

DECEMBER NATURE COLUMN

Days now start in darkness before the light and mist creep over the parkland.

Pheasants shake their feathers then strut their stuff amongst the bouncing rabbits. A flock of Fieldfares chuckle as they fly over joined by Redwings with their 'seep' call, joining us from Scandinavia for a milder Winter. Let's hope so!

Then in come the Geese doing their morning fly-past. You can hear them a field away as they honk. They head for the lakes at Ashorne.

The Jackdaws are poised, often in twos, on the cottage chimneys. If they don't mate for life then they do stay together for a long time. I've seen them grooming each other and pairs sitting, feathers touching.

Each morning I go way down the garden with some food for them. They turn and face me. I do the call I always do then the brave one, the one with a couple of white feathers in it's wings descends. Sometimes it will fly straight towards me arriving at shoulder height, zooming around behind my head then landing in front of me. I've a soft spot for this Jackdaw.

The Ravens are active around the villages now their parental duties are over. They are flying around proclaiming their territories. So many different calls are made. They do a croaky 'frog' call and a brilliant impression of a medium-sized dog about half a field away. By far the best though is the 'electrical' sound a Raven can make, just like you'd expect from a mobile phone. Its a sort of repeated 'pink' unlike any call from a bird or mammal really. Best example of this was when a chap walked his dog passed the cottage and down the lane. When he reached the telephone pole he stopped and looked up. He stood there a few minutes and was convinced there was an electrical fault with the wires. I had to nip out and point to the Raven making the strange calls from the top of the Wellingtonia tree some two hundred yards away. He was surprised to say the least!

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: jimandchris@gmail.com. or judycooper21@btinternet.com

The Cottage Tavern

Don't forget, delicious take-away meals are available during lock-down from the Cottage Tavern:-

Wednesdays - Pie Night

Fridays - Fish & Chips, Burgers or Kebab wraps

Sundays - Sunday Lunch

Call 01926 651410 to order

St George's Church, Newbold Pacey

Tree of Light

There will be a tree of light in the churchyard as usual this year and, Covid restrictions permitting, we are planning a shortened version of the service on Sunday 6th December at 4 pm. Final details will be on the noticeboards in the villages and on the village Facebook page.

If you would like the name of a loved one included please let Pam Cook (651508) know asap. As always any donations will be welcome.

Christmas Poultry

Heathcote Farm, Wasperton Lane traditional turkeys, cockerels and geese. All hand produced by the Hiorns family for over 50 years. Have a butchers quality Christmas dinner at farm gate prices.

For more information or any questions call or text Thomas on 07833474488.

Warwick District Council virtual switch-on

Warwick District Council is encouraging people to switch their Christmas lights on at home this year in tandem with town centres. The first ever virtual light switch-on event is set to take place on Friday November 27 at 6pm. It would be great if we could all join in.

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 150: NOVEMBER 2020

It's up at last!

After a long wait the scaffolding has been put up and work to replace the roof has begun!

Many thanks to the Trustees whose Tile Fund has raised a substantial amount of money towards this project and to everybody who has supported their idea and purchased tiles. A display of the named tiles will be on permanent display in the hall and there is still time to add your name or the name of a loved one to this commemoration. So, if you are stuck for Christmas gift ideas, contact Jim Thornton 01926651436.



The Village Hut Committee is very sad to be saying goodbye to Jim and Heather Jack as they move to Scotland. Both Jim and Heather have been Committee members with Jim serving as Vice-Chair and taking a major part in project managing the toilet refurbishment, not to mention the very enjoyable Burns Night parties they have organised. We all wish them happiness in their new home.

Advent windows

Once again we are running this very popular event where 24 windows will be decorated by imaginative householders in the run up to Christmas. The bad news is that all the numbers have already been taken but the good news is that, as last year by December 24 the village will be lit up like one big advent calendar and you can watch as each day a new window will display a festive scene. There will also be a competition for children. Those who find all 24 Advent windows should write a list of the numbers and the houses where those numbers are displayed, add their own name and address, then post the list through the letterbox at Field view Cottage to receive their prize which will be given out during the Christmas holidays.

PARISH CLERK'S UPDATE

I am pleased to update you on the business of your Parish Council for the last time in 2020. The Council last met on 4 November when we had a full complement of Councillors, Ward Member Anne Parry and even welcomed two members of the public! Is this the start of something...?

One of the first agenda items at the meeting was the co-option of two new Councillors. As a result, I am happy to report that the Council voted unanimously to elect Krysz Pietrecki and Thomas Hiorns to the membership. After Chairman Paul Brazel welcomed our new Councillors to the Council, it was straight down to business.

- The Old School House clock has had its annual service (which is paid for by the Parish Council). Smiths of Derby gave it a clean bill of health.
- Members agreed a £50 donation to the Royal British Legion and have committed in future years to lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.
- Jim, the Lengthsman we share with Wellesbourne Parish Council, has cleared the path alongside the allotments and is now working on steps in the banking on 'Holloway' Green Lane footpath. In the spring he will look at clearing the thicket on Southam Lane.
- Peter Elliott was awarded the job to refurbish the two noticeboards.
- Rural Support Services are going to clear the unused allotments ready for new tenants in the spring. Once the empty allotments are in better shape, the Council will decide on the size of the plots (they may currently be a little too big!). Hopefully by the time you read this these jobs will already be done.
- The Council has also agreed to fund shelving in the telephone kiosk in Ashorne which is

kindly managed by the WI. Repairs to the door will be carried out in the spring.

- The parish website has had an overhaul and I hope you will find it much easier to navigate as a result. If you have any links, photos from the parish or any community information that you would like us to promote please send it to me at the email address below. The site is for the benefit of residents and visitors to the area and we really want to promote its use.

The Council is still working on the budget for 2021-24. If you have any thoughts on projects that you think the Councillors should be considering for the parish, please speak directly to a Councillor or drop me an email.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 6 January 2020 - Ordinary Meeting at 19.30 – venue to be confirmed. Please forward any correspondence or papers to the Parish Clerk by 31 December.
- Wednesday 17 February 2020 – Parish Assembly at 19.00 – venue to be confirmed. The Parish Assembly is a less formal meeting and a great opportunity for residents to bring new ideas to the parish council. Hope to meet you there.

Keep in touch

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council or fancy becoming an allotment holder please email me at npapcclerk@gmail.com.

On behalf of Councillors I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Please stay safe everyone.

Beverley Thorpe

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

WI REPORT

Now that the weather is getting cooler and we're spending more time at home, members are grateful for the technology that enables us to keep in touch. Emails, phone calls, Facebook and zoom meetings are ensuring that everyone knows what's going on. We have even recruited a new member from Moreton Morrell – welcome to Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI, Nicola Atkins.

■ 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 with Helen Oakley's quizzes.

■ Our October zoom meeting speaker was Sally Daniels of Henley Chocolates. Sally talked about her transition from solicitor to chocolatier; the history of chocolate; how the choice of cocoa bean, organic milk and locally distilled gin affect the finished product; and that she has no regrets that she followed her passion. We 'tasted-along' with the samples provided and many of us will be ordering supplies in for Christmas gifts.

■ At the end of October, we fitted in an extra meeting – a zoom session with Daisy Kirby, consultant with Neals Yard Remedies. Daisy sent us gorgeous smelling, environmentally friendly wellbeing product samples and talked us through their use whilst we all did ourselves a relaxing and refreshing facial. A fun evening.

■ Thanks to everyone who participated in our WI Village Pumpkin Trail by displaying pumpkins for the children to spot and leaving treats for them at the Cottage Tavern. It was great to see the little ones out around the village searching for pumpkins and completing the quiz and even nicer to see many families supporting the pub by having tea there on the Saturday Halloween night.

■ The pesky Coronavirus prevented us from holding our AGM this month so our officers continue until January 2021 when we hope to be

able to meet face to face, but who knows?

■ However, we still met (virtually) in November to say goodbye to our lovely secretary Heather who is shortly to leave Ashorne with husband Jim for a new life in Scotland. Heather has worked tirelessly as WI secretary for the past three years and she will be missed by all members. We wish Heather and Jim well and have their new address for a visit when travel is once more allowed.

■ Our Walking Group members enjoyed a lovely walk along the river Avon to the Stratford Greenway last month, finishing off with an alfresco lunch at a local restaurant. Our November walk was cancelled due to the 'rule of 2' but we hope that in December we can get out for a walk around Chipping Campden.

■ Our Craft group is suspended at the moment due to government restrictions but members continue to knit at home for prem babies at Warwick Hospital and hats and gloves for the Warwickshire Federation Homeless Appeal. We delivered hats, scarves and gloves to Simon Hetherington for the Warwickshire P3 resettlement project.

■ For our Christmas meeting, if restrictions are lifted we are hoping to get together in small groups but as with everything this year, we have a plan B in place!

■ 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 with its new roof. 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

Stay well, stay safe everyone.

Trish Handsley, President 2020 01926 651978
Npandawi@gmail.com
Facebook: [Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire](#)
Instagram: [@Newboldpaceyandashorne](#)