Woodnewton News

April 2026



What's On?

WOODNEWTON HISTORY GROUP

Present an illustrated talk by

David Bond

Woodnewton Village Hall

Sunday, 26th April, 2026 at 3pm



Following the Old Ways:

Roads, Routes and the Shaping of the Landscape

Have you ever wondered how the landscape we live and walk through today was shaped over the centuries? Fields, lanes and boundaries all have stories to tell. Come and join David as he explores the historical changes that have formed the countryside around us and reveals the clues that still survive in the landscape.

£3 (cash) including Tea and Cake

woodnewtonhistory@gmail.com

"Offers a stirring vision for what could be."



DOCS+

NO OTHER LAND

An Israeli journalist and Palestinian activist unite to fight the destruction of a village in The West Bank. Their lives are different, their relationship is not straightforward, yet their hopes are unified by a humanitarian desire for justice.

WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 7.30pm

(Doors open 7.00pm)

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

Pop-up Café 6.00 – 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

Woodnewton Parish Council Meeting March

The meeting took place on 2 March 2026. All councillors were in attendance.

Previous minutes (2 Feb 2025) were approved and signed as a correct record.

Churchyard and Cemetery

Grass-cutting contractors confirmed (insurance received); work to begin in March.

Road Safety and Playground

Vehicle-activated speed signs continue to perform well; Q1 data will be downloaded at the end of March. Monthly playground inspection by Cllr Pythian reported no concerns. Final remedial works expected in March, weather permitting.

Finances and Operational Issues

The following policies were reviewed and re-adopted:

- Publication Scheme (to be published on the WPC pages of Woodnewton Hub and available from the Clerk)
- Code of Conduct
- Data Protection/GDPR
- Complaints Procedure and SAR

The Accessibility Statement is in progress and will be linked via the WPC website footer.

Amy Miller, Parish Clerk, is supporting several initiatives:

Cluster meetings with Oundle Town and Parish Councils

Local Plan briefing updates

A survey on potential HR support for Parish and Town Councils

Regular payments were reviewed and approved; finances remain on track.

Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved to hold the APM on 14 April 2026 at 7.00pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting.

Village Maintenance, Planning and Community

A new village hall noticeboard design was agreed; a £1,000 grant application has been submitted to the Ward Empowerment Fund.

Planning application 26/00011/LBC (28–30 Main Street) – replacement garage door and fenestration – no objections.

The allotment water supply has been restored (thanks to Roger Flack); one faulty tap will be investigated by Cllr Brookes, with a plumber engaged if needed. Two faulty streetlights remain awaiting repair; works will proceed once weather improves (parts in stock).

The litter pick on Saturday 28th February saw an excellent turnout, including many new faces; despite the weather, it was a great success, followed by refreshments in the village hall. Daffodil planting led by Cllr Swallow continues to show strong results; the Council also thanked him for clearing discarded dog waste bags around the village.

WPC CAN Champion, Cllr Pythian, is exploring funding opportunities for further cemetery rewilding.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 April 2026, 8.00pm, following the APM.

Paul Blackmore - Chairman

St Mary's Church News

Services at St. Mary's Church Woodnewton April 2026

Monday, 30th March, Tuesday, 31st March, Wednesday, 1st April 6.00 p.m. COMPLINE FOR HOLY WEEK

2nd April – 6. 00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion AT NASSINGTON

3rd April – 10.00 a.m. Good Friday Craft Church AT NASSINGTON

2.00 p.m. Good Friday Devotions AT WANSFORD

April 5th April – 5.45 a.m. Dawn Service for Easter Day AT THORNHUSGH

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion for Easter Day (Modern Language)

12th April – No service at Woodnewton. Services at Nassington at 9.30 am and Yarwell at 11 am.

19th April – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

26th April – 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 (01780 782271 – jdtailby@aol.com)

I wonder whether you have special stories of people or events that are told again and again in your family, or amongst your friends? It really does feel that humankind are natural storytellers, from our ancient ancestors telling stories around the camp-fire to the latest "Insta-story"; it seems we want to share what is important to us in stories. The most significant of these stories are told over and over until they become almost part of our identity, defining who we are as individuals, a family or a community.

This year, in the Church's calendar, April begins with the re-telling of the most significant story for Christians; yes, even more important than the Christmas story! The story of Holy Week, the story of the last week of Jesus' earthly life, his death and resurrection, shapes a Christian's life and encourages us to share this most wonderful story of God's love with others. In our church life across our benefice this Easter, we seek to do this in different ways, and everyone is most welcome to share with us in this re-telling. In the church, the equivalent of gathering around the camp-fire in ancient times, or on the sofa with family or friends, or reading the latest on social media, is our gathering in church for a service. We may not always think of a service, which sounds maybe rather formal, as storytelling, but that is what it is: a variety of ways of telling the story of God, his world and us.

This year we begin just at the end of March, on 29th, in an action re-telling of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. At our group service in Yarwell, we will gather at 10.00 a.m. for a procession through the village to the church, singing hymns and songs, just as the crowds in Jerusalem, waving their palm branches. Then, through the next three days, we will gather in our own church at Woodnewton at 6.00 p.m. to tell the story of those three days following that procession. We will use the service of Compline for this, a rather beautiful evening service that connects us with Christian communities past and present, originating as it does in the monastic tradition, but now used in many forms in many places to draw the day to a close.

Every Communion service in church is a retelling of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, recalling his Last Supper with his disciples. Sharing in a Communion service on this night, Maundy Thursday, leads us deep into the story, and this year, at our service at 6.00 p.m. in Nassington Church, we will share the story in a dramatic reading of the Bible narrative. Good Friday brings us to the Cross, and at 2.00 p.m. in Wansford Church we tell the story of Jesus' crucifixion in words, prayers – and silence, because silence is an important part of storytelling. Before that, we are going to share the whole story of the week with our youngsters at a Craft Church in Nassington Church at 10.00 a.m., reminding us that stories are passed on to future generations. This will be a fun time to enjoy crafts and hot cross buns! Finally, after a day to let the story sink in, we gather in all our churches to rejoice in the good news of the empty tomb and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. For the early birds amongst you, you might also like to join us at Thornhaugh Church for a dawn service at 5.45 a.m., remembering the words that begin the Biblical account of Easter Day – "Very early in the morning, the women went to the tomb…."

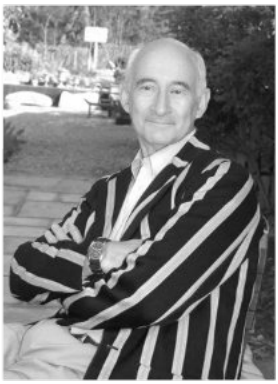
All are most welcome to join us for any of the ways we retell the story of Jesus, and as we think about the stories that form us and shape us, we might pause to give thanks for the people and places that have been part of our story, and our part in the story that is yet to come.

With Eastertide blessings,

Revd. Jane

What's On?

Cotterstock Welcomes Antiques Roadshow Expert Paul Atterbury



Are you a fan of the Antiques Roadshow? Then Cotterstock (PE8 5HD) is the place to be on Friday 17th April when Paul Atterbury, one of the experts on the Antiques Roadshow will be speaking about "A Life with Antiques" in the village hall at 7.30 p.m.

Known as a great raconteur, Paul's talk will reveal some of his many adventures in Britain and abroad, including two meetings with the late Queen Elizabeth II and will also give a fascinating peak behind the scenes of the beloved Antiques Roadshow.

Tickets go on sale on Monday 2 March and are available from Stu-Pots, Market Place, Oundle (cash only). They cost £15 per person including a complimentary glass of wine or juice and nibbles in the interval.

There will also be a raffle prize draw on the night with lovely prizes donated by local businesses. All the proceeds from this event will go to Dementia UK to directly fund the training of Admiral nurses in Northamptonshire.



Please consider saving the following items for the Nassington School FONS May Fayre donations;

+ Teddies, Childrens books & Toys
(New, Unused or Good-used condition)

+ Bottles - Drinks, Soaps, Cosmetics
(perishable goods to be in-date)

+Unwanted New Gifts

We will be taking donations and collections within April & May.

Please drop off at Nassington School, or contact FONS (fonstreasurer@gmail.com) for any collections.

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 30 April 2026.

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

WOODNEWTON
ART GROUP

The Woodnewton Art Group led by John Russell now has a Website at https://woodnewton25.wixsite.com/mysite**. You can also get to it via the homepage of the Woodnewton Hub:** http://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL



Thank-You from the Parish Council

A huge thank-you to everyone—young and old—who turned out for the Woodnewton village litter pick, braving the damp and gloomy weather with good humour and energy. Your efforts have left our roads and verges safer and cleaner once again. It really is unbelievable what was collected...from broken hedge trimmers and car bumpers to copious empty wine bottles, although we were grateful nobody decided to bag a badger!

Special thanks also go to our wonderful "tea ladies" for the welcome spread of tea and home made cakes in the Village Hall afterwards—very much appreciated by all!

To raise any issues please contact the Parish Council: clerk@woodnewtonparish.gov.uk

Useful Numbers and Information

Parish Council Clerk clerk@woodnewtonparish.gov.uk

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.

Woodnewton Village Hall

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

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Lost the Plot?

Spring Forward or Fall Back

I write this on the day of the spring equinox and next week we must dig out the manuals for our cookers to work out how to reset the time. It made me think about a book that I never read but feel as if I should have. Stephen Hawking's A Brief History of Time was published in 1988.

It runs to 256 pages which doesn't seem that brief to me, but I suppose in the context of the 13.8 billions years since the beginning of the universe that's not bad going. By my calculation he managed to fit about 54million years on each page. That's pretty impressive. I am sure there must have been some boring billions of years which only got cursory coverage but still.

Some years ago I worked with a colleague who was a lapsed astrophysicist - I say lapsed as at the time he and I were both working for a company that built and sold telecoms networks which was definitely more terrestrial than astral. He had once been part of Hawking's research team in Cambridge and this was at the time when the wheelchair bound genius was at the height of his fame. I asked my colleague why he had moved from the academic life and his answer was that he had spent almost 15 years of his life studying and theorising about the first millionth of a second of the existence of the universe and that was quite long enough. It does make me wonder how long the unexpurgated edition of Hawking's book might have been.

More mundanely, I was prompted to look into the equinox and the whole business of the clocks jumping back and forth. I am assuming that most of you know that the two equinoxes are actually they only two days of the year that night and day are the same length. If you live on the equator, of course, the days and nights are the same length every day - which must be very boring.

To go along with the balance by the equinoxes we also have the winter and summer solstices which are they dates when the days and nights are at their longest and shortest. That means that between the shortest day (December 21)* and the longest day (June 21)* days get longer. At our latitude the difference between our longest and shortest day is almost 9 hours. On average between those two dates each day we roughly 3 new minutes of daylight per day- but but not evenly distributed. Around the spring equinox we gain almost 5 new minutes a day compared with only a minute or so in late December. This is why, in spring, we really feel the evenings drawing out. And then, when the clocks go forward, we suddenly gain what feels like an extra hour of light.

I was surprised to learn that "daylight saving" is relatively recent. Although Benjamin Franklin wrote a satirical essay in 1784 suggesting that Parisians could save candles by getting up earlier it was uber-efficient Germany which implemented it 1916, quickly followed by Britain a few weeks later - probably because we were at war with them and didn't want to turn up an hour late. Between 1916 and 1939 the system was used each summer but the dates varied. Then during the next disagreement with the Germans we had British Summer time year round with with Double Summer Time to maximise wartime working hours. There was also a brief experiment between 1968 and 1971 when we stayed on BST all year, but it was abandoned—because Scotland moaned about the dark mornings.

Long before we had clocks - or cookers - the solstices have been significant to civilisations since ancient times, after all Stonehenge, for example, is aligned with the summer solstice sunrise as are similar ancient structures around the world. One impressively clever Greek, Hipparchus, made precise measurements of the equinoxes over 2,000 years ago. He also discovered that the earth has a wobble on its axis - precession - that causes the equinoxes to drift over a 26,000 year cycle. I wonder how long his book about time was.

I suspect, too, that the builders of Stonehenge would have had little patience for fiddling with clocks. Moving a few 20-ton sarsen stones is rather more of a challenge than deciphering a cooker manual.

The Grumpy Geek

*Southern Hemisphere readers may disagree

Monthly Bread

Ukrainian Sourdough in Blatherwycke

Down a long farm track to the right of the King's Cliffe to Blatherwycke road, there is a cluster of low farm buildings. Pulling open the door of one of them on a bright morning in early spring, I find myself face to face with Valeriia Ivanyushenko.



This is her immaculate bakery, and I am surrounded by bread: some proving, some still in dough form in a large mixer, some mid-bake in the oven, and, tantalisingly, some in its finished form as fresh loaves waiting for their customers to collect them.

Valeriia fled Kherson in Ukraine 3 ½ years ago and now lives in Bulwick with her two children. Finding that her criminal law qualifications were not recognised in the UK, she began a bakery – Sourdough Home – with a pot of sourdough that had made the journey with her.

She offers a range of sourdough breads, including wholewheat, rye with cumin, and a chilli & cheddar loaf that apparently sells like hot cakes (no pun intended…). She also bakes ciabatta, focaccia, and baguettes.

Loaves must be pre-ordered by phoning 07467 588887 and can be collected from the bakery on Wed-Fri from 10 am – 12 pm and on Saturday at 8 am only.



COMMUNICARE

COMMUNICARE

Your local Patient Participation Group (PPG)
Begun in 1981 by Dr John Holland and Mrs Clare Wagstaffe
Independent of the Practice
The voice of patients, feeding their views into the Practice and back out to patients

What is Communicare?

Communicare is an important part of health planning for this Practice because it involves the Practice's patients
Regular meetings take place between the Practice and Communicare

What does Communicare do?

It is there:
- As a Champion for local patients
- Aiding Communication with the Practice and with its patients
- Assisting Co-operation
- Being Constructively Critical
- Being Consulted in inspections of the Practice by the Care Quality Commission
- Contributing to county-wide Conversations through Healthwatch

Together, how much more could **you** and **Communicare** - **OUR PPG** - achieve?

What does Communicare now need?

Patients who will be part of a small group to meet regularly with the Practice
Be representative in age and geographical area of the patients within the Practice
Be sufficiently interested to attend the quarterly open meetings with the GPs and senior Practice Staff
Bring particular expertise and experience to assist both the Practice and Communicare

It can only lead to better care for you and other patients.
So why not join us?

ALL PATIENTS OF THIS PRACTICE ARE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN COMMUNICARE

For more information please contact:
David Parkes (revdavid.parkes@googlemail.com)

Details of recent Communicare activities can be found on:
www.wansfordsurgery.co.uk/practice-information/patient-participation-group/



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For more information or to get involved contact:

northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org or 01604 405285

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