

VILLAGE HUT NEWS MAY 2020

WI Report

In April we were very sad to hear of the death of our dear friend, neighbour and long-time WI member, Molly Kearns. Molly had reached the ripe age of 97 and was well known across the Parish for her determined independence, wonderful flapjack and sartorial elegance. Molly will be greatly missed by all in WI and our thoughts and prayers are with the Braggs family at their time of loss.

Whilst many of our members are by necessity 'self-isolating' during the Covid-19 virus lockdown, that doesn't mean your village WI is inactive. We are keeping in touch with each other by phone, email, WhatsApp and Facebook; supporting our local community and keeping our minds active.

- We have set up the village phone box as a Book and Jigsaw Swap – help yourself but don't forget to wash your hands before and after visiting!
- We've been using Zoom for members meetings and quizzes and for those not online, our social whizz Helen Oakley has also been setting paper-based options
- Craft-wise we've not been slacking: Pauline Prestt and Trish are sewing scrubs sets for NHS clinical staff as part of the Warwickshire Scrubbers initiative and Pam, Margaret and Pat continue to knit tiny cardigans and hats for Warwick Hospital Special Care Baby Unit as well as hats, scarves and gloves for the WI Homeless appeal. No doubt we will be moving on to make face coverings – watch this space.
- For VE Day we decorated our houses, displayed WW2 family service stories and enjoyed a front garden picnic in the sunshine. We also baked cakes and sold quizzes to villagers raising more than £160 for the Village Hut Roof Appeal.
- And of course, we are all out there at 8pm on Thursday evenings banging pots, pans, bells and enjoying Simon on his trumpet in recognition of all our NHS and public service workers.

We are hoping that in the coming weeks, our Walking Group will be able to meet again – why not join us to explore the lovely Warwickshire countryside. We'd love to see new members and guests – maybe online before in person! If you would like to join our Zoom Quiz on Thursday 28 May starting 7:15pm (break for NHS clapping) then re-group at 8:15pm for answers, please contact Trish.

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Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI Npandawi@gmail.com
Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire
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WI Family Sunflower Growing Competition

Let's bring joy, cheer and colour to Ashorne this summer and raise funds for the Village Hut Roof Appeal by planting sunflowers in all our gardens. A great project for those home-schooling!

- Monday 25 May (Bank Holiday) collect your giant sunflower plants from Trish on the Green in exchange for a cash donation
- Through June, July and August plant your sunflower out, look after it, support it and watch it grow...
- Monday 31 August (Bank Holiday) the final measure, enjoy a walk around the village to see the competitors.

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The Church of St George

At the time of writing the church remains closed. The diocese, following national guidance, is considering how a phased lifting of restrictions can be implemented. Any news about this will be put on the website www.midfosse.co.uk where you will also find the parish magazine. In the meantime, services continue to be streamed on the St Peter's Kineton Live Stream page on Facebook.

Gordon Mitchell

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the care and love shown towards Gordon and myself during recent months as his health declined. Sadly, he passed away on 10th May at home following a short time in hospital. I have been overwhelmed by the messages of support; cards, flowers and food that I have received. Gordon and I have been so lucky to have lived in Ashorne and made so many friends. I shall miss him hugely but have many wonderful memories of someone who has been described as a "lovely man" and a "real character". Gordon never lost his ability to charm people and make them feel special and indeed two days before he died, he was pulling faces and trying to kiss the nurses!

Mary Cobb

The Village Hall

May 2020 marks one hundred years since the village hall and the land on which it stands were given to the village by Mrs Bouch. We had planned to mark the occasion by a village event, but sadly, this has had to be put on hold. A plaque which was originally in the old hut is above the above the doors from the main hall into the entrance hall and commemorates this gift. Once things are back to normal, we shall be having a proper celebration.

The Hut Committee was very sad to learn of the recent death of Gordon Mitchell, former Vice-chair of the Committee and great village character and we send our heartfelt sympathy to Mary.

During the current lockdown period, although the hall has not been able to be used, the Tile Fund has continued to grow with donations from villagers past and present and money from the recent plant sale and VE Day WI cake sale has gone into the Roof fund.

We hope that very soon the builder will be able to come back and complete the work on the refurbishment of the toilets ready for bookings and events to resume.

Lockdown roundup

Despite the worrying news from elsewhere, there has been a really good atmosphere and sense of community in the village over this period. People are helping neighbours with shopping and collecting prescriptions and the COVID19 Support Group set up by Trish Handsley is a mine of useful information and swapping of ideas and requests.

The tree on the green has been adorned with rainbow lanterns, Easter eggs, blue lights for the NHS and bunting and, at Easter, thanks to Barbara, there was a lovely display of Easter goodies.

The Thursday night clap for carers, enlivened by Simon's trumpet playing, sees most people on their doorsteps to applaud and chatting afterwards, at a safe distance, to neighbours and has become a highlight of the week.

Thanks to Emma Wills the village was brightly decorated for the 75th anniversary of VE Day with amazing and touching stories of father, mothers, grandparents etc who had done all their bit and the front garden tea parties at 4pm were a sight to behold.

For those people not able or wanting to cook all the time Lesley and Anthony at The Cottage have provided a real lifeline with their delicious food delivered to your door. They are launching a new website for food orders and details can be found below.

People are rediscovering the delights of shopping locally and having items like bread, meat and fresh vegetables delivered and the plant sale at the beginning of May allowed gardeners to swap plants with the added bonus of funds generated for the Hut Roof. Meanwhile Helen Oakley's quizzes and games and activities set for children by Barbara and others have all had an impact on bringing us together whilst forced to keep our distance.

Recently, when Molly Kearns, the oldest village resident, died and it was not possible to go to her funeral the road through Ashorne was lined with villagers come to show their respect. Even Noah the guinea fowl was there outside the phone box!

I hope I haven't forgotten anybody in this list, but if I have, I'm really sorry and thank you from all of us for your efforts. Let's just hope that this amazing spirit of community will continue long after lockdown is over

Cottage Tavern

The new website is to be found at www.cottage-tavern.co.uk. It is really easy to register and the 100th online order will get their meal on the house.

May Nature Page

By late March the Tadpoles were having nothing to do with self-isolating, swimming around in tight shoals. Last year's frogs are half-sized and coming out on the pond's edge in the evening looking for food. The Jackdaws were gathering twigs and are still building in early April. Chiffchaff are back from Southern Europe or even North Africa and Blackcaps, with their flutey song. From now on until late May the dawn and evening chorus grows

The Pheasant that's become a bit of a friend, still with no mate, is being nudged to one side by a flamboyant male. He's got a grey/silver back and four females in tow. Just a bit too flashy for my liking. One of the females wanders off so I'm hoping my Pheasant friend will win her over. To be continued

It's been a brilliant start for butterflies, with Brimstone, Peacock, Tortoiseshell, Comma and Little Blue flitting about the garden, seeking out Forget-me-not and Primroses.

With dramatically less traffic on the roads one of our largest Hedgehogs still got knocked down -so unlucky. Being natural wanderers, they are bound to get about. I'm glad the few that eat in the cottage garden don't seem to go far. I broke off writing this to go and put some food out for them. Lucky, I did because I saw the first Hedgehog ever to go inside one of my boxes! So far, they have turned up their little noses. The difference, maybe, I've emptied the old hay that does soon get damp and replaced it with old dry oak leaves. Maybe that's just what's needed to turn their heads. Remember never to let Hedgehogs get hold of any meal worms as they can cause a painful bone disease in them.

Oh! Forgot to mention on the 26th March I was on the edge of Ashorne, lovely sunny day with a big blue sky. I heard a Raven then saw a pair of them., not unusual around here. Then there were more -13 of them. Unusual then that there were more, easy to see their shape and their tails. In all there were 28 Raven! I counted them three times to make sure. So many all circling and in the same air space. The only thing I can think is that the Raven doesn't mature until 2 or 3 years old sometimes a bit older, so I guess they may have been a large group of teenage Ravens. Exploring and out on a 'jolly'. After about 15 minutes they moved off on their journey. May never see that again.

I was driving down the Moreton Morrell road, the sun low in the sky and dew on the grass. Sitting in the road were two Hares. There's always that moment when I think, wow those rabbits are big! Then they move and I see the huge ears and long legs. I slowed right down, they moved casually to the verge then through the hedge into a field. Beautiful creatures, I had no idea we had them round here.

On 7th April I had a strong feeling in my water that I'd see my first Swallows. There was a blue sky and it was hot, the air was coming from the south - perfect. I kept. An eye out for them all day, by the evening there was nothing. The feeling in my water was just a simmer then. However, the next day I heard the familiar chattering as three Swallows flew right over me. My waters were only a day out, not bad.