

## December Nature Notes

**Orion rises in the late evening sky as days grow shorter and nights stretch longer. The Winter solstice draws near, a time of equal day and night.**

I'm often fascinated by the thought that everyone in history that's walked the earth has seen the same stars and gazed upon the same moon - Shakespeare, Charlie Chaplin your Grandparents. All looked in wonder just like you may have done.

Holly berries perch between the dark prickly leaves inviting Blackbirds and many other thrushes to eat them and carry their seeds away from the mother tree.

Nature always has a plan and sometimes a counter plan. Every morning a small gang of Squirrels scamper down the Cedar tree, tails twitching, claws clattering, bracing themselves for a bit of argy bargy over the peanuts. Each one arrives, eats a few whilst sitting in the classic squirrel pose. Then they dash away and find a spot to bury a few peanuts for later, a deep instinctive urge to have a larder. What they don't see is the Magpie who has a deep instinctive urge to grab anything edible it can. The Squirrels are watched intently. When they move off the Magpie moves in and snaffles as many as it can remember. Each day, as if by magic, new peanuts arrive, the Squirrels know of the peanuts, the Magpie knows of the Squirrels and I know of the plan.

There is a shoot around here in October. The Pheasants are released, not very hedgerow-wise. Up to thirty strut their stuff around the cottage unaware of the dangers. The odd pile of feathers can be seen where a Fox has got lucky.

When we arrived here I crossed paths with a female Pheasant. She would often visit for breakfast along with the Squirrels. She didn't run away like the other Pheasants and its good to have her around. So, as the shooting started I really hoped she would stay close to the cottage. She must have survived one shoot so she knows



the ropes. Sure enough she was there next day. Fingers crossed she will stay clear of the guns and I'll enjoy seeing her.

Just a quick thought whilst scribbling. I recently heard that the Oxford Children's dictionary is removing over a hundred nature words! When I think of how my Granddad worked on the land and my Dad was the first generation to leave the soil. So the gap began. Luckily my Dad cherished his connection to the land and passed it on to me - "thanks Dad!" Words like "Otter" and "Willow" are being removed. As children loose connection to the natural world and their lives become more virtual I wonder will there be a time when a child is read a bedtime story and asks, "Mummy, what is a willow and why does it have wind?" As Shakespeare and Kenneth Graham gazed at the moon they couldn't have foreseen that could they?

I wish you a good Christmas and hope you receive all that makes you happy. **Steve Harvey**

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 132: NOVEMBER 2017

## In the Pink

**We cannot believe almost a year has passed since our arrival to the village – we have enjoyed plenty of fun events in that time.**

The wear pink event was amazing; with full support from the village and customers we raised a staggering £670. We also had a spontaneous quiz for British legion poppy appeal which so far has raised over £70. We look forward to many other enjoyable events with you, the village community, over the next twelve months!

With many thanks,  
Anthony Lesley, The Cottage Tavern



COTTAGE TAVERN WEAR PINK EVENT RAISES OVER £600 FOR BREAST CANCER

## St. George's Church

**The Service of Remembrance took place at St George's on November 12. It was lovely that scouts, beavers and cubs from Lighthorne Heath presented their colours.**

A big thank you to the Booth family for their support. It was really good that Molly Kearns, whose brother, John Braggs, is remembered on the war memorial could lay the wreath on behalf of parishioners. The scouts also laid a wreath.



Our Christmas services this year are the candlelit carol service on December 18 at 4pm in the church and the midnight service on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm. We hope to see many of you there. Please go and look at the life-size nativity scene that will be in the churchyard again this year, thanks to Marilyn and Margaret. The churchyard has looked lovely throughout the past year. This is thanks to Ray Cook for his mowing, to Tony Philpott and his group for cutting the hedges and the beautiful yew trees and to Mick for doing the strimming. One of the last of the Dam Buster pilots is to give a talk at the church in late February or March. Details to be announced later.

# THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the recent housing needs survey we will contact Sarah Brooke-Taylor for her assistance in arranging a drop-in session to ascertain the demand for housing.

Cllr Carroll reported that there had only been 13 responses throughout the village to the recent questionnaire concerning the possible playing field at the allotments. The working party will now work towards applying for planning permission. Co Cllr Anne Parry has kindly offered to assist with this.

Work to prevent flooding in Newbold Pacey has begun with further work to follow. Flooding issues in Ashorne are also on the County Council's list for urgent attention which we will monitor.

It was noted that street cleaning took place early one morning when many cars were still parked in the road. We will write to Biffa asking them to avoid early mornings in future.

The lengthsman employed to carry out comparatively small jobs on behalf of SDC has resigned and we await a new appointment so unfortunately our list jobs cannot be done at the moment.

100th Anniversary of the Great War: Cllrs Cooper, Marshall and Bolton will form a working party to consider how our village could celebrate this occasion.

PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN AS THIS IS NOT A PARISH COUNCIL EVENT BUT AN EVENT FOR ALL OF US IN THE PARISH TO ENJOY.

District Cllr's report: Cllr Parry consulted with SDC Affordable Housing committee with a view to providing one or two properties identified in the recent Housing Needs Survey on the site of the village garden. SDC has since agreed to sell the land to the highest bidder who is a parish resident. After discussion, the PC decided to wait to speak to the new owner about the commemorative trees which were planted some years ago.

The Wellesbourne and Walton Neighbourhood Plan is currently undergoing a 6-week consultation period. Cllrs Johnston and Bolton will compile feedback from this PC.

County Cllr report: Cllr Parry has been in touch with WCC concerning the recent tragic accident at the Square and will be kept informed of any new measures which may be required following their investigations.

The Road Safety Team are currently finalising their proposals for the Newbold Road and are taking the recent incidents from last month into their considerations. As soon as the plans are available these will be shared with your PC.

if you would like lunch so we know how many to cater for.  
**December lunch club:** there will be no lunch club in December but make note in your new diaries of the date of the January lunch which will be Monday January 15th at 12.30  
**Committee members needed:** In January / February we shall be holding our AGM and electing a committee to hold events, raise funds and generally run the village hall. We are always looking for new ideas and new faces to join us, so if you would like to be involved please speak to one of the current committee members whose names and contact details can be found on the noticeboard outside the hall or come along to the meeting, the date of which will be advertised in the January Village Hut News.

## The WI

**We had a great turnout at the New Church Room in Moreton Morrell when we took our October meeting a bit further afield in search of new members.**

13 extra ladies turned up to find out what Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI is all about, and at least 6 of them have indicated that they will join us in the New Year.

Our guest speaker for the evening was our Ashorne neighbour Sally Jones. Sally gave an in-depth and entertaining view of her life as a BBC reporter and journalist, recounting comical as well as terrifying moments. Sally made a donation to St Georges Church, Newbold Pacey in lieu of a speaker fee.

We started our November meeting in Ashorne Village Hall with a warming homemade pie meal, cooked by and delivered to us by Lesley from The Cottage Tavern. Then came our AGM where we reflected on our 2017 activities, elected our new committee and looked forward to our 2018 programme.

President Trish thanked the committee for all their hard work over the year especially secretary Sue Philpott who is standing down after three years of keeping WI affairs in order and Sarah Baxter who has found us some excellent speakers. New secretary Heather Jack and speaker finder Judith Little will pick up their duties in the New Year.

December will see us with the caterers in the Village Hall again, welcoming husbands and guests to our Christmas meal and to answer Helen's fiendish quiz questions.

We start the new year with the Hoola Hoop man on Thursday 11 January. A bit of information on the background of hoola hooping and then the opportunity to have a go!

If you fancy hoola hooping in January or WI generally, do come along and give it a try - 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30pm in Ashorne Village Hall. We have a wide variety of speakers and are keen to welcome guests and new members at any of our meetings.

**Trish Handsley** – 651978 npandawi@gmail.com  
Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI President

## WI Community Coffee Morning

Saturday 2 December 10am – midday  
Homemade cake, steaming cuppa, newspapers to read, books, cakes and plants to buy – what is not to like?

This is a community initiative from Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI to raise funds for the group's Centenary celebrations in 1919.

Everyone welcome - as are homemade/home-grown donations for the produce table.

First Saturday of each month, everyone welcome  
Contacts: Trish Handsley and Heather Jack

## Coffee Morning in aid of Myton Hospice

10:30am – 12:00 on the first Wednesday of the month in the village hall.

Contact: Pam Cook

## Craft & Chat Group

every Tuesday 10am – midday  
Come along with your current knitting or sewing project and join us for a cuppa.  
Contact: Trish Handsley, Krys Pietrecki

## Ashorne Activity Adventurers

Our last event took place in the school holidays and the children attended a workshop to teach them how to weave willow. We had a good turnout of children but they found it much more difficult than they had thought it would be! They persevered and eventually they produced some wonderful fish, hearts and stars – there was even a giraffe!

Our forthcoming events are now planned, we are visiting the Cotswold Wildlife Park in October, have a Christmas Afternoon Tea planned in December and to round off the year we are taking the children and some members of the community to the Panto!

## The Village Hall

**New Year breakfast:** HELP!! We are planning to serve the traditional cooked breakfast again this year from 10.30-12 noon but are desperately short of people to help with serving and clearing etc. If you will be around at New Year and could give us a hand, even for a short while, we should be very grateful. It is a really nice way to start the new year with friends and neighbours. Please let Chris Thornton know on 651436 if you can help.  
**December walk and lunch:** There will be a winter walk on Sunday December 4 starting at 10.30 from the Village Hall. Everybody and their dogs welcome. This will be followed by a hot 2 course lunch at 1pm in the Village Hall. Walkers and non-walkers welcome at the lunch. The cost for lunch will be £5 and you are welcome to bring your own drink. Please let Chris know (651436)