

APRIL NATURE PAGE

March came in like a lion, wet enough for a Sea Lion! While Blackthorn's white blossom sprinkles the hedgerows, we know we're not out of Winter yet. (I'm scribbling this in March)

Though Hawthorn bursts more bright green leaves every day proclaiming, "Try and stop us now!" Willows are covering their slender branches with green; Primroses are flourishing and Wild Arums and Garlic push through the earth as the Snowdrops fade. The first Bumble Bees are busy and so are a few Honey Bees. The Froggies have all 'gone a-courting' big time in next-door's pond. All making waves and producing lots of spawn.

It's getting magical in the mornings, hearing the dawn chorus and with the day's growing longer birds sing in the evenings too. In the Winter it's often the Robin that breaks the silence, not now though, it's the mighty klaxon of the Pheasant. There's a handful of males near the cottage. Each evening they make their way up their chosen trees, well out of the way of the Fox. First thing, even before its light they blast their calls declaring their territories. I have a close one again, hungry enough to be brave. Now it knows me it will follow me down the garden knowing it will be fed. As I feed the Pheasant there's a Collard Dove that watches from the roof. When I put the food on the bird table it lands before I can turn around. They are all creatures of habit, just like me! Once you understand each other's ways interaction begins.

Driving out of Wellesbourne, the light beginning to fade and a Barn Owl glides along the hedge tops. Beautiful pale shape, looking down, hoping to hear Mice or Voles. It drops then rises again, nothing found. That's the fourth time I've seen

that Owl. A mile away our pair of Tawneys call each evening and often near dawn. Almost time to nest again. On 20th February we all settled down by the fire, cats and all. After a while, and probably about to doze off, out little female cat, Effy, suddenly lifted her head. She had heard something outside. I heard nothing but then I'm only human. She struggled trying to move the curtain. I gave her a hand expecting to see a Fox out there but, no, it was our first Hedgehog of the year. Made it through Winter and was crunching dried cat food I'd put out just in case. The next night I saw a smaller one in the back garden. I started putting out food regularly, always in the same places. By the end of the week I saw three together. So, they've survived their first Winter here and away they go! By the middle of March two Hedgehogs were definitely making amorous manoeuvres. I couldn't hope for more. Of course, I left them in peace.



Deadline for next issue is May 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 146: MARCH 2020

THE VILLAGE HALL URGENT MESSAGE

As of Monday March 16, in line with government advice, the Village Hall Committee will not be holding any social or fund-raising events until further notice. People who have hired the hall may still be going ahead, although many hirers have already cancelled their bookings.

Last year the income from lettings just about matched the running costs of the hall. Although some costs may be reduced during the coming months, our income from lettings will be very much depleted. Once the current covid-19 situation has calmed and life is back to normal there will be an urgent need to raise funds if the hall is to continue as a village amenity.

Could we ask everybody to use this break from normal routine to come up with ideas for getting us up and running again? Thank you.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The work on the refurbishment of the toilets is currently underway and we thank all our users for their patience and understanding during this period of temporary disruption.

ROOF REPAIRS

We are embarking on a major campaign to replace the roof tiles and redecorate where the water ingress has caused damage. Estimates received put the cost in the region of £40,000 and so we are applying for grants towards this sum from a number of providers. Grants will be dependent on community support for the project and also on the raising of a sum in excess of £4,000 by the village. We are very grateful for the letters of support already received from users and villagers and for the offers of fundraising by different groups which obviously will be put on hold now.



Our Village Hall trustees are organising a "Donate a Tile" scheme which will be similar to the "Buy a Brick" scheme we had in 1983 when named bricks purchased supported the rebuilding of the "New" village hall. This time for the gift of £10 (or, preferably, more) you will be able to have a name or names recorded on a permanent display to be put up in the hall. We shall be contacting people about this scheme and visiting houses later in the year to ask for your support. However, should you wish to donate now, please see the separate flier for details.

ON-LINE FUNDRAISING

The Village Hall has currently registered for two online schemes, Easy-Fundraising and Amazon Smile. Neither of these schemes will cost you anything.

How does it work?

Easyfundraising: Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal.

Amazon Smile:

Amazon helps charities from their 'Amazon Smile' page and we have registered the Village Hall with them. Go to smile.amazon.co.uk. Then you can select your chosen charity, so look up 'Ashorne Village Hut' on the drop-down menu.

VILLAGE HALL CHARGES

At the recent AGM it was agreed that although we are needing to raise money, in view of the current state of the kitchen and the disruption caused by building and repair work, the charges for the hire of the hall would remain at the 2019 level. A full list of these charges can be found on the noticeboard.

St George's Church, Newbold Pacey

There will be no services at St George's until further notice, but the church will be open as usual for private prayer.

FAREWELL

to parish stalwart Nancy Little

St George's Church was packed as we said goodbye to our much-loved parishioner Nancy Little at her moving memorial service early in March. Nancy who died at the great age of 92 had been at the heart of village life for decades. Family and friends paid tribute to her kindness, generosity and dedication to the local community, several remarking how much she would have loved the glorious array of primroses, celandines and daffodils carpeting the churchyard. Afterwards everyone enjoyed swapping stories and memories of Nancy amid typically sumptuous Little hospitality during her wake at Newbold Pacey Hall, the setting of so many village meetings, fund-raisers and celebrations. She will be much missed throughout the area.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was due to have been held on 22nd April but has now been indefinitely postponed.

Sponsor a chair at Newbold Pacey Church

We hope to replace more of our old chairs with the smart blue upholstered ones. If you are interested in sponsoring a chair to commemorate a special event, or in memory of a loved one, please email newboldstgeorge@gmail.com They make a useful and much-appreciated memorial. Chairs cost around £90, which includes a plaque with your inscription.

WI REPORT

To avoid transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we are following Government guidelines on 'social distancing' and therefore WI meetings and Coffee Mornings will be suspended until further notice.

In early February we were sad to hear of the passing of Nancy Little, one of our longest-standing WI members. Nancy's mother in law Mrs Georgiana Little was our founder Chairman in 1919 and Nancy has held many committee roles contributing greatly to our WI over the years. A lovely lady who will be missed. Many members attended Nancy's thanksgiving service and shared memories with William, Judith and the wider family at Newbold Pacey Hall afterwards.

For our February meeting, we tried Walking Netball. 45 minutes of non-stop activity had us peeling off the layers, checking our 'landing foot' and evoking memories of school netball fun. At the end of February, we were joined by WI members from across the county to learn a Bollywood Dance with tutor Rita Joshi. The song track, often used for symbolic dancing before a Hindu wedding where the bride's party playfully mock the 'soon to be' groom with their dance moves, was energetic and we felt we'd had another good workout. Highly recommended.

In March we welcomed Vanessa Cooper of ARC Shed Folk Art who talked about the origins of adornment of pots, pans and containers. We then spent a quiet hour, mindfully engaging in painting dotty designs and vintage roses on hearts. Very mentally cleansing and a nice break from talk of Coronavirus.

Our Walking Group meets on the last Friday of the month so we're hoping we can still get out (so long as we keep our 2m distance) and explore the lovely Warwickshire countryside.

We have postponed our WI meetings from April onwards, please check future editions of Hut News and our Facebook page for updates.

When life returns to normal we'd love to see new members and guests. If you've decided that 2020 is the year you are going to join WI, start rambling, Bollywood dancing, learning about folk art or bees 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.

Trish Handsley, President 2020 Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI

npandawi@gmail.com

Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire

Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashornewi

WI REPORT

CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

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

Coffee Morning in aid of Myton Hospice

Committee Room, Ashorne Village Hall
10:30am – 12:00 on the first Thursday of the month

Contact: Pam Cook

WI Community Coffee Mornings Ashorne Village Hall

First Saturday of the month

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

CURRENTLY SUSPENDED