

January Nature Page

Steve Harvey

Early January, just before dawn breaks, Venus hangs brightly in the southern sky. Robins fill their lungs with chilly air and begin to sing. One by one they stake their claim on their chosen tall trees of many shapes and species that stand around me in silhouette as I listen. First light is beginning to make itself known. I'm standing in a circle of five Robins all singing at each other.

The dark shape of a Heron flies silently across Venus. It's large wings in a relaxed flap as it heads towards the lakes at Ashorne. There's more than a hint of pterodactyl about it in this light.

The Robin that holds the territory nearest the cottage has prime position with sunflower hearts rarely running out. He had a partner before the end of last year, he sings, stays near her and chases off any other Robin that comes near to her or the food.

Later that day and near Newbold Comyn an air incident was about to happen. Now, I'm not sure if anyone reads this scribble but, do you remember I wrote last year about a Peregrine that bullied a Gull? Well, I'll carry on anyway. In the same location as before a Gull cried out in panic. It sped away as a Peregrine flew towards me at treetop height. It had no interest in the Gull because it was under attack from two Sparrowhawks. The tables were turned now the Falcon was being bullied by two smaller Hawkes. The Sparrowhawks took turns in flying high then swooping down on the Peregrine. The Falcon's only defence was to turn on its back in mid flight and thrust its feet and talons out in the

direction of the incoming attack. The Sparrowhawks anticipated this and pulled out at the last moment. This went on for a couple of minutes with the Peregrine screaming all the time. The Sparrowhawks had proved a point and flew off.

A few days later a Peregrine flew over me in Norton Lynsey. It came in a straight line from Leamington, looking stunning with all its markings clear to see. It may even have been the same bird.

Back to Ashorne. A bright sunny morning and an interesting encounter with a Fox. It trotted up behind the Village Hall. I couldn't resist trying to get its attention. There's a noise you can make, a sort of squeak an injured Rabbit might make. So I made it. The Fox stopped, turned to face me although it was some way off, and sat down just as a dog would have done. It spent a few moments looking in my direction scrutinising for any movement then trotted off. I love a little moment like that.

Now a few minutes after that and within a few yards there was a rare and exotic African bird wondering about as large as life. It looked very dapper in grey plumage. It had a white face, red jowls and a black neck. The bird stood a little taller than a chicken and seemed to have no fear of passing cars.

Not a single Twitcher stirred in a bush. Of course, if I told you it was an escaped Guinea Fowl that would only ruin the story. If that Fox gets its scent it may well be an extinct exotic bird!

Deadline for next issue is March 15th. Please send items for inclusion to Christine Thornton, 1 The Green (Tel 651436) or Judy Cooper, High Paddock (Tel 651315). You are welcome to send items by email or on disc, as well as on paper. Email: jinandchris@googlemail.com or judycooper21@btinternet.com

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 139: JANUARY 2019

Demob tea

Over 30 people attended the traditional tea party in the Village Hall on December 30th 2018 to commemorate the ending of World War.

During the event the metal poppy, commissioned by the Parish Council and made at Moreton Morrell College, was unveiled by Mrs Molly Kearns. The afternoon ended with the singing of well-known songs from the period led by Mick Oakley.



THE VILLAGE HALL

Lunch Club

This event takes place at the Village Hut on the third Monday of every month at 12.30. The cost is £5 for a home cooked 2 course meal plus tea or coffee. To book please contact Chris Thornton 01926 651436 or Mary Cobb 01926 651377 by the previous Friday.

Film Screening

Christopher Robin is showing at Ashorne Village Hut on Sunday 27th January at 4.00pm. Tickets will be £4 on the door or £3 if ordered in advance from Chris Thornton 01926 651377 or Mary Cobb 01926 651377. Light refreshments will be available to purchase.

Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Village Hut AGM on Monday, 28th January at 7.00pm. All are welcome to come along and meet the committee and trustees. Cheese and wine will be served and all ideas for future social events will be very welcome. We should be very pleased to welcome new members onto the committee.

New chairs

We have received a grant towards our refurbishment of the Village Hall and have ordered 30 new chairs similar to the 20 already purchased. We therefore have 50 of the old stacking chairs to dispose of at £3 each on. Please contact Jim or Chris Thornton on 01926651436

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Council meeting on 9th January

The Council was pleased to co-opt Paul Brazzell to the Council. Paul responded to the 'Your Parish Council needs you' flyer which came out in the Village Hut newsletter. There will be further vacancies after March. Anyone who is interested should use the further information for prospective councillors at WALC.ORG.UK/BE-A-COUNCILLOR. Briefings are being held in Southam on 7th February, and Stratford on 11th February and see further details below.

We are making progress is on current projects. The replacement Jubilee trees should have arrived, and planting will be taking place shortly. Delivery has been delayed because we wanted more mature trees which took longer for our supplier to source. We agreed to make a grant of £500 towards improvements in the Village Hall.

We have had to face a significantly increased

bill for water at the allotments. We will discuss the necessary action at our March meeting.

The Council also agreed to make an increase of 2.25% in the Council Tax paid for Parish expenses.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 on 6th March in the Village Hall.

David Johnston - Chair of the Council
davjohnston@hotmail.com (01789 841100)

Or contact our clerk, Cat Price, at npapclerk@gmail.com

As you maybe aware Our Parish Councillors are up for election on May 2nd and we will only have 3 of the present Councillors putting their names forward for the 6 seats available, so at least 3 new Councillors will be required.

With this in mind You may be interested in finding out a little more before getting involved. So why not attend one of these sessions below.

Prospective Councillor Briefings

These events are free and open to any member of the public considering standing for election as a Parish Councillor. We will be explaining how to become a Councillor; what is expected of you and why it can be very rewarding.

These briefings have been timed to allow consideration before the election process that will take place in May".

The session will cover

- How to become a Councillor.
- What will be expected of you.
- Why being a Parish Councillor can be particularly rewarding.
- All course sessions run from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Dates

- 16-Jan Rugby Rugby Borough
- 24-Jan Leamington Warwick District
- 28-Jan Solihull Solihull MBC
- 7-Feb Southam Stratford on Avon District
- 11-Feb Stratford Stratford on Avon District
- 28-Feb Atherstone North Warwickshire

Further information for prospective councillors WALC.ORG.UK/BE-A-COUNCILLOR

WI Craft & Chat Group

Committee Room, Ashorne Village Hall – every Tuesday 10am – midday

Come along with your current knitting or sewing project and join us for a cuppa. We will be working on our WI centenary wall hanging, knitting cardigans for premature babies at Warwick Hospital as well as little hats for the Age UK 'Big Knit' charity project.

Contact: Trish Handsley, Krys Pietrecki npandawi@gmail.com

St George's Church

It was lovely to see so many at the Carol Service and at the New year Breakfast. I hope that you all enjoyed both events. Thank you to Marilyn and Margaret for staging the nativity scene at the church. Just a reminder that wreaths on the graves should be removed by the end of January.

We hope that this year will see the instalment of a new vicar. The Churchwardens of the benefice are getting together to move things forward.
Priscilla Cook

St George's 100 Club – update

Our first draw was held at the village Christmas lunch at the Cottage Tavern on 17th December. A grand total of £160 was won by Peter Elliott, Ashorne.

There is still time for you to be a lucky winner in March or in future draws. You can join for just £1 a week / £4 a month. The prizes increase with the number of people joining.

To enter, pick up a form from Kate Freeman (01926 650636) or from the Cottage Tavern."

WI Community Coffee Mornings

in Ashorne Village Hall

Saturday 4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December 10am – midday,

The Saturday Coffee Mornings continue to attract friends and neighbours. Homemade cake, a steaming cuppa, toasted teacakes dripping with butter, newspapers to read, books, cakes and plants to buy – what is not to like?

This is a community initiative from Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI to raise funds for the group's Centenary celebrations during 1919.

Everyone welcome - as are homemade/home-grown donations for the produce table.

Contacts: Trish Handsley and Heather Jack npandawi@gmail.com

Coffee Morning in aid of Myton Hospice

Committee Room, Ashorne Village Hall
10:30am – 12:00 on the first Wednesday of the month Contact: Pam Cook, Cilla Cook

WI Report August

2019 is our centenary year and Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI members are looking forward to a wide and varied programme of speakers, activities and outings – and to welcoming lots of visitors and new members!

We started the year with speaker Steve Ely Allen who entertained us with a very interesting performance of folk-songs and beautiful slide show reflecting the social and political history of the 19th century. A thought provoking evening.

Our 2019 speakers will be as follows:

February 14 – Glass and ceramics with Di Vernon

March 14 – Laughter yoga with Janice Crumpton-Bruff

April 11 – Script writing with Harry Duffin

May 9 – WI Resolutions discussion

June 13 – Style counselling with Susan Rasmussen

July 11 – A history of Warwick with Trevor Langley

August 8 – Centenary celebration afternoon tea

September 12 – Travel through the years with Lucy Morgan

October 10 – Women's health with a speaker from Nuffield Health

November 14 will be our AGM

December 14 – 1920s style dinner and dance

If you fancy having a giggle and getting mobile or feel you have a book in your head crying to get out or want a bit of a style refresher, do come along and give us a try - 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30pm in Ashorne Village Hall. We have a year full of fun ahead and are keen to welcome guests and new members at any of our meetings.

Trish Handsley, President 2019
Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI
npandawi@gmail.com