

February Nature Notes

Early morning and still dark outside as a Robin fills its lungs and begins to sing. It pauses to hear if its rivals are still in the same places as yesterday. One by one other robins answer until there are at least 7 singing, all sweet and syrupy, except really they are all singing, "Back off, this is my space!"

A pair of Tawny Owls call to each other before settling down for the day as the night shift goes off duty.

Even before it's properly light a flock of Rooks make their way over us, about 80 of them "cawing" and flying high. This always triggers their cousins, the Jackdaws who live around the cottages, to launch into the air in an excited flock. They rise and fall in a choreographed flight as they acknowledge the Rooks and all this before I've even had my porridge.

We've been overdue for a colder winter - cold, wet and even the white stuff - even so some of the Hazel Catkins seem to have "pollened up" a bit early and, surprisingly, two Blackbirds were singing in December and, even more surprising, I heard two Chaffinches blasting it out around Christmas. It's usually February before I hear that treat.

It's certainly nothing to do with the weather, more likely to be the density of numbers. Visiting Blackbirds and Chaffinches putting pressure on the locals to start singing and stake their claim early.

With the weather being so cold and damp it's given the birds a hard time. I've seen two Buzzards sitting with their wings open, trying to dry their feathers just like Cormorants do. A friend told me he had seen a Barn Owl sitting on a hedge in daylight doing the same. Flying and hunting must be difficult, so, I guess there have been some hungry birds of prey out there.

We were woken up at about 2am recently by a pair of foxes doing some family planning.

Not a pleasant experience for either of them I understand and the blood curdling screams seem to bear that out. Nature will have its way though.

So many small birds are now constantly feeding in the garden with over twelve species jostling at the fast food Takeaway. I'm saving up to keep them fed. I call it my Twitter Account!

Gorgeous early Snowdrops are flowering, silent stirrings are happening below the ground. Nest boxes and potential nest sites are probably already explored. Everything is poised for the big event that seems so far away - but its not.

SPRING -thank you Lord and bring it on!

Steve Harvey

WRCC Back & 4th

WRCC Back & 4th are expanding and looking for new additions to our team based from our depot in Wellesbourne.

Minibus Drivers (8.38 per hour)

Part time hours transporting children to and from school. Either split shifts or weekly morning or afternoons to suit, during term time only.

Applicants must hold a category D1 on their driving licence. Back & 4th positions are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

For more information, please contact David Wright on 01789 471595 or email: davidw@wrccrural.org.uk

WRCC Back & 4th are always looking to recruit Volunteer Drivers to assist local community organisations wishing to get out and about for day trips, lunches and social activities.

WRCC is a registered charity No. 1081017

Deadline for next issue is March 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 133: JANUARY 2018

The WI

In December Sue Dalby Caterers provided a lovely meal and we welcomed husbands, partners and potential new members to our WI Christmas get together. The Committee took the floor for the shortest Cinderella panto on record and then we tackled Helen's fiendish quiz.

Starting 2018 with something a bit different, on a chilly January evening we welcomed John Parnell, hula hooper extraordinaire to enlighten us on the history and benefits of hula hooping. Six new members joined the group following our Taster Evening held at Moreton Morrell in November and all were keen to join in as John Parnell, also known as "The Hoop Guy" from Britain's Got Talent shared with us his enthusiasm for "hooping". As well as being a semi-finalist on Britain's Got Talent John spends time working in schools teaching children to Hula Hoop with the aim of improving fitness and helping to lure them away from their computers and other devices!

After listening to an interesting talk about how John got into this unusual sport and various other circus skills - we all had a go and some of us were very good! Several WI members are ordering their own hoops and looking forward to reaping the benefits of greater abdominal and back strength as well as burning a few of those Christmas calories!

As we look forward to spring, our 8 February speaker will be Penny Vigers who will demonstrate how to make willow bird boxes then on 8 March we'll welcome Jennifer Heap to talk about how she became an Indie author in her 50s. If you fancy learning about bird boxes or being an author or



THE HULA HOOPING EVENING DREW AN ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE

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.

WI Community Coffee Morning Saturday 3
Feb, 3 March, 7 April 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/homegrown 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

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

THE PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a drop-in session in the next few months for parishioners to come along and comment on the Rural Housing Needs Survey carried out last summer. Look in the next Newsletter for the date.

Some flooding measures have been carried out in Newbold Pacey but more works are scheduled. Also flooding issues in Ashorne are awaited.

A new lengthsman has been appointed so we look forward to our list of jobs being carried out. Please notify your councillors if you know of any further maintenance tasks.

Note from David Johnston, Chair of the Parish Council

I thought it would be helpful to provide an update on two projects with which the Parish Council has been involved.

Firstly the Burial Ground. We expect before too long that the Churchyard will not be able to accommodate new burials. This could be as soon as in three years. The Parochial Church Council is hoping to identify additional land adjacent to the churchyard. Further work is required to ensure suitability for burials, but we hope soon to come forward with a proposal. There will be a need for some fundraising, but nothing that could not be achieved.

Secondly the Play area. A couple of years ago the Parish Council made available two unused allotments, and since then a small group including two members of the Parish Council has been trying to work up a proposal, and identify sources of funding. What resonated with me was that youngsters had to play football in the street. Many of the funding bodies we would need to approach do not make grants to public bodies such as a Parish Council so we have needed to set up an independent body. That is proving difficult to achieve at the moment, so the Parish Council will have to consider again what to do.

District Councillor Anne Parry's report:

A draft Stratford Area Transport Strategy is now a major focus for 2018. My objection to potential proposals for an Eastern Relief Road which links with Wellesbourne still stands, as evidence suggests there are negligible benefits to the highway network and undoubtedly such a large-scale infrastructure project would require further development to pay for it.

Construction of the new medical centre is starting this month. The senior planning management team at SDC worked extremely hard and were exceptionally helpful by going the extra mile at the eleventh hour to overcome difficult planning issues and potential financial implications to the practice. We look forward to seeing the development take shape over the coming months

Co Councillor Anne Parry's report:

Road Safety continues to be a key focus with accidents in Newbold Pacey and Ashorne. Increased road safety signage measures on the Newbold Road approaching Newbold Pacey from both Wellesbourne and the Crematorium end are in the pipeline. Whilst they do not go far enough in my view the introduction of new enhanced safety measures are to be welcome... I am continuing to liaise with WCC regarding a STOP sign at the Ashorne Crossroads.

As a member of the Adult Social Care and Health OS Committee I have also been involved in looking into the provision of GP services across the county. Whilst South Warwickshire is better catered for in this respect, the doctors' services continue to be stretched particularly at this time of year and are being impacted by missed appointments and unnecessary visits to surgeries for minor ailments which can routinely be handled by the local pharmacy. The practices in Wellesbourne and Kineton are not immune to these issues and residents are urged not to miss appointments or block valuable surgery time unnecessarily.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

New Year's Resolutions

Always made with good intentions !

Did yours include to get fitter, look after your health, make time for yourself, try something new, join a local activity ?

Joining your local Pilates class could be a step towards keeping your resolution.

Plenty of spaces available in Ashorne village hall, Monday 9.30am general mat class, everyone welcome.

There is also a Seated class 10.30am Mondays and a more active class Wednesdays 6pm, Pilates for Cyclists.

Contact Helen Tudge MCSP 01926 259293

We are the Champions

After one of the most successful Autumn seasons for Ashorne Table Tennis Club in the Leamington & District Table Tennis leagues I am delighted to say that all three of our teams won promotion. The A and C teams winning divisions B and C respectively and the B team runners up to the A team.

The Spring season starts on the 15th January with both A and B teams in division A and the C team in division B.

We are always pleased to welcome new players (from Ashorne or further afield) either experienced or new starters so if you are interested please contact club secretary Steve Handsley on 01926 651978.

St George's Church

After some delays, Rosehill, the suppliers of the chairs have promised that they will be leaving the factory next week so, hopefully, they will be in situ by the time you read this. They will finish off the aisle. As one person has dropped out there are two that are still able to be purchased. This is a permanent memorial to a loved one and costs £95 each including the engraved plaque. Has anyone an hour every two months to spare to help keep our church looking nice? Please speak to me if you feel you can help. Priscilla Cook 651558

The Village Hall

We started 2018 with the traditional village breakfast and, although numbers were slightly down on previous years, we were able to welcome and serve over 60 people. We are very grateful to all who came to breakfast and especially to Marilyn Boardman, Krys Pietrecki, Cilla Cook Dave and Cathy Empringham, Morgan Reading and Henry Thornton who gave up some of their New Year's Day to help.

The regular Monday lunches continue on the third Monday of the month at 12.30 when a two course lunch can be enjoyed for £5. To make the catering more manageable we are now asking people who intend to come to the lunch to book in advance. This should ensure that there is no wastage from overcatering and also that we have enough to feed everyone. Please let Chris Thornton know by the Friday preceding the lunch if you are coming. Please note that there will be no lunch in March

The AGM of the Village Hall Committee will be held on Monday January 29 at 7pm. This is when we report on the year's activities, fund raising and future plans and also elect the new committee one of whose first tasks will be to review the hire charges for the hut and set the rates for the coming year. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting and we should love to welcome new members to join the committee and to hear any suggestions for events and activities. There will be wine and cheese after the meeting for all who attend.

The village hall is currently very well used but is available to hire for meetings and parties etc. Please contact Chris Thornton on 651436 for information and bookings.

Dates for your diary

3rd March – St David's Evening
21st April – St George's Evening

We have a splendid new village website. Please have a look, following this link:
www.ashornevillage.weebly.com