

WOODNEWTON NEWS

MAY 2025



Woodnewton Parish Council



Annual Village Meeting 2025



Northampton Fire & Rescue Service Watch Commander Graham Dexter briefed a well attended Annual Village meeting regarding the capabilities and services provided by NFRS.

Graham specifically emphasised the assessment and help that the service can provide to householders and businesses regarding fire safety and prevention. Villagers can arrange visits and consultations by accessing the website at <https://www.northantsfire.gov.uk/>.



Chairman's Report

2024/25 has been another busy year for the Council, with Orchards, maintenance and dogs taking up much of our time.

As always, I would like to thank Alex, Paul, Peter, Alison and Marcus for their continuing service and especially our Clerk, Amy, without whom the Council would not function. Nigel Goodhall is stepping down this year so on behalf of everyone I would like to thank him for his hard work and effort especially with the allotments and Coronation Orchard.

Following consideration of alternatives Council agreed a budget for 2025/26 which covered all known costs and expected increases whilst maintaining a reasonable reserve to cover contingencies. The budget requires a precept increase of 5% to £20,536, still £3000 below our budgeted costs. Some of the shortfall is met through other income sources but any remainder will come from reserves. After a period of higher percentage increases the Council is now on a more stable financial future than it was in the recent past.

Rather than go through each month I thought I would summarise the work we have done in the main areas for which the Council is responsible.

Cemetery and churchyard

Alison has done a lot of work, listening to feedback, advice and opinions. Many other churchyards have similar projects which give us the opportunity to learn what works and what doesn't, both in terms of the project but also the communication and community involvement.

Playing field and playground

No new equipment has been installed this year but the playground is popular location for all ages both from the village and surrounding areas which is a credit to all involved. Other equipment has been maintained and repaired to keep it safe and prolong its lifespan. A monthly inspection is done by the Council of all the equipment, in addition too the annual full safety check by ROSPA.

The Bonfire site was made available to residents in October as usual for the disposal of garden waste even though there wasn't a village fireworks and bonfire event. The Council thinks it important that this facility is continued, and it is thanks to the volunteers who took time to burn all the rubbish safely and clear up afterwards.

Clean Up Day

this twice-yearly event remains a vital part of the Council's work and allows us to do several jobs that we would otherwise not be able to afford. The Council extends its thanks to all the



volunteers who have taken part in our days this year. Jobs big and small have been done but all contribute to keeping our village a clean and tidy place to live.

Grass Cutting remains the single largest expense of the Council. Our Contractors have both provided a good service over the last 12 months and helped us to keep the village to the standard we expect.

Allotments

Cllr Goodhall gives a lot of time to the allotments, gathering feedback, maintenance and new tenants on the list. The plots are kept at a high standard which is a credit to the tenants.

Speeding

The speed cameras are working well and allow the Council to periodically publish the speed data recorded in the newsletter.

Planning

The Council is consulted by North Northants Council (NNC) on many planning applications over the course of the year. The Council has adopted a relaxed approach to applications, other than those that pose harm to neighbours, the development boundary or the streetscape in which case we will lodge objections. The Council can object on a limited number of reasons however our objections do not carry any more or less weight than anyone else.

Ongoing

The Council will continue to work to improve the quality of life and the environment within the village. We have very little power and a relatively small budget to achieve all the things that we would like to do. The Council achieves most of its success by appealing to the goodwill and community mindedness of residents to trim hedges, cut verges, pick up dog mess et cetera. Most of the maintenance work and other small tasks are all done by volunteers which saves the Council a lot of money each year. We are thankful to everyone who has contributed to village life over the past 12 months in whatever way and however large or small.

Without you, we would not achieve so much as we simply could not afford it, so a huge thank you from me.

The Parish Council is here to represent residents, and to make that effective we need your engagement. Meetings are open to everyone, and we are always willing to listen to suggestions and ideas.

On a Personal Note:

After 15 years as a member of the Parish Council of which 10 years have been as Chairman, I am stepping down in May. The Council will have 2 vacancies to fill for anyone interested. Fresh thinking is always welcome, and any group needs new ideas to continue to be effective. Like all the groups and events in the village the Parish Council relies on volunteers, to give up time to represent the village and keep Woodnewton somewhere people want to live, work and play. The sense of community that so many look for when moving to a village only exists if people get involved. It can be a very rewarding experience, so no matter how much time you have, please think about engaging in village life in some form or other.

Andrew Hansford

Chairman, Woodnewton Parish Council



Parish Council Report - April 2025

Church Yard and Cemetery

First grass cuts completed; minimal growth due to good weather. Request made for grass around church uplighters to be trimmed.

Speeding in the Village

All vehicle-activated signs operational.

Nassington Road: Avg in: 24mph, out: 26.3mph; Max in: 49mph; Volume: 20,000 vehicles

Oundle Road: Avg in: 27.4mph, out: 30.5mph; Max in: 62mph; Volume: 79,000 vehicles

Apethorpe Road: Avg in: 24.3mph, out: 24.4mph; Max in: 58mph; Volume: 14,000 vehicles

Playground and Playing Fields

Monthly inspection (Cllr Neville) noted minor paint peeling on gym equipment (leg lift & chin-up bars).

Cllr Blackmore to request paint from the manufacturer. No outstanding repairs.

Planning

NE/25/00262/OHL – Overhead Electricity Line Upgrade: Replacement of existing 10m poles with two 12m poles and upgrade of transformer within substation grounds. No objection after consultation with Lyndsey Close residents.

NE/25/00371/FUL – 32 Orchard Lane: Replacement garage with a bedroom above and attic conversion. No objection.

NE/25/00377/FUL – 35 Main Street: Removal of conservatory, single-storey rear extension, replacement windows/doors, and internal alterations. No objection.

24/01205/FUL & 24/01206/LBC – Mansard Cottage: Replacement windows and French doors, secondary glazing to retained windows. Permission granted.

Finance

Year-End Audit (2024/25)

Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, and Accounting Statement were all approved and signed and will be available for public inspection period set for 3rd June to 14th July 2025. Any residents wishing to inspect these documents can contact the Parish Clerk at woodnewtonpc@gmail.com

Allotments

Water supply reinstated; no further updates.

Village Maintenance

Awaiting response from City Fibre for remedial work.

Village Hall notice board being repaired (handled by Village Hall Committee).

Union Jack removed due to wear

Nominations

Oundle Ward elections on 1st May 2025 – no contested election for Woodnewton.

5 nominations confirmed for Woodnewton Parish Council; 2 vacancies open for co-option.

Next Meeting

Monday 12th May at 8.00pm, following the Annual Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

Alex Neville - Vice Chair Woodnewton Parish Council

St. Mary's Church News

Services at St. Mary's Church Woodnewton May 2025

Services at WOODNEWTON unless otherwise noted

4th May – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

Thursday, 8th May 1p.m. Prayers of Commemoration and Thanksgiving in the churchyard to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

11th May – No service at Woodnewton. Services at Nassington at 9.30 am and Yarwell at 11 am

18th May – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

25th May – 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP (Traditional Language)

Every Sunday 5.00 p.m. A Service at Home by ZOOM (phone or online). Log-in details from Rev. Jane

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, WOODNEWTON – THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, 27th MAY AT 7.00 p.m. IN THE CHURCH.

This year, the nation marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The main focus for the commemorations and thanksgivings will be around May 8th, VE Day, marking Victory in Europe. On May 8th itself, there will be prayers of remembrance in St. Mary's Churchyard at 1 p.m. for all who would like to mark the day in this way. As the years pass, there are fewer and fewer people who actually remember the events of the first VE Day, and, as on Remembrance Sunday, it seems to me that it is up to later generations now to keep the flame of memory alive, remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and those who returned to build new lives with their loved ones. There are those in our communities who remember the return of family and friends when they were children, and just a few still who were actually involved in the conflict one way or another. For many of us, it is the memories shared by parents or grandparents that live in our own thoughts.

There are also those who will remember that although VE Day was a day of rejoicing for the nation, with parties and celebrations (we might think of photographs of the celebrations in London for example, that day) there were others who still watched and waited, knowing that the task was not yet finished. In the Far East the battles still raged against the Japanese forces, and I know those who have said that the families of those fighting there, and the military themselves, felt forgotten. How hard it must have been for those with loved ones still engaged in horrendous conflict so far away, to see others celebrating while they still waited. That is why we must also mark VJ Day on 15th August as well.

How easy it is to forget those who are further away from us, in distance or in culture. As we give thanks for freedom won for us 80 years ago, we must not forget those who still fight for freedom now, in so many different ways, and in many different places. Our commemorations need to include a commitment to remember and pray for those seeking freedom and justice now, and to give thanks that in God no-one is forgotten or lost. In his love all are held safe, those who have given their lives for others, those we love who have journeyed now into eternal life and those who suffer under oppression now. Maybe that's why we need to commemorate significant anniversaries, because suffering still endures somewhere, and we pray that God will bring true and lasting peace and live in hope and expectation.

With every blessing,

Rev. Jane

What's On?

"Date & Time
Change"



Nassington School

May Fayre

Friday

16th May 2025

2pm - 5pm

Students, teachers,

parents, carers,

family members,

friends of Nassington School

all welcome

Raffle, Games, May Pole Dancing,

Tombola, and much more.

What's On?

Come & Chat

The 'Come and Chat' mornings are usually held on the last Thursday of every month from 10.30 to midday, the next date for your diary is the 29th May.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits are available for a donation of £1 and everyone is welcome to pop in.

It's a good opportunity to meet with friends or to make new friends. If you are fairly new to the village do come along, you will be given a warm welcome.



Line Dancing Class

Woodnewton Village Hall every Monday 7-8pm

No experience necessary. The aim is to have fun and improve fitness along the way. No need to book. £4 a session. Ring/text/email Tasha for further details.

07789 230671 or nteall@btinternet.com



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WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)

Oundle Suite, Fletton House, Glapthorn Road, Oundle PE8 4JA

Pop-up Café 6pm – 7.30pm

Tickets in advance online £7.00 plus 10% booking fee. Or £8.00 on the door (cash or card)



www.docsplus.org.uk

AUTHORS IN OUNDLE



Tracy Chevalier: *The Glassmaker*

Friday 30th May, 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Great Hall, New Street, Oundle, PE8 4GH

Tickets £14 (£9), £1 off early bird tickets bought before 31st March
(limited amount), available from Oundle Bookshop (cash only).
www.authorsinoundle.co.uk



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Known for her second novel, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* - a New York Times bestseller in 1999 and adapted into a film starring Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth four years later - **Tracy Chevalier** is a master of historical fiction, transporting readers into the past.

The Glassmaker is a sweeping tale that charts a course from 15th-century Renaissance Venice and the secretive island of Murano, through the prevailing centuries until it lands firmly at the doorstep of the modern day. Each chapter and each leap through history is like a glassmaker returning to the furnace repeatedly, layering and shaping glass until their story is revealed.

'A triumph, a brilliant idea carried out with confidence and brio and a deep love of an extraordinary city. The ingenuity of the time-skipping is beyond admiration'.
Philip Pullman

GEORGIAN SUPRA SONGS

Saturday 10th May 2025 2 - 5pm
Yarwell Village Hall
Singing workshop by Holly Taylor-Zuntz
Supra tradition talk by Susan Thompson

TICKETS £22.50 DOOR £27.00



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Where Have All Our Butterflies Gone?

When did you last see a small tortoiseshell butterfly – once so common in our gardens and along our hedgerows?

The same applies to all of our butterflies. Last year's UK Big Butterfly Count showed the huge problem – it was the lowest count ever. There were 74% fewer small tortoiseshells than in 2023 and 67% fewer peacock butterflies. What is more, this is part of a long-term continuing decline. Things are so bad that Butterfly Conservation has declared a Butterfly Emergency.

Do we really want our gardens and countryside to be devoid of butterflies? Is that what we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren?

Action is being taken. There are big projects going on in Northamptonshire, such as the re-introduction of the chequered skipper at Fineshade Wood – it went extinct in England 40 years ago.



But what can WE do? How can we encourage more butterflies? Here are some simple steps:

Don't cut, kill or remove every last wild plant in your garden or elsewhere in the village. Excessive 'tidying up' is disastrous for wildlife. Virtually nothing lives on tightly mown weed-free lawns. And removing scrub and spraying the ground with weedkiller is dreadful – as has just happened at the end of Pridmore Close.

In contrast, the Parish Council now manages the cemetery to encourage wildlife, with a wildflower meadow and fringing areas of long grass. We need more of this in the village.

Grow plants for butterflies – nectar-rich flowers for the adults and foodplants for the caterpillars – holly, nettles, grasses.

Leave areas of long grass in your garden and around the village. Large or small uncut areas will allow meadow butterflies like gatekeepers and ringlets to breed, and encourage other wildlife too.

Leave part of your lawn un-cut in May and June – enjoy the wildflowers and insects instead.

Don't use any insecticides.

Encourage your children and grandchildren to look out for butterflies and other insects.

If we all take these simple steps we could make our village richer in butterflies and other wildlife. Let's do it!

If you would like to know more about what to do and what to plant, or to share your successes, please contact me - or write to the newsletter.

David Townshend – drdjt73@gmail.com.

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL



Andrew Hansford

The members of the Parish Council would like to thank Andrew for his 15 years of diligent and good humoured service to the village as a Parish Councillor. He steps down after chairing the council for the last 10 years. Thanks Andrew and we hope you still come along to the clean up days.

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

WOODNEWTON HISTORY GROUP

Our regular meetings continue on the **4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM**. This year, we've introduced a series of short talks on local history, presented by our own members.

Check out the research and editorials compiled by our members on our website: <https://woodnewtonhistory.co.uk>.

If you have a passion for history and would like to join us, please get in touch at jennervalley@gmail.com. We'd love to welcome you!



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Useful Numbers and Information

Parish Council Clerk	woodnewtonpc@gmail.com	
Village Hall Booking	Anne Hills 07399 359262 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	01832 273408
	Wansford	01780 782342
Veterinary Surgeries	Oundle	01832 273521
	Yarwell	01780 783910

Newsletter & Website Contacts

Newsletter Team:

Grant Neville, Ann Galloway, 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.

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/>

The Newsletter is edited and published by Grant Neville, 20 Orchard Lane, Woodnewton.

Any views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council unless otherwise stated.

Website : <http://woodnewtonhub.co.uk>

Submissions for material to be hosted on the Woodnewton Hub website should be emailed to newswoodnewton@gmail.com.



Hall bookings may be made with Anne Hills on 07399 359262 or villagehallwoodnewton@gmail.com.

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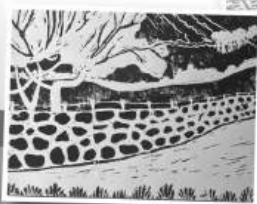


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Whatever your experience from novice to artist, my workshops are varied and enriching. Do you want guidance and ideas to be confident exploring your creativity? Want to immerse yourself in a creative workshop and forget life's stresses? Why not come along and experience a fun workshop in my garden studio...

For further details of my classes please visit my instagram page, [akersartclasses](#), call me on 07930 544783 or email me s.akers937@gmail.com

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Lost the Plot?

Walk into any pub in the UK and you will probably be presented with one of the best examples of pure creativity in everyday life. Beside the usual array of the products of the huge brewery groups like Stella Artois, Carlsberg and Kronenbourg, more often than not attached to the traditional wooden pump handles you are like to see some of the most eclectic and original names given to any products anywhere. Local craft breweries in particular tend to pick completely random and apparently unconnected names for their brews. Picking out a selection of our local breweries gives a good illustration. **Nene Valley Brewery** in Oundle have an array of beers. Some have obvious names: **Nene Valley Bitter**, **Blond Session Ale**, **Simple Pleasures** do what they say on the bottle. But some of their other brews show a predilection for the scientific; **Big Bang Theory**, **Manhattan Project** and **Heisenberg**. My particular favourite, both from a drinking and naming perspective is **Release the Chimps** and a **Mid Week Bender** is not for the faint of heart.



Kings Cliffe Brewery has a more consistent approach to their beer names which all seem to have a numerical bent. The influences on their naming are quite varied though. **66'** is the temperature (I assume in Fahrenheit) at which they steep the grist. Their **P51** porter is named after the P51 Mustangs which flew from Kingscliffe Airfield during the last small disagreement (© Auto shenanigans). **5C** is named in honour of the 5 counties which are all within a stone's throw of **No.10 Kingsmead** where they brew all of them. **Digfield Ales** in Barnwell have a set of ales that also feature an interesting and varied set of names. **Chiffchaff** and **March Hare** feature wildlife, but they also offer **Mad Monk**, **Fools Nook** (a favourite of mine), **Shacklebush** and the more prosaic sounding **Barnwell Bitter**. **Shacklebush** is a bit of a mystery to me as the pump label illustration is shrub like but a quick internet search results only in car suspension parts!

So even amongst a very local set of small brewers there is an amazing variety of names. I have no doubt it must be difficult to pick these names but the freedom to call your beer pretty much whatever you like does mean that if you have that responsibility you can let your imagination run free. **Thornbridge** brewery in Derbyshire is another favourite of mine. Best known for **Jaipur** which is a pretty obvious name for an India Pale Ale, they also have some others like **Jamestown**, **Lukas** lager and **Green Mountain** which show no particular pattern in their naming. Quite a number of the beers from all of these brewers are labelled as IPA, American IPA or even New England IPA. IPA stands for India Pale Ale and actually originates from the days of the British Empire when exporting ales to India and other parts for consumption by expatriates was a challenge until a stronger, more heavily hopped ale was developed which survived the voyage. Thus India Pale Ale was born. I do wonder if American India Pale Ale should be brewed only by American Indians - Apache Pale Ale, anyone?

The first eccentrically named beer that sticks in my memory dates from the 1980s. In London there was a chain of brew pubs - I guess the precursors to the current micro-breweries - named **Firkin**. The **Fox** and **Firkin**, **Pheasant** and **Firkin** and **Frog** and **Firkin** spring to mind. At each pub you would order a of regular bitter by requesting a pint of **Fox**, **Pheasant** or **Frog**. But I am sure that all of them also sold an especially strong brew known as **Dogbolter**. It was considered strong at about 6% when a regular bitter was about 3.8%. Nowadays that does not seem so extreme. A quick bit of research suggests that in addition to **Dogbolter** there was also an even stronger brew called **Earthstopper**. I don't know if I ever tried any of that - maybe I did and the Earth just stopped.

Any sharp-eyed audience member at this year's Village Hall Pantomime may have spotted the beer being sold in **The Stumble Inn** - the completely fictitious **Sheriff Baiter** pictured above - which was my own attempt at beer branding.

Which ever interestingly or boringly named brews you enjoy just remember to enjoy them responsibly - whatever that may mean to you.

The Grumpy (and merrier than usual) Geek

Monthly Bread

"If thou tastest a crust of bread, thou tastest all the stars and all the heavens." - Robert Browning

Over the next few months, this column will meander through the delights of bread. It will flow past local bakeries and flour millers, explore sourdough making techniques... and go wherever the stream takes it. Bread is an essential part of our lives, but with so many small bakeries now a thing of the past, we often succumb to limp supermarket second-best. Time to up our game and savour the manifold delights of a well-baked loaf!

We kick off with a local gem that has been family-run since 1927. And with grandfather, father and son all involved in today's business, it will hopefully stay that way for many years to come.

Askers is everything a bakery should be. Its unassuming shop, tucked away just off the end of Broad Street in Stamford, looks as though it's remained unchanged since it first opened in the 1950s. Loaves are substantial, with a heft that proves they are still made in the traditional way. Cakes are tasty and filling, ranging from proper old-fashioned lardy cakes and rich, saucer-sized tea cakes to moist cherry bakewell and apple pie. Askers even bake their own crumpets, and their hot cross buns are a cut above. Prices are fair and reasonable.

All Askers bread and cakes are still made in their fairy-tale bakehouse on King's Mill Lane, with its brick-floored sack oven, flour-dusted floor, and ambrosial scents wafting from the door. You are always welcome to pop your head in at the bakehouse and say hello. It is a truly life-affirming place!

Askers Bakery Shop: 5 Red Lion St, Stamford PE9 1PA
Askers Bakehouse: Kings Mill Lane, Stamford PE9 1SN
Tel: 01780 481933
Targic locaphile





I just thought I'd let you know about my art classes....

Whether you're a confident creative or an eager amateur, why not come along to one or all of my art classes?

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I am an experienced art teacher with the aim that everyone leaves my classes with their own piece of artwork.

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Places are limited, to reserve your place please contact

Sharon on 07930 544783 or s.akers937@gmail.com



Wednesday 14th May:

Lino cut. Landscapes

Learn to use lino tools and produce a range of landscapes at this introductory workshop.

9am-1pm. £45 including all materials.

Wednesday 28th May:

Lino cut. Tiles

Learn to use lino tools and produce a range of creative tiles at this introductory workshop.

9am-1pm. £45 including all materials.



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