# WOODNEWTON NEWS JANUARY 2023

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### Parish Council Report - November 2022

The Parish Council met on 5th December 2022

### **Public Time**

No members of the public attended.

### **Church Yard & Cemetery Nature Project**

Cllr Phythian thanked all those who helped with the cemetery re-wilding, the scarified area has now been resown with the wildflower seeds purchased for the project.

It was agreed to remind the contractor about cutting the area behind the Church where the modern graves are for next season and as the final cut this year was missed due to wet weather, the wild areas would be strimmed manually.

### **Playing Field / Playground**

All the new equipment has now been installed. Feedback has been very positive (everyone working out after Christmas) and with the new picnic table as well this concludes the development of the playground for the time being. The idea of a petanque/boules pitch has been floated, and this may be something for consideration in the future. Council is also mindful of the need to keep an area of open space for events.

### Planning

(a) NE/22/00816/FUL - Permission granted

(b) NE/22/00867/FUL - Permission granted

(c) NE/22/01446/TCA - 32 Main Street - annual pruning of trees - No Objection

A debrief was given by Cllr Guttridge who had attended the North Northamptonshire Planning Committee meeting and spoken on both applications (a) & (b) on behalf the Parish Council. The full text of the debrief can be found in the December minutes (available on the village website). In summary, Council was very disappointed with the decision making process, in particular some of the factually incorrect statements and the use of hearsay that were included in the evidence used as a basis for decision making by the Committee for application (b). Council decided to lodge a formal complaint with NNC but otherwise having no other options for review/appeal.

### **Parish Precept**

Discussions took place with regards to the precept setting for 2023/24 The current financial year has a budget of £20,598 and a precept of £16,172. Costs for the following year were discussed. Keeping current inflation rates in mind, the budget was split out by known costs for 2023/24 (i.e. mowing contracts) flexed costs for unknowns (i.e. street light electricity) and the general view of keeping any potential projects on hold the following year. A budget was agreed of £22,161 for 2023/24. This is an increase of 7.5% on the prior year. It was acknowledged reserves carried forward following this year's projects and including reasonable reserves for works to the church wall would be circa £12,500. With inflation currently running at around 10.5% but recognising the cost of living pressures the budget would require a minimum precept increase of £1,213 (£16,172 to £17,385) an increase of 7.5%. This was PROPOSED by CIIr Hansford and AGREED by all. Any shortfall at this stage was expected to be covered by reserves or grants before considering any service reductions.

### Village Bonfire

We wish to reiterate the bonfire is now CLOSED and after a suitable dry spell hope that it can be burnt.

The next Parish Council meeting will be 8.00pm Monday 9th January

Andrew Hansford - Parish Council Chairman



Happy New Year! I hope that your Christmas celebrations went well and that there will be joy for you and those you love in 2023. Thank you to everyone who shared in our Christmas services in church and worked so hard to provide a warm welcome for regulars and visitors alike. Thank you to our wonderful flower arrangers and cleaners and to those who prepared services and the church building, and provided wonderful music.

I'm not sure that I am very keen on "reviews of the year" that fill the media in quiet days between Christmas and the new year, but 2022 certainly brought changes and challenges in our national and international life, and perhaps for you personally as well. At Christmas we will have heard our new King, Charles III make his first Christmas broadcast and I imagine we are all getting used to the idea of having a king instead of a queen as Head of State. I know I still have to concentrate when reading prayers in church that refer to the monarch, remembering that it is Charles, not Elizabeth now.

Of course, we haven't heard a Christmas broadcast from a king in this country for many years, and indeed for most of us, this was the first time ever. George VI was the last king to give a Christmas address and as we face what looks to be another challenging year, I am reminded of his Christmas address in 1939 made at the beginning of the Second World War. It's hard for many of us to imagine what feelings of uncertainty and anxiety that time must have brought for the nation, and although we may not face such a crisis, the words still seem apt to take into the new year:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".* (*Minnie Louise Haskins*)

I often think that those words can give us confidence whatever we face, and for me, putting my hand into the hand of God is something I seek to do, day by day. For others, maybe instead there is a sense of going forward holding the hand of a loved one, or a companion on life's journey. However we go forward into this new year, may we have companions on the journey and a trust in God's love and care.

With every blessing for 2023,

### Rev. Jane (jdtailby@aol.com 01780 782271)

# What's On?

## WHO LET THE MEN OUT?



A chance for all men from our local villages to meet and socialise over a tasty breakfast

(Apethorpe, Woodnewton, Nassington, Yarwell, Wansford and Thornhaugh)

# Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 8.30am – 10.00am

The Willow and Brook, Apethorpe, PE8 5DG

Full English breakfast and guest speaker

# RSVP to help cater with approximate numbers or for any queries please contact lan Scott mensbreakfast@btconnect.com

Your chance to make a New Year resolution actually happen -come along to a Men's Breakfast! Our next meeting is on Saturday 21st January and open to men from our local villages to enjoy a hearty full English breakfast, enjoy a short informative talk and meet and make new friends from your village or from nearby. Guest speaker is Keith Roberts with a talk titled 'life as a statistician'.

All our 2022 meetings have been well attended with new guests joining every time so why not join in the fun and register to come by email to mensbreakfast@btconnect. com Full details will be sent once registered and we hope to welcome you all on 21st January for another successful event.

### What's On?



SLEEPING BEAUTY

at Woodnewton Village Hall

Tickets: Adult £10 Children £5

Wednesday 8 February at 7.30pm Thursday 9 February at 7.30pm Friday 10 February at 7.30pm Saturday 11 February at 2.30pm Saturday 11 February at 7.30pm

Tickets on sale by email from Thursday 5 January boxofficewoodnewton@gmail.com

Tickets are non-refundable



For all our latest news follow us at Woodnewton Players Sleeping Beauty by arrangement with Stage Right Creative Ltd. Written by Alan P Frayn

## Woodnewton History Group

Continuing with our research into the cottages of Woodnewton, this month we are looking at Vine Cottage at the west end of Main Street. Although, not a listed building, and now not a very attractive looking property, this house played a very important part in the village as it was the family home from 1921 of all the headteachers at Woodnewton Primary School.

Along with many other cottages in the village, this property was owned by Mr Henry Brassey of Apethorpe Estate and was tenanted. However, in 1921 Henry Brassey donated the cottage and the land to the parish church of St Mary's and set up a Charity Trust with the Incumbent and two Churchwardens as the Trustees.



Until the school closed down in 1990, the School House had been the home to nine headmistresses, the last one being Pam Darvill, who remained in the cottage after her retirement.

As can be seen from this photograph, the School House (right of picture) was a stone thatched single storey with attic and 2-window range property. The central doorway led into a small

inner hall and then left into one of the two downstair rooms. The second room was reached via another inner hall from at the back, from where the staircase led to the two upper rooms. An outhouse attached to the west end gable wall also had a thatched roof.

At some point in the early part of the 1930s, there was a fire in the thatch and the roof had to be completely removed and the walls had to be rebuilt and raised for a replacement asbestos roof to be installed to both the house and outhouse. A simple lean-to structure was added to the back of the cottage and used as a kitchen and a bathroom with a porch leading to a back door on the side wall.

In 1994, a strip of land on the east side of the property was sold in order that a new house could be built in between the 'now' closed school building and the School House.



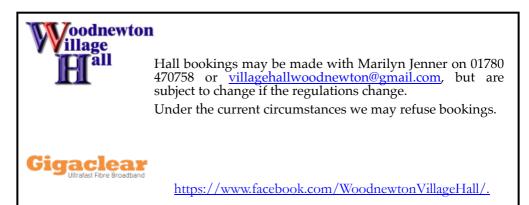
### Village Hall Clothing Bank

There is now a Clothing Bank located on the Village Hall car park. If you have old clothing, shoes, handbags, belts or shoes that you no longer use and are cluttering up your house you can drop them off and help to fund the Village Hall.





To raise any issues please contact the Parish Council: woodnewtonpc@gmail.com





I have been toying with the idea of getting a 3D printer. After some discussion with the domestic financial controller regarding purchase cost she asked if they were like conventional printers where the cost of the ink dwarfs the initial purchase price. I assured her not, as typically the reels of plastic used by these printers cost about £20 per kilogram. This got me thinking about the cost per kilogram of printer ink - which is often considered to be very expensive. According to a Which article from 2021 a litre (which is a pretty good proxy for a kilo) will cost you about £2,400. The most expensive Champagne I could find on Amps website costs £195 a bottle which works out at about £260 per litre - about 1/10th of the cost of printer ink! Obviously the



Champagne will taste better but how does that compare to really valuable stuff.

How about gold? Well according to the radio advertising I hear gold prices are meant to be at a record high. Intriguingly I found a website called Bullion by Post which will sell you a 1Kg gold bar for £48,089 - so that's about 20 times as much as printer ink and would make a conversation piece if you used it as a door stop. There are some precious metals that make catalytic converters on cars a magnet for thieves. According to Bullion by post Platinum is worth only £26,411 per kg but unfortunately they won't sell you a 1 kg bar of the stuff. That is a shame because that seems like a bit of a bargain compared to gold which I always think is a bit too bling and makes me think of Trump tower. A

close cousin (I am sure chemists would never use that term) of Platinum is Rhodium. I am pretty sure that if elements could be jealous Platinum would be. Rhodium is currently worth about £326,000 per kilogram which is more than the average house price in the UK. The other related metal used in catalyst is Palladium - which may or may not be named after the London theatre - which is valued somewhere between platinum and gold. Not surprising scumbags pinch catalysts.

There are more valuable chemical elements headed up by something called Californium at around £25 million per kg. I bet Texans are jealous and are trying to find something more expensive they can name after their state. Aside from chemical elements there are a whole range of pharmaceuticals that must figure as amongst the most value substances by weight. Without jumping down a whole new rabbit hole the most expensive drug I came across is a gene therapy called Zolgensma which costs about £2,000,000 for a year of treatment - I have no idea how much you get for that much money so it's difficult to compare. I will stay away completely from recreational drugs as this is a family publication

What about the most valuable food ingredients? How about trifola d'Alba Madonna which is white truffle from Alba in northern Italy. These cost about £3,000 per kilogram. The most expensive cheese I could find is called Pule which is (believe it or not) Serbian Donkey cheese. Made on a single farm it is made from a mix of 60% donkey milk and 40% goat's milk and will set you back about £1,000 per kilogram. The Swedes produce Elk (moose) cheese at around £800 per kilogram with milk from three moose called Gullan, Juna and Haelga (if anybody asks you). Closer to home in Leicestershire Long Clawson White Stilton Gold is actually made with edible gold and will cost you about £600 per kilo.

I was wondering if Long Clawson should step up their game a bit and use Rhodium instead of gold? I am sure that they could get at least  $\pm 5,000$  per kilo from some credulous billionaire gourmet somewhere. Maybe they have got Musk's or Bezos's phone number.

#### The Grumpy Geek

### **Useful Numbers and Information**

Parish Council Clerk	woodnewtonpc@gmail.com	
Village Hall Booking	Marilyn Jenner 01780 470758 villagehallwoodnewton@gmail.com	
Neighbourhood Watch	woodnewtonnw@googlemail.com	
Police	101 Ext 345306 for PCSO Artur Pereira artur.pereira@northants.pnn.police.uk	
Doctors Surgeries	Oundle Wansford	01832 273408 01780 782342
Veterinary Surgeries	Oundle Yarwell	01832 273521 01780 783910

### 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 <u>newswoodnewton@gmail.com</u>.

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 **I4th** of previous month.

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

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Website : http://woodnewtonhub.co.uk

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