have a significant impact on the availability of primary health care in the surrounding villages.

You will see more information about this as proposals are firmed up and we expect a questionnaire to be circulated to residents at some point. Although it is tempting to ignore questionnaires when they drop through our letterboxes, this one is important, so please read it and respond - your opinion matters.

Local Repairs

Residents often report potholes, blocked gullies etc to the PC. These are passed on to the relevant departments but we do have to wait our turn in the work schedules.

The next public meeting is on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7.30 in the village hall. Every is welcome.



Hair today, gone tomorrow. Councillor Steve Bolton has a very severe trim in support of Macmillan Cancer Research for which he has raised over £500.

Heathcote Farm Christmas Poultry

- * Farm fresh traditional poultry produced for over 50 years by four generations
- * Turkeys, cockerels and geese
- * Hand reared plucked and prepared on our traditional family farm
- * Butchers quality and farm gate price
- * Buy local and reduce your carbon footprint



Call or text Thomas 07833 474488 for more details



Our new Councillor, Paul Darnell

theWI **Report**

Christmas came early to Ashorne when we spent our October meeting making Christmas decorations whilst listening to festive tunes, sipping fizz and nibbling mince pies. We also had an enjoyable morning at the **Moreton Morrell Church Fayre** with our Toiletries Tombola and big basket of giveaway pears.

Our November coffee morning was well attended and our monthly meeting speaker fascinating. Vicky Farmer, a WI member from Wishaw in north Warwickshire, entertained us with tales of her TV Quiz Contestant experiences including facing the Beast in The Chase.

Early December will see us hosting a Christmas **Wreath Making Workshop** in Ashorne Village Hall and then we're off to the Malt Shovel in Gaydon for our **WI Christmas meal**.

Our Craft and Chat group continues to meet for a cuppa on a Tuesday morning, the **Gardening Group** has put the WI allotment to bed for the season and the **Walking Group** gets out and about when diaries permit. We're always looking for new books for our **phone book swaps** in Ashorne and Newbold Pacey.

As a thank you to our friends and neighbours for their support during 2022, we'll be offering **FREE hot drinks and mince pies** at our December Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. Don't forget your cash though, as there will be cakes and Christmas crafts to buy.

We'll start 2023 with first speaker, Wendy Moore from Johnson's Coaches on Thursday 12 January followed in February by Janet Mobbs with 'Everyone's a scientist!'

NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE WI OPEN GARDENS 2023

We hear from long-standing neighbours that Newbold Pacey and Ashorne gardens have opened in the past and we'd like to resurrect this lovely community event.

- Do you live in either Newbold Pacey or Ashorne?
- Are you a keen gardener?
- Would you like to show your friends and neighbours around your garden nextsummer?
- If a non-gardener, would you be available to help to support an Open Gardens event? [car parking steward, sign writer, cake baker, tea maker?]
- Are you available on Sunday 2 July?

If you can answer YES to most of the above, we'd love to hear from you before the end of 2022. We've got seven gardeners on the list at the moment but could do with two or three more. We'll be getting together in January 2023 to start the planning.

Contact us by email: npandawi@gmail.com or phone 07919 392588 Judith Little | Trish Handsley | Pauline Prestt

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



Its nice to see **Jupiter** shining brightly in the evening sky, rising in the south east and chasing the moon. Later in the evening **Orion** rises from the same direction to chase both of them across the night sky; all appearing in slow motion of course. It's the closest Jupiter has been to Earth since 1963 when the Beatles were No 1 with "She Loves You". Oh! Those were the days! However in 1963 we had one of the coldest winters ever with snow until March. So here's hoping that doesn't repeat itself.

Meanwhile as I scribble this we are having one of the warmest Novembers on record. There are **bluebottles, honey bees, bumble bees and wasps** all making a go of it with many flowers enjoying the warmth, not yet cut down by the frost. I bet by the time anyone reads this (if anyone does) it will all have changed. **Bats** are still active and I've seen a barn owl near Moreton Morrell and a tawny flying along the hedgerow out of Ashorne. It flew along the top of the hedge regularly dropping either side towards the ground, maybe trying to flush out roosting birds, Talking of **tawny owls**, we still have them



close to the cottage. I'm guessing it's the adult pair. Their position is given away a couple of times a week at the moment by very observant birds. The loud calamity of birds calling out in what must be 'abusive bird speak' is often started by a **blackbird** or recently by a jay. Quickly other species arrive. **Chaffinches** seem to particularly enjoy the action along with **great tits, blue tits, jackdaws and robins**. Even heard a **nuthatch** join the throng. I do feel sorry for the 'picked on' owl that will sit tight and hope it all goes away whilst perched on one of the many yew trees. The other birds take exception to the bird of prey even though it is quietly minding its own business. Sooner or later the bird mob wear themselves out and disperse only to repeat the exercise in a day or so. The only good thing is I know exactly where our tawny owl roosts.

A few hundred yards from the owl is a very large tree that stands tall and wide and catches the early morning sunshine. This has become the hub for a large flock of **fieldfare and redwing**. I'm not sure if these spend the night there or just arrive. It's a great meeting place for them as they chatter, not unlike the **starlings** but with more melody. Down on the ground we've had another eight **hedgehogs** released over the past couple of weeks. That must bring us up to around sixty in the last couple of years. We've even had at least one hang around for me to glimpse. We should be "Hedgehogs are Us!" around here but, as its their nature, to disperse I very rarely see one. Hopefully most of them are still out there.



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



So I thought to end the year I would do a roundup of 2022. It's been a year of change and a gradual return to a somewhat more normal way of life following the Covid Pandemic. Of which I sincerely hope we never see the likes of again!

Our new phone system was installed in March and has made a massive difference to the reception staff. I hope that you as patients have found it an improvement. One of

the things that we find hugely interesting is that we can actually get phone call figures. So in the 6 months between April and September we had an average of 7904 inbound calls a month with an average call queue time of 1 minute and 49 seconds.

On top of the incoming calls, we receive approximately 1426 eConsults per month. We understand that not everyone has access to the internet but it is still one of the best ways to get an appointment with the Doctor and is an amazing tool for medication reviews and sick notes etc.

At the beginning of the year the PCN introduced a Well-being team. If you came to our Community Flu event, you may have been accosted by them to have your height, weight and blood pressure taken! They come under the headings of Health and Wellbeing Coach, Social Prescriber and Care Coordinator but do not let their titles put you off. They are there to support our patients with their general wellbeing above and beyond what the Doctors can do.

Friends of Hastings House was born and they have

started to raise funds. Their first raffle at Easter raised over £400. Their aim is to fund things at the surgery that the NHS won't pay for. A lot of you will know Wendy Waters and her position here at the surgery is funded by them. They are looking for volunteers and I am the liaison between the surgery and the Friends of Hastings House, so if you would like to volunteer please give me a shout.

Our First Hot Topic Evening was held in May and had a fantastic turn out and response, unfortunately due to covid and illness the next ones had to be cancelled, but watch this space for the future.

We supported several charities throughout the year, including Breast Cancer Now and Jeans for Genes. Raising over £200!! Look out for us in our Christmas jumpers this month, fundraising for Save the Children.

Sadly we saw Martin Whittaker retire last month but we will have two new Doctors joining us soon.

Merry Christmas everyone, see you next year.



Italian Night at the Village Hall. More VH activities – back page

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 JANUARY.