

March Nature Column

Steve Harvey

Dawn among the hardy Ferns, Snowdrops now bow their crisp white heads alongside Primroses (prime-rose) the first rose. Although not really a rose it's a nice thought.

The singing Robins are now joined by Song Thrushes, Wrens, Great Tits, Doves and the Wood pigeon with its well known hit song "My toe bleeds Betty". They don't write them like that anymore!

The Great Spotted Woodpecker drums away on its two favourite dead branches. On 11 February I heard my first Chaffinch and a quick blast of Blackbird. We have the first lambs in the Sheep field so Spring is easing her way in at last.

The Foxes are a little quieter at night now, the "family planning" is done. The screaming has given way to new calls. There's now a long note that's called with more than a hint of 'Gibbon' about it. A contact call between them. The breeding season was a dangerous time. Foxes move around a lot then. I've seen five killed on the roads in the area. Our pair seem well bonded, now they just have to have their Cubs and rear them safely. Good luck.

Krista saw a pair of Muntjac walk in front of the cottage before slinking into the trees. It would be

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

Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Village Show

Bank Holiday Monday 26 August 2pm-5pm
Homemade and home grown flowers, fruit, vegetables and crafts and well behaved pets – show classes for all, open to NP&A villagers and their families.

Show programmes will be available end of May. Registration closes 5pm on Saturday 23 August.

Trish Handsley - Show organiser. 01926 651978

great to see a youngster from them.

I was a few miles away recently and watched a Buzzard against blue sky flying at tree top height. From behind me flew a Red Kite. They saw each other, didn't get too close and showed some respect. That's the second peaceful encounter I've seen.

There was a noisy commotion outside the cottage at the weekend. Not the neighbours but birds! Over where the Yew trees are was a rabble of small birds all shouting abuse. Blackbirds, Bluetits and Chaffinches, even a couple of Jackdaws joined in. They flew in circles around the edge of the Yew near the top. I guessed why they were voicing their opinions so I got nearer to see if I could prove it. Once under the beautiful old tree I stood still while the birds continued their protest. Me arriving was probably the last straw for the larger bird being mobbed. Sure enough a Tawny Owl leaned forward then flew 100 yards to another tree. It was only trying to sleep and was no real threat to the smaller birds. At least I got to see it close up. Interesting how separate species join together in a common cause to make an effort and change a situation. Hmmmmmm maybe a lesson there.

WI Community Coffee Mornings in Ashorne Village Hall

6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November, 7th December.

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

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

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Pancake Race
After an absence of many years the village pancake race from the pub to the village hall was revived. Great fun was had by all the participants.

Bacon butties in the Village Hall

Saturday 30th March 10am – 1pm

While some Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI members are out around the roads leading into and out of the village picking litter as part of the Great British Spring Clean, others will be serving tea/coffee and bacon butties in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Those participating in the litter pick should meet at the village hall at 9:30am for a safety briefing and to collect picking equipment, hi-viz jackets, disposable gloves and refuse sacks. We are grateful for the support of Stratford District Council Streetscene team in providing some of these items.

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 npanda-wi@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Geoffrey Hutsby, the oldest resident of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne, has died aged 104. Mr Hutsby was well known in the local farming and horse racing community and had lived at Newbold Pacey for many years. His funeral took place on the most glorious spring day and the church was packed with friends and family. We send our condolences to the members of his family.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Council meeting on 6th March

The Council was pleased to co-opt Lee Tranter to the Council. Lee responded to the 'Your Parish Council needs you' flyer which came out in the Village Hut newsletter. This was the last meeting of the Council before the elections in May. Our Clerk, Cat Price will be very happy to help anyone interested in standing for the Council.

We are making progress on current projects. The replacement Jubilee trees have been planted, thanks to Ed Naujokas, John Beale and Andrew Hopkins for their time and equipment. Thanks also to Julie Pate. Various Highway works are underway, as evidenced by the various road closures around!

We had a useful conversation with allotment holders on water management. Action to deal with possible leaks has been taken, thanks to

Matt Bates, and we will be making a complaint concerning reading the meter with Waterplus, (Severn-Trent as was).

This is my last report as Chair of the Council. Could I thank both Clerks, Pam Routly and Cat Price, for keeping me on the straight and narrow, all members of the Council with whom I have worked, and all those members of the community for their unfailing assistance in whatever we have been trying to do?

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 on 15th May in the Village Hall. At the same time the Annual Parish Meeting will be held. Do please come along.

David Johnston - Chair of the Council
davjohnston@hotmail.com

01789 841100

Or contact our clerk,
Cat Price on npapcclerk@gmail.com

The Village Hall

New Charges At the AGM in January it was decided that, as income from lettings is no longer covering running costs, a small price increase was needed. The new prices can be seen on the notice board outside the hall.

Plea for volunteers The Hut Committee now has only 7 members so we are looking for people to join us or who would be prepared to help us at the occasional event..

Please speak to Chris Thornton or any of the Committee members listed on the noticeboard, or come along to one of our meetings or events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Walk and lunch April 7th. Bring your dog and meet at the village hall at 10.30. Lunch will be available at 1pm. Please book your lunch with Chris Thornton (01926651436) by Wednesday April 3rd. Non-walkers are welcome to come just for lunch

Race Night. We are planning to have a race night in May. Look out for details nearer the time Webmaster required. We are shortly going to need a volunteer to maintain our website. Please contact Jim Jack if you would be interested in helping us in this way.

Monthly lunch Don't forget that a two course lunch plus tea or coffee is available at 12.30 on the third Monday of every month at 12.30 in the village hall. Cost £5 Please let Chris Thornton know if you would like to attend.

St George's Church

St George's Church, Newbold Pacey: Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Our APCM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd April in the Committee Room at the village hall. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone welcome. Whether you are a newcomer to the area, a regular worshipper or simply interested, everyone on the Church Electoral Roll which is just being updated, can attend and have their say on how our lovely church is run.

New Electoral Roll at St George's

What is the Electoral Roll? The church's Electoral Roll is the register of its voting members, who are qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Who can be on the Electoral Roll? Anyone over 16 who has been baptised and who lives in the parish of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne, or who has worshipped regularly at St George's for at least six months.

Why join? Enrolment gives you a voice in the life of the church at parish, deanery, diocesan and national levels. In times of change like these having your say is more important than ever.

How to join. The roll is completely renewed every six years. Everyone who wishes to have their name entered on the roll has to apply for membership, whether or not they are on the existing roll. The enrolment period is open now. The new roll will be displayed in church prior to the APCM in April.

Application forms are available from: Sally Grant (Electoral Roll Officer for St George's Church)
M:07860-346878 or Tel: 01926-651277.

Address: Crane Hill, Newbold Road, Ashorne, Warwick CV35 9DX

Do please consider joining the electoral roll and having a say in the future of St George's.

The Good Friday walk

The walk will start at Chesterton this year. See the parish magazine for details of times. Non walkers are welcome to join us for a simple lunch at Ashorne village hall at 12.30. There's no charge for this but, as ever, donations will be welcomed. A service will be held at St George's at 2pm.

WI Report

Our February meeting was all about glass and ceramics when we welcomed speaker Di Vernon, midwife turned glass maker, ceramicist and blacksmith from Nuneaton. Di was a fascinating and enthusiastic speaker, explaining the various techniques she uses and how her hobby has taken over her life and become her full-time job.

Our March meeting was full of laughter – literally, as we experienced Laughter Yoga with Warwick-based practitioner Janice Crompton-Brough. Jan explained the health and wellbeing benefits of giggling, chuckling, sniggering through to full blown belly laughing. She led us through a few warm up exercises, got us on our feet, arranged us in a matrix laying on the floor and finally switched the lights down to allow us to enjoy a mindful relaxation exercise. An uplifting and hilarious evening made all the better by everyone's willing participation.

30 March will see WI members out around the village, litter picking as part of the Great British Spring Clean 2019 campaign. We believe that litter degrades the beauty of our environment, harms wildlife and is not acceptable. Between 10am and 1pm we will be working on the roads in and out of the village, wearing hi-viz jackets, using equipment loaned by Stratford District Council. We will also have the hall open to serve bacon butties and tea. See separate notice.

In early April as part of our centenary celebrations a group of us will travel to Chavenage House, near Tetbury where many period dramas including Poldark have been filmed. We will be meeting up with ladies from our twin WI, Tredington & Blackwell for a tour of the house and a Cotswold Afternoon Tea. Then on our normal meeting date, we look forward to meeting local script writer Harry Duffin to hear of his career and experiences.

If you fancy a giggle 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