

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

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Virtual Museum

Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI recently took up, on behalf of our community, an invitation from performing arts organisation Live & Local, to participate in one of their "Virtual" projects. Live & Local is an organisation which promotes and provides live performances from a wide range of artists who go out into local communities providing entertainment such as plays, concerts and the like in venues such as village halls. Ashorne Village Hall has in the past, been lucky enough to host several of these performances which have all been extremely well received.

In light of the Covid lockdown, performers have been unable to go out to public venues and so Live & Local have responded by reaching out to local communities in a "virtual" fashion, with the aim of pairing communities with artists to bring performances into those communities whilst complying with social distancing requirements and helping to combat isolation and encourage communication during lockdown.

We were fortunate enough to be paired with an artist named Nikky Smedley who has worked with those within our community who chose to submit a piece for her 'Living Room Virtual Museum' and I am delighted to say that the museum is now a finished piece of work, magically bringing to life a wonderful and varied array of exhibits.

We are currently considering how best to share this beautiful and inspiring work with both the participants and the wider community and will be letting you know quite soon how we propose to do so.

In the mean-time, an article about the project should shortly be appearing in the Stratford Herald newspaper, so don't forget to look out for that! Looking forward to sharing with you all,

Helen Oakley

Virtual Museum WI Co-ordinator

September Nature Column

September always opens the door to Autumn. The mornings have a chill and the grass lays heavy with dew. Robins greet the day with a blast of song to warn their rivals to keep away. Social distancing since birds began, - all about food not virus!

It's September when the Geese become mobile, moving from the lakes at Ashorne to the river near Charlecote. As the light fades in the evening you can hear them coming across the park. Love that "gaggle geese" sound. They fly just above the treetops calling to each other all the way, now in family groups as they move from lake to flowing water for the night to be safer from predators.

The Tawny Owl family are still together. Often I hear the adults start proceedings with a lovely low "whooo" call to be answered by a youngster's "Kee". Then they leave, often for the park, as the light slips away. I would think the youngsters are able to feed themselves by now.

I've seen a few Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillars recently making their way across the ground. They will pupate just under the surface. They are big and brown with clever false eyes at the front. You can't miss them. One lady emptied out a flower pot and there was a big one snuggled down inside the compost; so be careful.

It's been like "Goldfinches are Us!" on the bird table and feeders. So many youngsters this year. They start pale brown with just the black and gold wing bars. Now the advanced youngsters have a hint of the red and black on their faces. I remember years ago someone said if you feed the bird they may not learn to feed themselves with natural food. Well the bird feeders usually run out by the afternoon and the other day I accidentally sent up a cloud of finches from the mass of knapweed we grow near the pond. Its a tall plant with purple thistle-like flowers. They also love Teasels so they are happy to "pick and mix" their food. Instincts run deep.

And the winners were...

Tape measures were out on Bank Holiday Monday and winners were declared as Emily Fernandez (259cm) for the adults and Eliza Munn (219cm) for the children. Thanks to everyone who participated, we hope to run the competition again next year. It has been lovely to see the smiley sunflower faces around the village, do leave the heads for the birds to take the seeds, they love them! Other contributors included James Bayliss, Kyan & Madelie Susnik and Max Ward.



PARISH CLERK'S UPDATE

September has seen the Parish Council meet twice officially already. On 2 September the Council held its AGM and then followed this up with an Ordinary meeting. We were pleased to welcome one member of the public to the meeting along with our District and County Councillor Anne Parry. It would be nice to meet more residents of the Parish at future meetings!

Much of our meetings was taken up with planning; discussing actions to gather information and costs to inform future decisions. In November, the Council will be finalising a draft budget ready for approval in January. We need information to inform the budget so that we can continue to provide services for residents.

At the AGM Cllr Paul Brazel was voted in as Chairman and Cllr Stephen Bolton as Vice Chairman. This will give the Council continuity as we go into the Winter. We are hoping to co-opt a new Councillor at the next meeting of the Council in November but welcome more residents to become involved. Why not Zoom in to our next meeting on 4 November and see what we do and how you can contribute? You can also contact me for more information about Councillor duties and responsibilities.

I am pleased to be able to give an update on the following matters:

- Clock – Councillors were very disappointed to receive a quote for the maintenance of the

Old School Clock which was much higher than previous. We are currently investigating alternative suppliers.

- The water meter has finally been replaced in the allotments and we are now investigating having the vacant allotments cleared and making them available to the wider public. We will need to check back to when the land was gifted to the village to make sure that there are no restrictions on this. If you would like to become an allotment holder please let me know. We are open to the idea of offering smaller allotments if that is putting you off. What could be better than working in the great outdoors and growing your own veggies?!
- The Parish Council have asked the WI to manage the second telephone kiosk in the parish and they have happily accepted. The Council will, at a future meeting, consider new shelving for the kiosk to help organise the library that is currently housed in there.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council, would like to know more about becoming a Councillor or fancy becoming an allotment holder please email me at npapclerk@gmail.com. The next meeting of the Council will be held on 4 November at 19.30 hours.

Beverley Thorpe

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Visit our website at www.npapc.co.uk

St George's Church, Newbold Pacey

Visiting St George's: While the church is open at the moment, please do not cross the barriers in the side aisle as there has been a fall of plaster from the arch above it. We're waiting to have the damage assessed by the architect.

Services: Dates and times of any services we are able to hold will be on the village notice boards. Whatever the state of the church we will be holding a service of Remembrance as usual in November.

WI REPORT

Members have been enjoying the late summer sunshine. August saw us in Pam Cook's colourful garden enjoying a lovely socially distanced afternoon tea and we continue to keep in touch with each other via phone, email, WhatsApp and Facebook; doorstep chats too. Although we are still unable to hold our monthly meetings on a face to face basis, we continue to learn new skills, support our local community and keep our minds active.

■ Ashorne phone box is now our responsibility after being adopted by the Parish Council. The phone connection has been removed. During lockdown, the kiosk has been used as a Book Swap and open to all but moving forward, we are open to ideas as to what else we could put in there to benefit the village?

■ Walking Group members have been getting out around the Warwickshire countryside. Latterly around Newbold Comyn marvelling at the bounty of blackberries and sloes in the hedgerows. Our next walk is to be along the Stratford Greenway in October.

■ Outdoor Craft & Chat sessions continue, 6 of us in members gardens. We are still knitting tiny hats for prem babies at Warwick Hospital and hats, scarves and gloves for next winter for the WI Federation Homeless Appeal.

■ September meeting we all took the UK Citizenship Test (officially called the Life in the UK Test), some on zoom, some with a paper copy. Questions* such as 'when did the first farmers come to Britain?' and 'which was the first war to be covered by the media?' foxed most of us and embarrassingly none of us achieved the 75% pass rate. We are busy packing our bags for deportation. If anyone fancies having a go, sample tests are available online.

■ For our October meeting we have a zoom speaker on The History of Chocolate, complete with samples from the Henley-based business. In November we will continue on zoom with

our AGM, electing our new committee and having a topical speaker.

We have all of our speakers and workshops booked for 2021 by which time we'd like to think we can meet back in our lovely village hall. We're still open for new members and guests – maybe online before in person! Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email: npandawi@gmail.com

*Answers * 6,000 years ago and The Crimean War*

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The Village Hall

We are delighted that the hall is now open, although there are lots of new COVID-19 regulations in place, and numbers are severely limited.

The work on upgrading the toilets has been completed and we now have a fully accessible disabled unisex toilet with a baby- changing unit as well as another unisex toilet with two cubicles.

The work to replace the hall roof should start in late October and take approximately 3 weeks and although there will be scaffolding in place, the hall will remain open during that time.

After the completion of the roof replacement, finances allowing, we are hoping to be able to redecorate the kitchen which was damaged by water ingress.

Very many thanks to everybody who has contributed to The Buy-a-Tile-Fund which is helping to make the work on the roof possible. This fund will remain open for donations until the completion of the work after which there will be a permanent commemorative display of named "tiles".

So if you want to have your name on a tile in the hall it is not too late to give a donation (minimum£10) to Jim Thornton 01926651436, jimandchris@gmail.com