

WOODNEWTON NEWS

APRIL 2017



David Webb meets David Jason - See page 7 for why

News and Reports

The Parish Council met on 6th March

Public Time 1 resident attended to ask about the state of the road surface at the bottom of St Mary's Hill and also the residual damage to trees from the recent Storm Doris.

Planning There were 2 planning applications considered. The Council returned the applications with no objections.

Playground Project The Council was notified that half the grant monies for the project had been secured. The Village Hall committee would be consulted on the location of the new items of equipment so that they did not interfere with events that use the playing field. It is hoped that the order can be placed soon. A update on the timetable for the work and the impact on using the playing field during construction will be given in future newsletters when we have firm plans for the next phase of the project.

Churchyard It has been brought to the Council's attention by a number of residents that dog fouling in the Churchyard is on the increase. This was particularly distressing for one resident who found dog mess on a family grave. The Council will put up signs and investigate if a PSPO can be put in place. However this action would not be necessary if the small minority of irresponsible dog owners bagged the waste and took it home with them. Please make every effort to clean up after your dog in all public spaces in the village (i.e. paths, verges, playing field, churchyard etc.).

Spring Clean-Up Day By the time you read this the Spring Clean-up day will have been and gone. A big thankyou to those who volunteered for the many and varied tasks which help us to keep the village looking smart and tidy.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 3rd April at 8.00pm
Andrew Hansford - Parish Council Chairman

St Mary's Church

Services

2 April	Sung CW Holy Communion	9.30am
9 April	Said Matins	9.30am
14 April	Stations of the Cross	2.00pm
16 April	Easter Day CW HC Communion	9.30am
23 April	Said BCP Holy Communion	8.30am
30 April	Benefice Service at Nassington	10.00am

LET'S CELEBRATE AN EARLY ST GEORGES DAY AT THE CHURCH

Mums and Dads come and sit back, relax and enjoy a cup of coffee or two, whilst the children are being entertained with paint and card and making shields and swords. There will be a plant and book stall and a chance to view the plans for the Toilet and kitchen project which has reached the next step. The village History Group will also have a display of pictures and research information.

From the Vicar

You will find in the magazine information about our Easter services and I do hope you will be able to join us – at the services in Woodnewton, or across the villages of our benefice. You will be made very welcome!

April is also the month of our church annual meeting (known as the APCM) This is the time when we give thanks for the year past and look to the future, and thank everyone who has had a part in our church life. I sometimes think that the church is like one of those ducks that pass along the river at the bottom of the vicarage garden – perhaps I'd better explain!

When the congregation turns up for the service everything is in order, the organ music is easing us into worship; all appears calm. But there is a lot that goes on unseen that makes all that possible. There is a lot of paddling going on, if you like, to allow our worship to glide along smoothly. There is the church warden, the sidespeople, the verger and the sacristan who make sure that everything is place for services and that people are welcomed and provided for, those who read and those who lead our prayers, those who work with our young people, and of course those who provide the vital ministry of hospitality with refreshments after the service. But that's only Sunday – there is much that needs to happen during the week as well. Have you thought about those who keep an eye on the fabric of our lovely church buildings, those who serve on our PCCs, who keep our finances straight and record our meetings, those who clean, those who polish the brasses, wind the clock, cut the churchyard grass, arrange flowers, wash and iron the linen...? The list could be almost endless. Those are the tasks that are often unnoticed, but we would certainly notice if they *didn't* happen!

So it is good to say "Thank you" to ALL those who contribute to life and well-being of our church communities, and to those who support our church financially as well

So back to my duck-like church – thank you to all the paddlers who build up the Body of Christ in our churches and our villages, and if you think you could help out with a bit of paddling yourself, get in touch!

With Easter blessings,

(and a special thank you to those undertaking the tasks I have missed!)

Rev. Jane

Woodnewton Neighbourhood Watch

Feeling safe in your home

Bogus callers - sometimes called distraction burglars - usually prey on elderly or vulnerable households and the effect of their deception can be devastating. Some of the most common ruses used is for someone to turn up uninvited on your doorstep and claim to be from a utility company or someone who needs to check your property. Often you don't want to appear rude by asking them to leave but it is your home and you have every right to ask people to leave.

The following advice applies:

- Not sure? Don't open the door!
- Ask them to leave and then call the police on 999.
- Before you answer the door go to the back door and make sure it's locked.
- Never leave someone inside your house while you go to check any claim they've made to you.

Genuine callers welcome!

It's important to say that most callers at your door are genuine and it would be wrong to worry that everyone who knocks could be a would-be thief or con-artist. There are visitors that need to knock your door and over the next few years a major infrastructure project is happening across Britain.

The National Smart Meter Rollout is the national replacement of old energy meters by energy suppliers who are offering free smart meters to more than 26 million homes in England, Wales and Scotland. Fitting of Smart Meters is by appointment only and energy companies will never send fitters to your home without a previously arranged appointment.

For more information on how your energy supplier will be contacting you, and why go to www.smartenergygb.org/en

The web page www.checkatrade.com connects customers with reputable trades, services and businesses who have been checked to the Checkatrade standard, giving you peace of mind.

You can download an "uninvited traders sticker" to stick on your door by visiting <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Uninvited-Traders-Sticker.pdf>

Communicare

A large number of patients attended the quarterly general meeting held last month when we welcomed guest speakers Carol Underwood and Liz Hollard from Oundle Volunteer Action. They gave a detailed explanation of what OVA provides and how the various services operate – three main areas – the community car service, the befriend-

ing and assisted referrals services.

The befriending service provides visits to eligible individuals by volunteers who if possible have shared interests – no caring involved, just an opportunity for companionship. This service is free to users and is not funded except for the volunteers' expenses. Assisted referral provides free help accessing information or services which are needed in respect of well-being or property, etc. and with completion of required paperwork. The community car service allows eligible people to register on the OVA system free of charge – they can request transport from home to destinations for appointments, medical, personal, financial, etc. There is a mileage charge (40p pm) At present they have circa 70 volunteer drivers but there is a constant need to recruit additional people. There were various questions concerning age restriction, car insurance, DBS checking, acceptable waiting times at user's destination, etc. Leaflets and application forms were distributed and the ladies were warmly thanked for their attendance and all the information they had provided.

Dr Nally gave the practice update confirming that a decision has been taken not to join up with Lakeside, Corby, but to remain an independent and unique unit working within the Greater Peterborough Network (GPN) of practices. She outlined the reasons for this decision and thanked all those patients who had put forward their views – the general consensus being a preference to stay 'as is' and advice to the partners not to rush into taking such a momentous step – something Dr Nally said they had indeed taken on board. However she did not rule out the possibility of revisiting the matter at a later date should circumstances change within the practice.

Dr Nally also outlined some of the new working arrangements being introduced by GPN – 8-8 hours opening on a rota basis weekdays and at weekends - the 6.30-8pm slot and the 9am–5pm weekend slots being provided at Boroughbury Medical Practice in Peterborough. The Wansford surgery will continue to open on Saturday mornings for their own patients.

On the subject of the Kings Cliffe surgery she acknowledged that it was now not fit for purpose. Discussions are ongoing with the local authority regarding available land on the old middle school site, although there was competition from interested housing developers. As well as providing a new surgery, the partners would like to bring in a number of initiative ideas including extra community care facilities, a new pharmacy and a training centre for localized care workers. There are also plans being conceived for the construction of a nursing home facility adjacent to the Wansford surgery which would provide intermediary care for patients needing a level of nursing unavailable at home, but not serious enough for hospitalization. The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th June at 6.30pm at Wansford surgery.

The next social group coffee morning: Friday 21st April at Sports Active Kings Cliffe 10am. The first spring/summer day trip is planned mid-April to Newark for the weekly market with a stop-off at Downtown - to book contact Clare Wagstaffe 01780 470437 / superfoguk@aol.com

Open Gardens – Fundraiser 2016

Following the success of the Open Gardens and Flower Festival last year, which was well supported by many villagers, we are happy to report that the money raised from the 'Open Gardens' has been allocated to our village clubs.

Donations have been given to the following groups: -

The Table Tennis club for a new table tennis table.

The Art group for art supplies.

The History society towards the production of a village history booklet.

A donation was also given to the Save the Children, Syria appeal for the village "rounders" fundraiser (which took place on the playing field, the same weekend as the Open Gardens).

A further donation is being given towards the 'Bee project' on the Allotments.

If you are a member of a village group/club (not previously mentioned) and would like a donation for a specific item or project, please contact Liz Cooper (470347) or Rosie Atchison (470372), with the details.

Thanks

COLUMNISTS

On the Cover

This month's front cover features Woodnewton Players Chairman David Webb with actor David Jason. The pair were discussing the Players next production over a pint in The White Swan. It has been suggested that it may be a murder mystery, which would be just right for David aka Inspector Frost. Who knows perhaps he will give a surprise cameo performance or even direct the production. Word has it that he is checking his diary to see if he is available ???!!

Oundle and District Care

Village representative

In the February edition of the Woodnewton News, I asked if someone in the village would be able to take over the position of village rep. from me.

I am happy to report that Mrs Di Guttridge has kindly agreed to take on this role.

Di moved into the village in 2013 and lives at 67a, Main Street, Woodnewton. Call her on (01780) 479151 or (07817) 314245 or email Di on dianeg1912@gmail.com if you know of anyone in the village who has been in hospital and would appreciate a gift of flowers, a plant or basket of fruit, whilst they are recuperating,

Many thanks

Rosie

Woodnewton History Group

Woodnewton Care and Community Association

In 1974 two ladies of the village proposed the formation of the Woodnewton Care & Community Association. There was already an Association in Oundle but it was felt that such an organisation would be useful in Woodnewton in view of the number of elderly residents. A call was put out for anyone interested in helping and subsequently a committee was formed with between 8 and 10 members. A chairperson was elected and a number of activities identified. These included a car service to take residents without transport for appointments with doctors or to hospitals etc. A hot meal service was organised, as and when needed, for anyone who was unwell. Later on a monthly visit by a Chiropodist was put in place. A monthly Whist Drive followed. The C&CA also took over the production of the village newsletter.

At Christmas time a Christmas lunch was organised for anyone over the age of 65. The annual Bonfire Night fireworks display which had started in the garden of a resident in 1968 was taken over by the Association and moved to the area designated as the Playing Field (last year's Bonfire Fireworks Display was the 48th year for the event). Larger events were organised to raise funds for the Association.

One such event was a Go-Kart Rally put on by the Moreton Go-Kart Club. The Association organised stalls and activities to raise funds. The day it was held it was a very hot summer's day. A bar had been organised which was served by two lady volunteers who were dressed to suit the hot weather, with the result the bar ran out of beer.



From time to time a day out would be organised for anyone who did not have transport. Oundle had a minibus they allowed us to use. One such event was a day trip to Thursford Steam Museum. However there was a collection of working steam engines, a Carousel and the Wurlitzer organ. You could just go on the Carousel to enjoy a 10 minute ride. One

of the elderly ladies was completely taken by the Carousel and continued to have a number of rides. She said it was the first time she had ridden one since she was a little girl.

The group then moved into the small theatre to be entertained by the organist on the Wurlitzer. He played a number of well-known numbers which got the audience singing. After cups of tea and cakes it was decided to extend the day out by going to Wells Next To The Sea. After a short walk a number of the party headed for the nearby fish & chip restaurant, whilst two of the ladies decided to stay on the minibus. However when the fish & chip party arrived back at the minibus they found the two ladies tucking into ice creams and so someone was elected to go to fetch ice creams for the rest. The group

arrived back at Woodnewton in the evening feeling tired but happily content with their day out.

During its existence the Woodnewton Care & Community Association, thanks to its many volunteers, provided many services and entertainment to all the residents of Woodnewton. With the opening of the Village Hall in October 1992 the V.H. committee took over the services, facilities and entertainment which the C&CA had been providing. The funds held by the C&CA were passed to the Village Hall committee. The car service is now provided by Volunteer Action in Oundle.

On The Plot

Over the last few days we have enjoyed very mild and often sunny weather. This is quite a contrast to the gales as storm Doris passed a couple of weeks back. Hopefully you didn't suffer any serious damage to your property.

Things on the allotments took a fair battering. At the time there was little to smile about, but now when most wounds have healed there is time for a chuckle or two!

I decided to brave the storm to make sure that my plot was alright. I soon found that a rather expensive cage purchased to protect my brassicas was wobbling badly despite having a fairly large mesh net fitted to it. I fixed some guy lines to it and disaster was averted. Having anchored a few things on neighbouring plots I remembered that another plot-holder had a similar cage to the one that I had just saved. Despite efforts to suggest that during the winter a large mesh would offer less resistance to the wind, I knew that the cage was still fitted with butterfly netting. This is pretty wind resistant, indeed it could almost be used as sail cloth for any cost conscious boat owner.

A few steps towards the plot concerned and I realised that decisive action was needed. As I struggled to stop the whole cage from travelling to Nassington I used my phone to summon help from the owner. Holding down this sail-like structure whilst trying to use my phone would have been amusing to onlookers I'm sure, but none was silly enough to be out in this mad weather. Despite having greatly enjoyed all the fruits of the festive season, (an a deal more besides), the owner did a 3.7 minute mile run from home in order to assist. Thankfully the result of all that pleasure provided the required ballast and the cage was sorted, although I'm not too sure that getting gift wrapped in butterfly netting in the process was such a good idea. No doubt the lack of spectators was beneficial in some respects, but I reckon that anyone who had been brave enough to be out right then would have been well rewarded for their pains. Pains from uncontrolled laughter, perhaps.

As amusing in its way was the fact that the two of us walked up and down and around a few plots without realising that another plot-holder's shed had been completely flattened. Despite feelings of doom and gloom on our part the can-do philosophy of the owner ensured that the shed was re-erected in all its glory within a few hours.

Apart from that, the only other event of note was the branches from trees around

the allotment site broken and flying through the air at a speed somewhat similar to a bonfire night rocket. I'm sure some would think that a tap on the head might be to our long-term benefit, but thankfully we avoided all contact.

Let's hope for quieter times in the coming weeks with sun, warmth and gentle breezes.

Dodge the Flak

Woodnewton Players - Meal & a much requested recipe

How many requests are required to label something "by popular request"? On the basis of being asked by at least a handful of folks at the Woodnewton Players dinner at the Village Hall in March, I am claiming that epithet for this recipe. The dinner was organised by Annie Holland and main dishes and deserts provided by members of the company. A splendid evening was enjoyed by all (as they always say).

This vegetable side dish was my contribution. You could have it as a side with a grilled pork chop or a nice piece of oven roasted cod or haddock. It would also stand on its own as a vegetarian supper.

The quantities will serve about 6 as a supper and would stretch to a dozen as a side dish. There are also a couple of options to adapt it to your taste or make it more substantial.

Ingredients

2 red onions, chopped

At least 4 good sized cloves of garlic finely chopped

6 good sized aubergines

2-4 red peppers. Seeded and chopped.

Plenty of olive oil. I use extra virgin but you can probably get away with regular.

3-4 cans of chopped tomatoes

2 handfuls of fresh basil.

2 sprigs of fresh thyme leaves picked and chopped

3-4 sage leaves finely chopped.

1 tablespoon of sugar.

2 crusts of a loaf for bread crumbs. Use whatever you have available.

4 oz strong hard cheese. I use 50/50 parmesiano and mature cheddar but you can use all parmesiano. Cut into small chunks.

1-2 oz pine nuts.

Salt and pepper

1. Slice your aubergines into 1/2 inch thick slices. You need to apply some olive oil to them. For the slightly lower fat version you can brush both sides, for the decadent version (especially if using extra virgin) pour some olive oil into a shallow bowl and dip each side. Grill the slices in batches under a hot grill or on a char grill. You want them to be golden to light brown on both sides. Once they are cooked

set them aside on a large plate. I find that the best thing to do is to slice a couple at a time and oil them. If you slice them all and don't oil they may go a bit yellow.

2. While your aubergine batches are grilling heat up some more olive oil to a medium heat in a big frying or sauté pan. Sweat the onions and peppers until soft, about 7-8 minutes. Then add the garlic and cook for a couple more minutes, softened but not browned. Add the sage and thyme and mix about a bit.
3. Pour your tins of tomatoes into the onion, pepper and garlic pan. Season with salt and black pepper and add the sugar. Bring to the boil and simmer while you cook the remainder of your aubergines. You probably should simmer for around 30 minutes. That way the peppers disintegrate into the tomatoes just leaving their flavour. Roughly chop one of the handfuls of basil and add about half way through. If you prefer something spicy you could add some chilli, cayenne or hot paprika. Spanish smoked paprika (pimenton) also works well. Don't overdo it with any of these though.
4. Once the aubergines are grilled get a large open oven proof dish or roasting tray and spoon a thin layer of the tomato mixture into it. Put in layer of aubergine slices and cover with more tomato mixture. Repeat finishing with a layer of tomatoes.
5. Scatter the pine nuts.
6. Tear up the bread crusts and put them in a food processor. Throw in the chunks of cheese and the second handful of basil. Blitz to create a crumb mixture. Spread this crumb mixture on top of the aubergines and tomatoes.
7. Bake in a 200 degree oven for about 25-30 minutes. Keep an eye on it though and stick some foil over if it looks like it will burn.

If you want to make it a bit more substantial add 4-6 oz of chopped mozzarella or feta when you are layering the aubergines.

Enjoy with a nice glass of chianti and friends, or family, if no friends are available.



What's On

Woodnewton Players AGM

Thursday 27th April at the Village Hall

starting at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome - especially potential new members.

KEEP THE DATE

13TH MAY

**VILLAGE HALL
BINGO**

My next walk will be on Saturday 15th April at 10.00am. If you would like to join me I shall be at Exton Village Green by the Fox and Hounds pub LE15 8AP. Hope you will be able to come along

Gary Says



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2017)

THURSDAY

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6.30 pm - 7.45 pm

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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

APRIL

Mon 3rd	Parish council	pg.1
Sat 15th	Village Walk	pg.10
Fri 21st	Communicare coffee morning	pg. 4
Sat 22nd	Church coffee morning	pg. 2
Thurs 27th	Woodnewton Players AGM	pg. 10

MAY

Sat 13th	Village hall bingo	pg. 10
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NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE CONTACTS

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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**

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