

# WOODNEWTON NEWS

JANUARY 2021





# Woodnewton Parish Council

## Parish Council Report – December 2020

The Parish Council met on 7th December

The Council met again this month via internet conferencing which enables business to carry under the current restrictions.

### **Churchyard**

The top (St Mary's Hill) gate has been repaired by Cllr Blackmore using some of the wood left over from the roundabout restoration.

### **Playing Field**

The monthly safety inspection report was submitted which noted badger activity in the field. Badgers are a protected species, and the sett must not be disturbed. Any damage to the field caused by the badgers would need to be repaired and users are asked to be aware of potential holes and digging patches causing an uneven surface on the field.

### **Allotments**

Councillors considered re-claiming the overgrown area of the allotments. This would allow for the creation of additional plots to help meet the increasing demand for an allotment. No final decision was taken, and the costs involved are being researched.

### **Council Policies**

As always, the legislative requirements of Council's are continuing to grow. There are several policies and procedures that the Council needs to have in place to reflect changing circumstances and Government policy. Additional work is required to reach compliance including external third-party consultancy and support. A sum of £500 was agreed to cover the costs of the work required.

### **Footpaths**

A resident raised the issue of cyclists using field footpaths around the village. The Parish Council has no responsibility in this area, it is up to individual landowners to act. It was noted that there are no bridleways leaving the village at all and this does not help the situation. The Council can only reiterate that all users of local roads, bridleways and footpaths do so with consideration for others.

### **New Projects**

As always in December the Council looks ahead at any new projects it may wish to undertake next year. Possible projects put forward include installation of gym equipment on the playing field, village information/history walk signs and allotment improvements. These ideas will be discussed at future meetings.

### **Meeting Dates**

The meeting dates for 2021 were agreed. The Council will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month and all dates can be found on Woodnewton Hub.

2020 has been a very tough year for many with the onset of the Covid-19 virus and all the restrictions that have been imposed over the last 9 months and will continue well into next year. In a small community such as ours it is at difficult times like these that the true nature of the village comes to the fore. The Community Support Group which was set up and the small individual acts of kindness by so many are a credit to all and shows what can be done when we join in a combined effort.

Whatever affect Covid-19 has had on you or your wider family please remember that help and support is available in numerous ways. Sometimes it is not easy to ask, but that initial step of reaching out may unlock the support you need.

On behalf of the Council, may I wish everyone living and working in Woodnewton best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 4th January at 8.00pm

**Andrew Hansford - Parish Council Chairman**

## St Mary's Church News

### **Services at St. Mary's Church, Woodnewton - January 2021**

3rd January	9.30 a.m. Said Holy Communion (Modern Language)
10th January with Rev. Jane	3.00 p.m. Epiphany Family Christingle Making Service – please BOOK
17th January	9.30 a.m. Said Holy Communion (Modern Language)
24th January	8.30 a.m. Said Holy Communion BCP
31st January	10.00 a.m. BENEFICE SERVICE AT WOODNEWTON

**2021!** I am sure we are all hoping that the new year brings better things than 2020. Very few could have imagined what 2020 would bring this time last year. But we are getting through it and with the roll-out of the vaccine perhaps some of our hopes and plans for this coming year will be fulfilled.

In the meantime we are still living with this strange Covid-secure world that has curtailed much of what we would usually do. That has certainly been so in our churches, and we continue to adjust what we do to keep everyone safe. However, we have a full schedule of services planned for January, including a family service which was suspended when Covid measures started. We are holding a special socially-distanced Christingle making and service on the afternoon of 10th January to celebrate the Epiphany, remembering the wise men's journey to the Christ-child. This follows two very successful Christingle afternoons at Nassington before Christmas, and again is for anyone from the Benefice. Family bubbles each have their own, socially-distanced table and all items needed are provided. Places are limited, so booking is required.

Woodnewton will also host the Benefice service for our 5th Sunday, so we have a busy month is store! To keep in touch, all are invited to sign up for our weekly Sunday Link mailings, either on email or by post – so contact Rev. Jane.

Whatever the year has in store for us, may we open the door of the new year with confidence, knowing that God will be with us in all things and in all places.

With every blessing,

**Rev. Jane**

# The Good News Pages

2020 was a year with far more than its share of bad news. The good news is that there is some good news, so we thought we would collect some of it together to start 2021 in a positive frame of mind.



## WICKSTEED REVIVAL

46 years ago, the roundabout and rocking horse were installed in, what was then, the new village playing field. Together with the swings (which remain) they formed the basis of the play equipment provided for the children of the village and which has been



built upon with the addition of all the other apparatus since.

Built by Wicksteed Play Equipment who were founded in 1918 the equipment design dates back to the 1920's according to recent sales literature uncovered. Since 1974 generations of village children have played on the roundabout and the horse and the scenes invented, friends made, and bumps and bruises received would be fascinating if



documented. Other equipment has been added to the playground since 1974 but these pieces remain the backbone of the collection and would be hard to find in many other playgrounds now that they have been superseded by more modern items. The term 'vintage' or 'classic' is appropriate and as such the Parish Council thought it only right that every effort should be made to keep them both in safe working order.

Records of any previous work are not available, but the roundabout was partially restored in the early 2000's when the old boards were replaced, again by a volunteer resident of the village. This time around more extensive work was undertaken with both the roundabout and the horse fully stripped back and completely overhauled. Re-boarded, greased and re-painted the working life of both has been extended well beyond their 50th anniversary allowing even more children from the village and beyond to create their own memories of Woodnewton playing field.

It is doubtful that this work would have been affordable or maybe even contemplated if the roundabout and horse had to be sent away for repair to a company. Grants for new equipment would have been sought and the items replaced without much thought. Only through the fantastic efforts of two volunteers has this all been possible. Paul Blackmore and Peter Guttridge have toiled away for many hours over the autumn in the cold, wet and at times the dark, to get the work completed, and it is thanks to them that these old playground classics look as good as new. On behalf of the village, especially the children, I would like to record a public thank you to Paul and Peter for their fantastic efforts.

**Andrew Hansford - Parish Council Chairman**



[illegible]

## Sleeping on the job?



# The Good News Pages



Woodnewton News asked some local experts to give their opinions on the newly refurbished play equipment. *The refurbished equipment in the park is great - the wood on the roundabout is not rotten and it is very colourful the colours see lovely and bright and very shiny.*

*The rocking horse is so much faster than the old one and the silver makes it unique. Thank you to the people who put their time and effort into it I'm very grateful.*

Adam (age 9):

*The roundabout looks great because the wood is all new and the bars are all colourful and it*

*matches the rocking horse. I enjoy going on the roundabout now as it isn't slippery anymore.*

Both rated them with 5 Stars!



## Woodnewton News Says Thanks

In the December issue of Woodnewton News you will have no doubt noticed the Christmas Greetings section. Generous villagers have donated over £150 to support the production costs of the News. The Woodnewton News team would like to thank everyone for their kind donations.

## Allotments Charity Produce Stall



A huge Thank You to everyone who has supported the charity veg stall at the allotments. Over £400 has been donated this year, making a grand total of £1,275 donated to Cancer Research UK. Have a Happy Christmas and PLEASE....Stay Safe!

Dave



# The Good News Pages

## PETERBOROUGH FOOD BANK

We would like to thank everyone who kindly donated to this very worthy cause.

The response was absolutely overwhelming! In total we collected 415kg which equates to 943 meals.

Once again we were totally bowled over by your generosity especially in these very uncertain times. We would also like to thank those of you who offered help with transport.

Well done Woodnewton you are stars!!!!

**Adrian and Geraldine Croot**



Adrian's car filled to capacity ..... and this was one of three loads.

*Editor's Note: That's a Passat Estate and it is cavernous!*



## Reviving the Church Yard Gate

If you have walked through the church yard recently you may have noticed the recently restored gate on St Mary's Hill. Paul Blackmore made use of remaining oak from the playground equipment restoration to breath new life into the old gate.

*Kessie Kards Creating cards for all occasions...*

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# Lost the Plot

When I was a kid I always remember that at midnight on New Year's Eve we always had somebody knock at the front door with a piece of bread and a piece of coal and they had to be let into the house and go out the back door. This was for luck apparently. I seem to remember that we even used to keep a couple of bits of coal in the garage for this occasion even though we had oil central heating. I don't remember that anyone had a taste for carbon sandwiches but vaguely understood this to be a tradition with Scottish origins which should also involve whisky (surprising eh?). I was wondering about what other oddball traditions hold sway in other places and with Google's help here are a few, which you may even like to adopt.

In Spain one New Year's tradition is to eat 12 grapes, one for each month of the coming year, to secure prosperity. Sounds easy? Here's the challenge: you need to eat one grape with each bell strike at midnight. The favoured way is to take a bite, then swallow the grape halves whole. A glass of bubbly afterward might help to flush it all down.

In Mexico, Bolivia, and Brazil, the colour of your pants will determine what kind of year you'll have, so choose carefully! Red will bring love and romance, and yellow leads to wealth and success. White stands for peace and harmony, while green signifies well-being and nature.

In Germany, people melt small pieces of lead in a spoon over a candle, then pour the liquid into cold water. The bizarre shapes from the Bleigießen (lead pouring) are supposed to reveal what the year ahead will bring. If the lead forms a ball, luck will roll

one's way, while the shape of a crown means wealth; a cross signifies death and a star will bring happiness.

A Danish New Year's Eve tradition is to throw plates and dishes against friends' and neighbours' front doors. It's a bit of a popularity contest as the bigger the pile of broken china is the next morning, the more friends and good luck you'll have in the coming year.

In Ecuador, people build scarecrow-like dolls of politicians, pop stars, or other notable figures to set them alight. Burning the año viejo (old year) is meant to destroy all the bad things from the last year and cleanse for the new. The scarecrows are made from old clothes stuffed with newspaper or sawdust and a mask is fitted at the end. .

"Out with the old" is the motto in Naples, where people toss everything from toasters to fridges off their balconies. Getting rid of old possessions symbolises a fresh start in the new year. To prevent serious injuries, most locals stick to small and soft objects for their throwing tradition.

So I am putting on the red and yellow pants, stuffing with my mouth with grapes, smashing some plates, chucking a microwavée out of the window and melting some lead on the fire from my burning effigies of Donald Trump, Dominic Cummings and Sir Philip Green.

Happy New Year.

**The Grumpy Geek**

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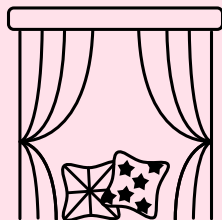
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## Newsletter & Website Contacts

### Newsletter Team:

Grant Neville, Ann Galloway, Janet Gibson, Grant McLeod, Jane Martin, June Moore, Ivan Walker.

**Advertising:** Ivan Walker, Tel 01780 470438

**Contributions:** We are always happy to receive articles for publication. Please send articles by email whenever possible to [newswoodnewton@gmail.com](mailto:newswoodnewton@gmail.com).

We prefer pictures in jpg format and hi resolution whenever possible.

Handwritten / non-electronic contributions can be delivered or sent to:

June Moore, 5 Lindsey Close.

Closing date for all copy **14th** of previous month.

Recent issues available here: <http://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/village-newsletter/>

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