

**Just before first light as the trees begin to reveal their shapes a welcome sound floats from the spinny and past the Cedar tree then in through the bedroom window.**

The Owls are coming home! A soft “Woo, who” and the first Owl has landed. It calls again and its partner answers with the same call. A little further away the “Keek” of the youngsters. They’ve been out all night hunting for mice and voles. Now, as we face getting out of bed for a cuppa tea the Owl family prepare to settle down to sleep.

I had a call from Lesley. She had found a tiny Hedgehog in the middle of the road not far from us. It wasn’t moving but didn’t appear injured. I guess it was just frozen to the spot with fear. Lesley picked it up and saved its life! I popped round to collect it and was surprised at how tiny it was. It easily sat in the palm of my hand and weighed about 15gms, that’s half the minimum weight to survive the winter. I passed it onto an expert I’d been told about. She turned out to be an amazing lady, a bit like Mrs Tiggywinkle herself, living in a little stone cottage with a black cat, spending her time looking after Hedgehogs. When I arrived the little Hedgehog was carefully inspected then injected with fluids to rehydrate it. It was popped into a red woollen hat Mrs Tiggywinkle had knitted earlier ( of course she had!. This was just like walking into a Beatrix Potter book - how lovely). A heat pad was added and into a box in the living room it was put. A few days later I called to see how it was doing. She said, “Just fine and

she’s putting on weight”. All being well she will be released here.

Just a quick thought. If you are going to build a bonfire soon, if you can, leave the actual building until the day of the fire, that way Hedgehogs won’t get a chance to creep into the pile thinking it’s a safe place to hibernate.

Right then, that rare bird! I was approached by Terry in Bishop’s Tachbrook. He had a tale to tell of a very unusual bird in his garden. Now, when you’re used to seeing Bluetits and Robins to look out of the window and see a white bird, with a black head and a very long beak standing about 75cms tall, or to me about 2ft 6ins. it’s certainly eye catching. Even more surprising this bird was a Black-headed Ibis common on the Indian sub-continent. How did it get this far? The Ibis stalked the fish in the pond but didn’t catch any, then flew up on the garage roof. The ‘Google Machine’ was called for. There I found these birds had been kept in Europe and escaped since the 1800s. There are colonies in France so this one may have escaped from an English collection or crossed the Channel. If only the twitchers had known Tachbrook would have been gridlocked!

I do remember many, many years ago when I worked in Alveston I grabbed my pushbike to cycle home only to look up in time to see a Pelican flying overhead! Who knows where that came from! That’s probably the first time and last time I’ll ever see a ‘Pelican crossing’ above me!

**Steve**

Deadline for next issue is January 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 144: NOVEMBER 2019

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION

**2019 has been the WI's centenary and in 2020 it will be 100 years since Mrs Bouch gave the original hut and land to the community. To commemorate this there will be an event on May 2nd 2020. Look out for details nearer the time**

Mid November we held our WI Annual Meeting where we looked back at a very busy and eventful centenary year. We elected our officers then had a fun accessory swap of bags, scarves and jewellery. All remaining items were donated to Shakespeare Hospice Charity shop in Wellesbourne. More donations of warm clothing, toiletries and food were collected for the night shelter. We ate a warming pie



supper cooked and delivered by the lovely Lesley of The Cottage Tavern.

Trish Handsley, President 2019

Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI Npandawi@gmail.com

### WI Report

October and November have been busy months for Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI as we approach the end of our centenary year.

**Mid October** – we were joined by friends from Bishops Tachbrook WI to get creative at an Indian Block Printing workshop with Hannah Thompson of Stitching Kitchen, Brackley. We all left with bright colourful tea towels and tote bags having mastered a new skill.

**November** – began with our monthly coffee morning which happened to coincide with the England v South Africa Rugby World Cup match so understandably attendance was low. However all those that came, brought a donation for our Leamington Winter Support night shelter appeal. Thanks to Jim Jack for taking the donations of clothing, food and toiletries to the shelter. We had a lovely thank you note from the shelter organisers.

**Mid November** – see main article above.

**December** – our coffee morning will double as a craft fayre then for our finale to our centenary year we’ll be joined by partners and friends for a 1920s style evening with a 3-course meal and singer Betsy Harmony singing songs across the decades – we’ll even be trying to learn the Charleston!

**January** – First WI meeting of 2020 will be on Thursday 9 January when we’ll welcome Nick Martin to share tales of secret wildlife in his garden. In February we’ll be trying Walking Netball and running a Bollywood Dance workshop which should be fun!

If you fancy hearing about garden wildlife, walking netball, Bollywood dancing or just popping out for a chat and a cuppa, do come along and give our WI a try - 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30pm in Ashorne Village Hall. We have a new year full of fun ahead and are keen to welcome guests and new members at any of our meetings.

Trish Handsley, President 2020 Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI Npandawi@gmail.com

# THE CHURCH OF ST GEORGE

## Tree of Light

This year's service will take place at St George's on Sunday 1st December at 4 pm, giving us the chance to remember loved ones no longer with us. Names are recorded in the memorial book which is displayed in the church throughout the year. During this much-loved service the lights on the tree outside the church are switched on and the names are read out. Everyone is very welcome to come along to take part and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. If you would like the name of a loved one recorded, please contact Pam Cook on 01926 651508 or e-mail us on [newboldstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:newboldstgeorge@gmail.com). Pam will also be happy to accept any donations.

## Carols at Christmas

We will once again hold a short service of Carols for Christmas at 3 pm on Christmas Eve, lasting around 45 minutes. Do come along to get Christmas off to a good start by joining in with some well-loved carols. If you have a favourite carol please e-mail [newboldstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:newboldstgeorge@gmail.com) by Monday 9th December and we'll include the most popular.

## Bonfire

Thanks to everyone who braved the stormy weather to come along. Pete Elliot and Tony Philpott did a great job of organising the magnificent firework display and Ray Cook managed to get the bonfire going well in spite of all the rain. Many thanks to our 'fast food supremos' Lisa and Nigel Hyde for producing all those delicious hot dogs, and to the regular 'catering team' for drinks and soup. We raised almost £250. We hope to do it again next year – with good weather (fingers crossed!) and mulled wine on order.

## WI Community Coffee Mornings in Ashorne Village Hall

First Saturday of the month - 10am – midday  
7th December Xmas Craft items for sale. Perfect little gifts for friends.

Homemade cake, a steaming cuppa, toasted teacakes dripping with butter, newspapers to read, books, cakes to buy – what is not to like? There may also be mince pies...

This is a community initiative from Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI. Everyone welcome.

Contacts: Trish Handsley and Heather Jack  
[npandawi@gmail.com](mailto:npandawi@gmail.com)

## Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to the young people of Lighthorne Heath who joined us once again to parade their colours, always a very moving part of the service.

## Roll the credits!

As we reach the end of another year we'd like to thank all those who give their support to St George's in so many ways. Listing everyone by name would take up most of the space in the magazine! Thank you to everyone who keeps the church looking lovely by cleaning, arranging flowers and decorating for special occasions. To Ray Cook for hours of mowing, strimming and bonfiring throughout the year and to Tony Philpott and his team of volunteers for seasonal pruning and lopping. There are those who lock and unlock the church – keeping it open for visitors all year round, those who read at services, deliver magazines, provide music and refreshments, promote events and raise funds. Without your support there would be no St George's. All offers of help and donations for next year gratefully received.

This year we would also like to thank all the clergy who have supported us by taking services during the interregnum – we really do hope we won't need your help for much longer!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Plough service – Saturday 25th January 2020** at St Mark's Church, Bilton, Rugby CV22 7LX at 3pm. The plough service moves to a different church in the diocese each year. It's a traditional celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. Everyone welcome.

## 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 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.

Contact: Trish Handsley, Pam Cook  
[npandawi@gmail.com](mailto:npandawi@gmail.com)



## THE VILLAGE HALL

### New Year's Day Breakfast

In 2020 it will be the turn of the Village Hall Committee to organise the Village Breakfast which, over the years, has become a popular village tradition. It provides an opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours, and enjoy a traditional cooked breakfast, or even just tea and toast. Our problem for this coming year is that there are only 7 of us on the Hut Committee, some of whom will be unable to help on the day and so we are asking anybody who can offer to help with serving, clearing tables, washing up etc to get in touch. The Village Breakfast will take place from 10 am to 12 pm on 1st January.

Please contact Chris Thornton on 01926651436 or email [jimandchris@gmail.com](mailto:jimandchris@gmail.com)

### AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Committee will be in January on a date yet to be arranged. As you will have seen above, we are very short of numbers and would dearly love to welcome new members to join us. We meet in the evening every month in the hall and our main purpose is to keep the hut going for use by villagers and others and to organise social events, both for the benefit of the community and to raise funds to pay for the running costs of the hall and pay for any refurbishments.

If you would like to join us please look out for publication of the date of the AGM and come along to the meeting or talk to any of the Committee listed on the noticeboard in the hut entrance. Thank you

### Centenary Celebration

Look out for news of plans to commemorate the WI's centenary – there will be an event on May 2nd 2020. Details nearer the time.

### Burns' Night

We are hoping to hold a Burns' Night Supper on January 25. Details to follow.

### Spa Babies

We have lots of different activities taking place in the village hall nowadays and it is great that it is being used during the daytime as well as at night. The latest booking is from Lisa at Spa Babies and she wants to introduce herself and what she is doing:

I would like to introduce myself to the lovely community of Ashorne. My name is Lisa and I run Spa Babies which was formed whilst I was on maternity leave with my second baby boy Jax.

Spa Babies was created to give a moment of zen in the chaotic beginnings of parenthood and designed to help relax both baby and parents and promote parent-child bonding. With the use of baby whirlpool baths, positive touch, baby facials and a spa photography area we offer an experience like no other.

I have recently introduced this experience to Ashorne Village Hall after the success and high demand at my Solihull venue.

I hope to meet you as many of you as possible and look forward to bringing the experience to Ashorne.

Spa Babies will be running at Ashorne Village Hall every Wednesday at 11.30 and 13.00.

Prior booking is essential via either of the below.

Facebook @spababiesltd  
Instagram @spa.babies  
Email [info@spababies.co.uk](mailto:info@spababies.co.uk)