

WOODNEWTON NEWS

MARCH 2017



More pictures from
Dick Whittington
on the back cover and inside

News and Reports

The Parish Council met on 6th February

Public Time 1 resident attended to ask permission to replace a polytunnel that had previously been on his allotment with a new one of similar dimensions.

Planning There were no applications to be considered. The Council was notified by ENC that an Enforcement Officer had visited a premises in the village, and that the issues raised had been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

Playground Project The Council was notified that the first grant application towards the new equipment had been successful.

Allotments The Council agreed to a request by a tenant to erect a polytunnel on their plot. This would be a similar structure to one previously on the same plot.

A Vacant plot has been offered to the next person on the waiting list. If you are interested in taking on an allotment please contact the Parish Council.

Spring Clean-Up Day The Spring Clean-up day will take place on Saturday 1st April 10.00am. There will be a number of different tasks to suit everyone. Pruning, painting, litter picking, scrub clearance etc. Come to the Village Hall to volunteer. Home-made refreshments will be available to sustain the workers.

St Mary's Hill The Council has received a quote for the new signs for St Mary's Hill. It was agreed that this would be looked at in the context of the whole St Mary's Hill project which has yet to be finalised.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 6th March at 8.00pm

Andrew Hansford - Parish Council Chairman

St Mary's Church

Spring is well on its way now, and it is really exciting being in a new garden here at the vicarage, waiting to see what is going to grow. At first, I thought I hadn't got any snowdrops in the garden, one of my favourites, so I went to buy some to plant, only to find that there are plenty now starting to appear - a lesson in patience and in trust, if ever there was one! Still, there can never be too many snowdrops in my opinion, so there are now even more in the garden. In the church thoughts of Spring lead towards thoughts of Lent and Easter to

follow. We will be having our Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion at Woodnewton church on 1st March at 7.00 p.m. to which all are welcome. Mothering Sunday falls at the end of March, 26th, and all our churches will be having a special Mothering Sunday Family Service. This is for everyone - with children or without, with families or on your own - an opportunity for a relaxed service where we give thanks to God for all his gifts, including our church. Mothering Sunday began as a day to gather in the mother church, so this is indeed a day for everyone. Our service here in Woodnewton will be at 11.00 a.m. Whatever the Spring brings, may God bless you.

Rev. Jane

MARCH SERVICES

1 st March	Ash Wednesday, HC	7.00pm
5 TH March	Sung CW Holy Communion	9.30am
12 th March	Said Morning Prayer	9.30am
19 th March	Sung CW Holy Communion	9.30am coffee served after service
26 th March	Mothering Sunday Service	11.00am

The APCM will be held in church on 19th March, after the service.

LENT GROUP

As we enter into the Lent Season, there will be a weekly Lent Group meeting on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons, and they start on Thursday, 2nd March. These meetings are being held at:

Tuesday, 7.15pm for 7.30pm	-	Nassington Vicarage
Thursday, 2.15pm for 2.30pm	-	Yarwell Village Hall

The group will be using a book called "Finding Your Voice" which uses extracts from the popular film "The King's Speech" to help think about our Christian journey.

CONFIRMATION

Would you, or someone you know, like to be confirmed this Spring? Preparation groups for adults and young people will be starting soon. Please contact Rev. Jane (jdtailby@aol.com) if this is something you'd like to think about.

News From Nassington School

Nassington pupils get involved in lots of sport, but this term we've had a first ! Thanks go to the Peterborough Phantoms ice hockey team who came to school to talk about ice hockey and to show their kit, which some children tried on. The free tickets they donated meant that some of our pupils and parents enjoyed their first live ice hockey match.

As a community school, Nassington is pleased to provide work experience to students considering a career in education. It was particularly lovely to welcome back a former pupil who said the following *"I have thoroughly enjoyed my work experience at Nassington School, it was strange to go back after going there as a student myself, however, working alongside both the teachers and children has been a pleasant and worthwhile experience"*.

Safety is forever a main focus, and our older pupils spent a day working with local Police Community Support Officers looking at keeping safe when using the internet and social media. An after-school session was also held for parents to highlight the dangers and how to avoid them. Huge thanks go to the Arthur and Alex from the PCSO Team for their presentation and to the school staff for kindly supervising the children to allow parents to attend "child-free".

Showing true commitment to their learning, all of our Year 6 children decided to give up their own time to take advantage of some extra SATS (Standard Attainment Tests) test practice on Thursday evenings.

We aim to support the forth-coming twinning between Nassington and St Andre de la Marche by French being taught in school, and also in our after school French Club.

On 2nd March, we are celebrating World Book Day, so don't be surprised if you see, walking to and from school, our children dressed-up as famous literary characters. There are usually some truly fabulous and inventive costumes. The question is, who will the staff dress up as this year ?

Please could we take this opportunity to thank all the members of our community who continually support our school in a variety of ways and freely give their time to present at school assemblies, help with swimming, listen to children read, etc. We also have a great team who tirelessly fundraise as FONS (Friends of Nassington School), and recently we've had a Valentine movie, pizza and popcorn night. New volunteers are always welcome.

We now have an updated website with lots more news and pictures and how to get in touch. Please see www.nassingtonschool.org.uk

Best wishes from all at Nassington School.

Woodnewton History Group

THE ASHBY FAMILY IN WOODNEWTON

Charles Robert Ashby, after pioneering in Canada from 1900, only 2 years after the great gold rush of 1898 in the Yukon, married Beatrice Terrell on the 1st March 1910 in England and shortly after, due to her ill health, sold his farm and returned to England with his wife. He farmed in Oxfordshire and Warwickshire and then moved to Cheeseman's Lodge at Apethorpe taking the Apethorpe Lodge tenancy with Lord Brassey, which he held until he died in 1961. He moved to Cheeseman's Lodge with his wife Beatrice and three sons, Jack (1913), Bob (1915) and Fred (1916). They moved to Manor Farmhouse in Woodnewton at number 53 Main Street in approximately 1940, again due to Beatrice's ill health and the fact that some of Woodnewton was connected to the services and Cheeseman's Lodge was not. At the outbreak of the war in 1939 Jack, who shared his father's farming interest, stayed at home. Charles and Jack took the Manor Farm Woodnewton tenancy renting the land from Mrs Brown and later from her daughter Betty who married John Reed.

Beatrice died in 1949 but Charles continued farming with his son Jack until he died in 1961. Jack's son Richard, who lives at Armston, now runs the farm helped by his son Michael.

In later years, in effect his retirement, he continued with his carpentry and looked after turkeys in the outbuildings which he reared for the Christmas market. During his lifetime he built a bridge over the Willowbrook giving access to the meadows on the south side of the village and this still stands today at the back of the farm. He built a large wagon hovel behind the Kennedy and Kemp grain dryer which Jack had installed – he was the first farmer in Northamptonshire to have a modern grain dryer. The grain was stored in bins and bags from crops grown at both Woodnewton and Apethorpe. As well as growing crops such as wheat, barley, beans, peas, sugar beet and potatoes there were herds of Hereford cattle (which in those days were known as beasts). These were in fields on both the north and south sides of the village, indeed there was a hovel in the grass field at the top of Priors Haugh to the north of the village.

Charles had worked very hard manually all his life and eventually Jack took over his farmer operations and engaged a large single family of Irish men from Galway, who initially lived in the horse stables at Apethorpe Lodge. They then moved into the cottages opposite the driveway to Manor Farm yard and eventually into Armston Lodge (near Barnwell). With the money the Irish family earned in the UK., after returning to Ireland, they purchased a Massey

Ferguson tractor and Jim, the youngest boy (named after his father) stayed in Ireland to use this instead of the usual donkeys to carry the peat which was cut out of the land by hand.

Following the death of Charles in 1961, George Stevens and his family moved from Cheeseman's Lodge to the Manor Farmhouse in Woodnewton. Eric their son worked for the Ashby family from the age of 16, moving to Herne Farm at Oundle when he married Rose at the age of 22. He worked for the family until his retirement and his skills and friendship were always appreciated by them.

The farm managers who lived at Manor Farmhouse, following the death of George, were Daid and Christine Larby and then Richard Revill, who ran the calf units in converted outbuildings and who lived there until Mrs Reed took the Farmhouse and farm buildings back into her estate.

A footnote to Charles story is that two of his great granddaughters and their families now reside in Woodnewton THE HISTORY GROUP would like to thank Richard Ashby for his kind help in writing this article and for providing a photograph of his Grandfather Charles and Hilda Saunders building a wall at Manor Farmhouse..





DICK WHITTINGTON

All pantomime photos courtesy of David Townshend



COLUMNISTS

Dick Whittington and His Cat- The Panto -A Critical Review

So, the panto season is upon us. The director, Andrew Hansford, secretly worried throughout the rehearsal phase if “he had a show”! Boy, did he have a show- it was quite brilliant.

First, some history. Richard Whittington (1350 to 1423) was real. He was the younger son of Sir William Whittington, Lord of the Manor of Pauntley, and as such he was neither poor nor an orphan. Our Dickie did travel to London to find work. He eventually became a mercer, a merchant dealing in valuable cloth from the Orient. By selling these materials to the Royal Court, Dick became very wealthy was ennobled and became Sir Dick. He did marry Alice, daughter of Sir Ivor Fitzwarren. Dick became a Magistrate of the City of London and served 4 terms as the Mayor of London. The archives do not record Sir Dick as having a cat nor was he a seafarer. Nevertheless it is clear that the Fitzwarrens, Alice and the Alderman in our panto loosely resemble some real historical characters who never envisaged working in theatre. There were (and probably still are) lots of rats in London, I may not mean just the rodent!

Now, about the Panto. An opening musical overture, easy on the ears and belted out by the talented two piece orchestra on keyboard and violin, heralded the launch of our panto. The audience were immediately awestruck with the costumes, the make-up and the creative art work on the stage backdrop. The scene changes were slick and well executed and stage lighting very effective. Sound effects worked well, such as the background clip clop of horses in the city, whilst frequent flatulence and burp sounds from the cast indicated some digestive problems amongst Woodnewton’s residents.

All the ingredients of classical panto were there, the villain, King Rat, was scary and generated the “Boos” and “Get Off” banters from the auditorium. King Rat, a felon, stitched up our Dick for a theft he did not commit. Dick, our hero, had moved from Woodnewton to London, seeking the elusive streets paved with gold – a nice but foolish boy. The lovely Alice was just lovely and was blessed with a great singing voice.

Accents were very “de rigeur” this year and there was less typecasting. The Alderman, parent of Alice, spoke in a Waitrose accent, (as opposed to a Lidl accent) appeared posh and aloof.

The indolent, lazy Jack communicated in estuary English of sorts. The normal collection of limp wristed, very camp actors was in short supply, only the Boson fulfilling that role. Dick’s cat appeared to be French, her accent very close to that of Inspector Clouseau of the Surete. There was a lack of fishnet tights being worn by the principal boy which was a disappointment to some elders in the village. The Scottish accents uttered by the Highland Chieftain and Warriors were appalling (to a native Scot!) and these actors have been reported to the Academy for Performing Arts for retraining. As expected, the one liner gags and innuendos uttered throughout the performance were excruciating

awful and giggly.

The romance twixt our Dick and the beautiful Alice was sparked by the vision of each other at first meeting. Romance kindled faster than the fastest speed dating service, surprisingly there appeared no time to determine each other's future marital prospects or income.

Having been banished from London for a crime he did not commit, Dick, Le Chat, Alice, and the Alderman set sail with Captain Cod, the Boson on the Barque, the Golden Behind. They were to sail the Ocean to seek their fortunes. Like all modern cruise liners, the ship appeared to carry an attractive vaudeville troupe of song and dance performers who knocked out some great routines between squalls. A fairy godmother armed with a Star Wars Light Sabre helped move the narrative along twixt scene changes.

Tragedy struck, the ship was shipwrecked. For a moment, the audience wept at the thought that the whole cast had perished and thus future pantos would never be staged again. Beached on a remote Scottish Island inhabited by an unfriendly Scottish Chieftain and his clan, the cast were not executed by Claymore. Subsequently pardoned, their lives were saved in return for clearing the island of rats courtesy of Dick's French Speaking cat, quite a reasonable outcome in all respects.

Perhaps the funniest costume ever adorned Sarah, Fitzwarren's Cook and erstwhile ship's chef. Sarah's Battleship Dress was made from the sawn off barrels of two Admiralty surplus Howitzers mounted on her bosoms. Robin Neighbour's performance as Sarah must be applauded. Hopefully his speech at the WAFTA presentation ceremony will be short and he will not thank his mother or the corrective penitentiary from which he came.

Was there a problem, Oh yes there was! Props went wrong here and there, the Highland Chieftain, Ginger, had some trouble with the fixative of his/her beard and moustache. Superglue is not what it used to be. Rats also rained from the ceiling at one point from a questionably re constructed bomb bay from a restored Lancaster MKIV bomber. The salvo of falling rats destroyed one of the audiences Gin 'n tonic and a bowl of Walkers crisps. Litigation may follow.

Tradition dictates that Buttercup, the Friesian cow always appears in Woodnewton Pantos, irrespective of continuity or story line. This year was no exception. It must be said Buttercup looked less dishevelled, her skin glowed and her fur was luscious. Clearly she had been dipped in some anti parasitic soothing solution. Moreover, her udders did not droop as in previous years. Great to see you Buttercup and thanks to the wardrobe master for cleaning Buttercup up.

The happy ending, all rats cleared from Shipwreck Island, the marriage of our Dick to Alice led to a great grand finale by the cast. We are fortunate in our local community to have such an eclectic group of thespians who can create such wonderful funny theatre. Thanks to the cast, the unsung heroes in the background and the Director and Co-producers- Boy o Boy, this was a great show. Oh Yes it was!

The Newsletters Arts and Culture Correspondent.



On the Plot

It isn't unusual for conversations, especially those concerning gardening matters, to begin with some reference to the weather. In March we all look forward to better days, the clocks going forward and to opportunities to get outside and get some real gardening started again. This certainly applies to those of us who love growing things, whether it be flowers, fruit, veg or all three.

Recent poor weather in Spain has meant that there has been a shortage of some vegetables and salad crops. This in turn has led to strong sales of salad and vegetable seeds. Apparently more people than ever are now growing at least some food crops. As you might expect, that gladdens my soul. Having grown such crops and enjoyed gardening of all types for most of my life I cannot imagine life without growing my own vegetables and fruit! It helps and has helped to keep me fit, to meet so many others with similar interest and to grow food of a quality and taste that no shop-bought produce can match.

If you are in the 'more reluctant' category and the present shortages lead you to start growing - even if it is only salad leaves - then if you only gain a fraction of the pleasure that I have from my hobby, you will be very happy and have a sense of fulfilment that is not easy to beat.

With the increased interest in such things over the past few years the availability of seeds has improved markedly. I buy mine by mail order from specialist seedsmen. There are very many of these, but I go to Dobies (of Devon), Marshalls and Tuckers. All have websites with lots of really great information on them about different varieties and the ordering process is easy and secure. For the greatest choice and value I recommend this method strongly, but garden centres also hold large stocks.

As for advice on how and when to grow, again there are lots of books and websites that are there to help. I think that the best thing is to browse different books in a good bookshop and then choose the one that you like the look of and feel you can use. Although the information given in any particular book is usually very good, methods of presentation affect personal appeal greatly, I think.

As for websites, the seed companies give good cultural advice for each seed type. My own favourite is the Royal Horticultural Society site at rhs.org.uk. This gives advice on every aspect of gardening from experts who are second to none in their particular fields. One very useful area of the site is the month by month guide to help with what you might be sowing and growing as the year progresses.

So as a new gardening year gets back into full swing, why not give it a go? I guarantee that once you taste your own produce, of whatever type, you won't look back.

I hope that your gardening year is a good one.

Dodge the Flak

What's On



COMMUNICARE

(Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery Patient Group)

A general meeting open to all patients will be held on

**Wednesday 8th March 2017
at Wansford Surgery – 1.0 pm**

Following the cessation of our own voluntary transport scheme, we are delighted to report that the Oundle Volunteer Action Group have been providing a limited service to our patients over the past couple of months.

A representative from OVA will be speaking at the meeting – detailing how their service operates and hopefully promoting interest from additional new drivers in our area.

OVA provide a high level of support to their volunteers, both administratively and financial, and there is good flexibility in their working arrangements.

If you want more information about the service on offer or you feel you could commit just a few voluntary driving hours a month why not come along and hear what they have to say – no obligation at all!

There will also be an update from the practice on future healthcare plans and developments

As always, the meeting will give patients the opportunity to gain up to date information and to ask questions



*My next walk will be on Saturday 25th
March and from Stamford Arts Centre
PE9 2DL . If you would like to join me on
a walk please meet me at the Arts Centre
at 10.00am.*

Gary Says

Our Woodnewton salon is now open

A beautifully intimate salon boasting a dedicated Relaxation Room, outdoor Rest Areas and a Jacuzzi Hydrotherapy Pool, allowing the ultimate spa experience for individuals, couples or groups of up to six. Refreshments, afternoon teas and light lunches are also available. As an introductory offer we would like to give you a 15% discount on your first treatment up until the end of March 2017! Quote NN15.

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Due to a change in circumstances the planned **Village Hall AGM** will now take place on

MONDAY MARCH 13th

If you have any ideas for planned events or if you would like to join the committee and get involved with running your Village Hall please come along.

General Meeting for attendees, and to list your name as a supporter, 7pm.
AGM meeting for Village Hall Committee will begin at 7.30

Wanted - Artists' Model!

More accurately we are looking for a sitter for our Tuesday afternoon art group at The Pottery Woodnewton. It will be for a head sculpture only. The main requirement is to turn up reliably over a six week period and sit reasonably still for an hour at a time. We can guarantee it will be an entertaining and enjoyable experience.

Gender or age is of no consequence. Tuesdays from 1.30 till 4.00pm from 18th April for six weeks. £20.00 per session. Interested?

Call John Russell - 01780 470474 or email - johnlrussell2@gmail.com.

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USEFUL NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

For more see the village website: www.woodnewtonhub.co.uk

Village Hall Booking Abbie Smith 01780 470691

Woodnewton Neighbourhood Watch woodnewtonnw@googlemail.com

Police 101 (non emergency report, suspicious behaviour and enquiries)

Doctors Surgeries

Oundle	01832 275375	Wansford	01780 782342
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Veterinary Surgeries

Oundle	01832 273521	Yarwell	01780 783910
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Woodnewton Mobile Library 11:45 - 12:10 Orchard Crescent every third Wednesday of the month.

DIARY DATES

March

Monday 6th	Parish Council	pg. 1
Wednesday 8th	Communicare meeting	pg. 10
Monday 13th	Village hall AGM	pg. 11
Saturday 25th	Gary's walk	pg. 10

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE CONTACTS

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Contributions: Please send articles by email whenever possible to newswoodnewton@googlemail.com Handwritten / non-electronic contributions can be delivered or sent to June Moore, 5 Lindsey Close.

Closing date for all copy 14th of previous month.

The Newsletter is edited and published by Liz Holland, 26, Orchard Lane, Woodnewton. Any views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council unless otherwise stated.

VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.woodnewtonhub.co.uk

