

Nature Notes

From STEVE, Newbold Pacey

As I scribble this Autumn strolls its misty lane towards Winter. The first frosts have spread silver carpets across the grass.



Hedgerows hang with rosehips and hawthorn berries for birds to eat and spread their seeds. Scandinavian Thrushes have crossed the North Sea to oblige hoping for a milder Winter, Redwings with their 'seep, seep' call and the larger Fieldfares with their 'chuckles'.

The mighty Cedar tree has given us its pollen fest. Tens of thousands of tiny green buds develop during August. They continue to grow, looking like candles all over the branches making the Cedar look like a huge Christmas tree in the world. In October the male catkins produce so much pollen that everywhere is covered in a fine yellow powder. I'll always marvel at this magnificent tree.

Meanwhile, under the Magnolia tree the bird table is beyond busy. As I go out to feed them early morning they are waiting - usually ten to twenty Bluetits, half a dozen Great Tits, a couple of Coal tits, a Nuthatch, a Robin, several Chaffinches, lots of Goldfinches and a pair of Collared Doves. Half a jug of Sunflower hearts go on the table and down they come before I walk away. Its all cleared before midday. That's what happens in the right location and a daily guaranteed feeding station.



I've been worried about the Tawny Owls here. Since we moved in over six years ago there's been a pair spending their days dozing in the spinney in front of the cottage. They greet each other in the late afternoon or early evening. For the last few weeks there's only been one owl calling with no reply. Now going back a month or so I remember seeing a small bundle of feathers on the road not far from the village, smaller than a Pheasant and with Tawny markings.

Each evening the remaining Owl would call and keep calling with still no reply. It would move further into the park across the field calling night after night. Tawnies generally mate for life and don't move more than a few miles from where they were born so this seems to be such a loss and so sad to hear the calling every evening. Then today, just before I scribbled this I heard the Owl call and there was an answer. Can't tell you how good that sounded. I'll never know if the Owl had found another mate or one of its offspring had returned. Either way after two months our Owl thankfully has company.

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THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

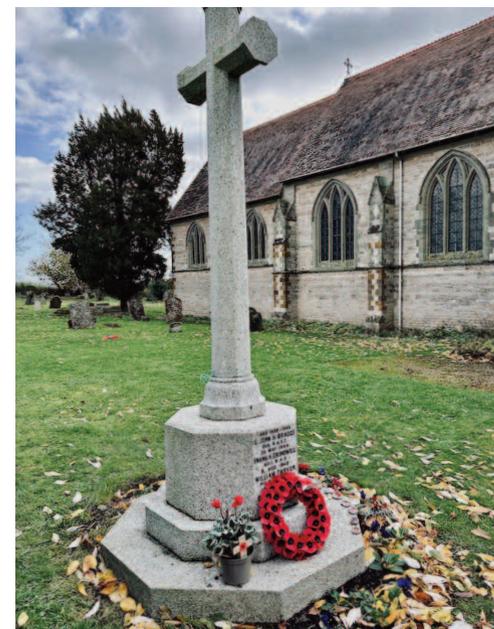
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Moving Remembrance Service

Richard Woodfin led a moving and well-attended Remembrance Sunday Service amid a riot of glorious poppies and eye-catching arrangements to honour the sacrifice of those who fell in two World Wars.

A huge thank you to our scores of nimble-fingered knitters and crochet enthusiasts who created over 1000 poppies to decorate the church, including a striking swathe across the altar rail and the bunches beside each pew. A stunning wheel of purple and blue poppies commemorated the animals that fell in active service, including war horses, dogs and carrier pigeons who all played their part.

What a lot of time, care and effort it took - but the gasps from the congregation as they enjoyed the display and remembered the fallen made it all worthwhile. We much appreciated the company of the smart and impeccably behaved contingent from Lighthorne Heath Scouts and Cubs who processed with their colours. Several went on to rehearse for the prestigious Gang Show in



Leamington and we wish them and their leaders a successful run of performances.



It is wonderful to see the pub open again and so quickly becoming once more a welcome part of village life with delicious food and events such as the monthly quiz on the last Sunday of the month and live music. Thank you to Scott and Claire for bringing it back to life.

[Exciting Village Events – Back Page](#)

Special Village Events

Please save the following two dates:

Village Hall New Year's Day Breakfast

This popular event featuring a big British breakfast for all friends and family. More info through your door nearer the time

Friday, 8th December
80's Christmas Disco. Yeah!

at The Cottage Tavern
Contact the pub for more information

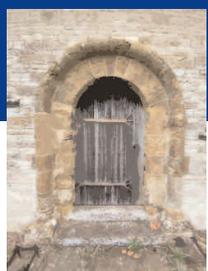


Items for the next edition of VHN...

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



St George's Newbold Pacey



Farewell to our vicar Lynda

Our vicar Lynda led her final service in our Benefice at Chesterton Church on November 19th before leaving to take up her new role as Rector of Broseley in the Hereford Diocese. She goes with our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all her hard work and pastoral care in the Mid-Fosse parishes and we wish her and her family all the best for the future.

The Bishop of Hereford and Archdeacon of Ludlow will welcome Lynda into her new parish at her Institution and Induction in All Saints Church, 12 Church St, Broseley, Shropshire TF12 5DA on Monday December 4th at 7pm, followed by refreshments in the church hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and the organisers would appreciate it anyone intending to go could RSVP to David Lloyd via email: k50dml@hotmail.co.uk or phone: 01952-882095

During the forthcoming interregnum, while we wait to hear the diocese's plans for our parishes, Ruth Worsley, the Bishop Suffragan of Taunton, part of the diocese of Bath and Wells will be coming to oversee and advise us on where we go from here.

The Case of the Vanishing Bank Account

Unhelpfully, Barclays Bank has closed our parish account in error as they failed to upload the mandate our Treasurer had sent them – and then neglected to let us know that they had closed it. If you generally pay a donation to the church by Standing Order, you may have noticed that this has not gone through in the usual way - and this is why. Gifts and payments from recent funerals and other events have likewise not been transferred to the parish account.

Our Treasurer is currently setting up a new St George's bank account which may take a few weeks to establish so in the interim, we'd be grateful if anyone intending to make a payment to the church could wait until the new account is up and running after which all donations and fees will be very welcome. We will be in touch with the details the moment we know them.

Tree of Light Service

Our much-loved Tree of Light Service to commemorate friends and family members who are no longer with us will be held at 4pm on Sunday, December 3rd followed by refreshments. Please contact Pam on 01926-651508 to give her the names of people you would like to be named and remembered and do come warmly dressed as a short section of the service will be outside, weather permitting.

Christmas Services

Looking ahead to Christmas Week, why not take some time out from the last-minute present-wrapping and turkey-trussing to make the perfect start to the festivities at our atmospheric Carol Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve. St George's will also be holding a Family Communion service at 10.30am on Christmas Day. Do contact Pam on 651508 if you have a favourite carol you'd like us to include.

theWI Report

After a busy Community Coffee Morning welcoming friends and neighbours on bonfire weekend, we spent our November members meeting getting Christmas card crafty. We learned the 'iris folding' technique for greetings cards, painted wooden gift tags and tree decorations and tried our hand with washi tape and print pads. Look out for these handmade festive items on sale at our **Christmas Craft Fayre**.

Members left the meeting armed with an amaryllis bulb and care instructions for our festive growing competition. We will be comparing progress and photos in the coming weeks.

December will be a busy month for Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI:

FRIDAY 1 – DOOR WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP in Ashorne Village Hall led by Nicky Jones of Kineton Craft Studio. Three or four places still available, contact Trish if you would like to join us. Bring your own bag of greenery but for £28 per person, everything else is provided (including mulled wine and mince pies).

SATURDAY 2 – CHRISTMAS CRAFTS & COFFEE MORNING in Ashorne Village Hall 10am – midday. Free drinks and mince pies in exchange for donations to LWS Leamington Night Shelter. Lots of lovely homemade crafts to buy: Christmas cakes, greetings cards, tree decorations, gift bags and more. Drop in,



we would love to see you – bring lots of cash!

MONDAY 18 – CAROL SINGING at Bromson Hill Care Home our member and musical director Nicky Atkins of Moreton Morrell will be leading us in an hour of festive vocalising for the residents of our local care home.

Our December members' meeting will be held over dinner at The Malt Shovel in Gaydon where we will take time to chat and relax whilst Mrs Santa distributes gifts and festive cheer. All members of our WI thank friends and neighbours for your support for our community fundraising events this year and wish you a happy healthy Christmas and fun-filled New Year.

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.

Into 2024, and we start with speaker **Tracey Barnbrook** on the subject of **'Health and well-being through gut health'** on Thursday 11 January and in February **Dr Urvasi Sahni** is coming from Warwick University to talk about her work promoting **'Equal opportunities for women and girls in Asia'**. Our walking group and the craft and chat group continue to meet regularly.

Why not come along and give WI a try?

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

Newbold Pacey in the Autumn



In Memoriam Alison Heynes

21.06.1936 - 5.10.2023

Alison had lived in Pool Cottage Newbold Pacey for nearly 60 years during which time she took part with great enthusiasm in the life of the parish and the communities of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne where her beautiful cottage by the pond was well known far and wide for her warm welcome and generous hospitality.

She had a great capacity to enjoy life to the full and, until quite recently, was always out and about visiting friends, going on outings to art galleries, museums and historic houses or enjoying a delicious meal and stimulating conversation.

At her funeral at St George's on October 24th the beautiful flowers in the church reflected her signature love of the autumnal colours of orange and yellow as



did the surrounding foliage in the churchyard and the packed church showed the respect and affection in which she was held by so many.

She was born Mary Alison Friend and as was said in the tributes at the funeral, never was a name more appropriate. Friend by name, friend by nature.