Woodnewton News
October 2026

WOODNEWTON

AUTUMN CLEAN-UP

CAN YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS TO KEEP OUR VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL?

SATURDAY, 17 OCTOBER

STARTING AT 10AM

MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL



TASKS BIG AND SMALL TO SUIT EVERYONE!

If possible, please bring along tools and a wheelbarrow to help with pruning and clearing.



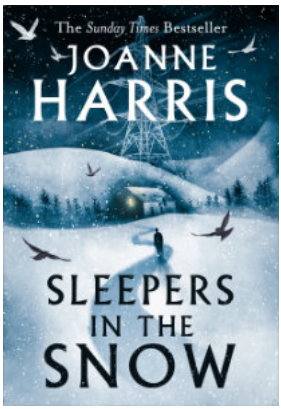
After all your hard work, enjoy a cuppa and cake in the Village Hall.

Thank you for your continued support and community spirit!

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

What's On?

AUTHORS IN OUNDLE



Joanne Harris: Sleepers In The Snow

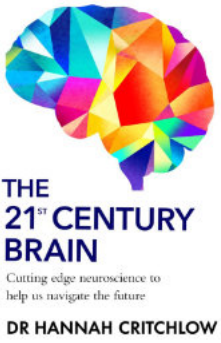
Thursday 29th October, 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Great Hall, New Street, Oundle

This novel is an astonishing, original and powerful story of love, loss, mystery and dementia, from this award winning, bestselling author. Out on the moor, in the snow, is a house full of memories, and full of old things. And, in the dark, when the pylon sings in the wind, it is a house full of ghosts and fading memories.







Dr Hannah Critchlow: The 21st Century Brain: How to Future-Proof Your Mind in the Age of AI, 10th October, 7.45 pm Great Hall, Oundle

How do we nurture our brains & our children's brains so we have the resilience to thrive during the coming wave of technological and societal change?

How can we keep up in the face of AI? This book helps to provide the answers. Come along and find out more. Dr Hannah Critchlow is an internationally acclaimed neuroscientist, broadcaster, and author.

Tickets available for all events online from: https://www.authorsinoundle.co.uk/events/

Parish Council News, Chairmans Update – September 2026

The Parish Council met on 7 September. Cllrs Neville and Swallow sent apologies for absence, there were no declarations of interests and eleven residents attended the meeting. The majority of the public discussion concerned the proposed EV charging scheme.

Electric vehicle charging

A significant part of public time was devoted to the proposed NNC/Connected Kerb EV charging scheme. Residents raised concerns about the proposed locations, including the restricted pavement width, accessibility, safety and visibility at the bend in Orchard Lane and the proximity of the proposed Main Street location to the Grade II listed St Mary's Church, In addition most residents at the meeting had doubts whether there was sufficient local demand for public charging given the high level of off-street parking in the village.

Concerns were also raised about the consultation process, including residents not receiving consultation postcards and difficulties in providing comments via the website. The Parish Council agreed to take these views into account when preparing a formal response and agreed to provide a summary of key issues and contact information for EV, NNC and local MP so affected residents could voice individual concerns. This was subsequently provided on the "Infrastructure" section of the village WhatsApp.

Correspondence received by the Council prior to the meeting indicated that both Woodnewton EV charger sites were on hold, however subsequent to the meeting WPC received confirmation that Woodnewton sites have been moved to the "rejected' list, this means that no future action on EV charger installations will be considered. Any change from this position will be formally notified to WPC and the consultation process would be restarted.

Bonfire site

Several residents expressed disappointment about the permanent closure of the village bonfire site. Recognising these concerns the Clerk had contacted neighbouring Parish Councils to find out whether other villages offered this opportunity for disposal of hedge cuttings, green waste etc. The provision of a communal bonfire site was rare and in the few cases where it was provided it was managed by community groups rather than the Parish Council and WPC reconfirmed its decision that it would not offer this facility in future.

Churchyard and cemetery

The Council discussed concerns about unauthorised works being undertaken in areas managed by the Parish Council. The potential implications for the Council's duty of care, risk assessments and insurance were noted, and the matter will be formally considered at the next meeting. The Council also agreed to arrange remedial work to a particular grave through Crowson's, who will invoice the Parish Council directly.

Road Safety

All three Vehicle Activated Signs continue to work well.

Playground

The latest ROSPA safety survey identified a few minor issues, but overall was one of the most positive for many years. This reflects very positively on the work carried out by Cllrs Guttridge and Blackmore to maintain the playground equipment. One area of concern is with the safety tile surfacing around the slide, where tiles are becoming

loose, lifting and creating gaps and trip hazards. The council continues to rectify these issues where possible but believes a more comprehensive approach is required. Consequently quotes have been invited from recognised specialists and indicative cost of replacing this safety surface is between £7,000 and £11,000, depending on the condition of the existing sub base and whether the material is upgraded to latest specifications. This is not supported within current budget so WPC will investigate more cost-effective options, including possible grant funding for new surfacing or whether more comprehensive repairs to the complete area could be undertaken by volunteers. It was noted that since this work would take considerable time the slide and surrounding area would need to be securely fenced off while work is carried out.

Planning

No planning applications were received this month.

Street lighting

Following three quotations for the village street lighting electricity contract, the Council agreed to accept the VALDA quote of £996.35 per year for a fixed three-year contract, compared with the current annual cost of £1,028.16. The new contract will commence on 1 November 2026.

Village WhatsApp Group

The Council agreed that WhatsApp can be used as an additional way of providing information to residents, subject to a suitable policy being adopted. It will supplement, but not replace, the Council's statutory requirements for publishing agendas, notices, minutes and other information.

Village Hall noticeboard

The new noticeboard has arrived. Installation will take place when the ground becomes softer and is expected to form part of the scheduled activities on Clean Up Day.

Allotments and Coronation Orchard

The Council confirmed that it is prepared to fund the previously estimated £1,200 of work to the Coronation Fruit Orchard, while also investigating grant funding for additional improvements. It was agreed that a "dead-hedging" ecological approach would be investigated for the Northern edge of the allotment site, this could make use of waste from the forthcoming clean-up day while also helping to protect the orchard and potentially the wider allotment site from deer. The agreed Allotment survey would be carried out within the next few weeks by Cllrs Brookes and Blackmore and The Council agreed to maintain allotment rents at £22 per plot for the forthcoming year, subject to formal ratification at the next meeting. Cllr Blackmore proposed that a coded padlock is purchased for the gate to the allotment site to control access to this area, holders would be provided with the code as part of their next lease renewal.

Village maintenance

The Autumn Village Clean Up Day has been arranged for Saturday 17 October at 10am, meeting at the Village Hall.

Correspondence/Other matters

A resident had raised concerns about fires in re-wilded areas in the churchyard where there were large amounts of tall dry material, however these areas were cut in late August so are no longer considered a risk

The meeting was closed at 21.45.

Paul Blackmore; Chairman WPC

The next Parish Council meeting will be **Monday 5 October 2026** at 8pm in the village hall.

St Mary's Church News

Services at St. Mary's Church Woodnewton October 2026

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

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

18th October – 9.30 a.m. Harvest Festival for everyone, followed by coffee and children's crafts.

25th October – 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

(jdtailby@aol.com 01780782271

Harvest Time! As you will see in our service list, we have our Harvest Festival on 18th October at 9.30 am.

These days, this seems quite late for a Harvest Festival as the harvests in the fields are earlier and earlier, particularly this year following all the heat. Certainly, looking at the fields around us as I write in mid-September, all is well and truly gathered in and many of the fields are already prepared for the next harvest. Even the harvests of our gardens and allotments will be pretty well all gathered in by mid-October, so perhaps our thanksgiving can also be for the sense of provision and security that lies in our modern "storehouses" filled for the year to come.

It doesn't really matter when we gather together to give thanks to God for the harvest; the important thing is that we do. This is an opportunity to rejoice in the gifts of our rural life together, to remember and pray for our farmers who have had a particularly difficult year. We thought that last year was not good, but this year, after the hot weather and lack of rain, has been even more challenging with low yields and warnings about price increases and possible shortages. As we gather to praise God for his all blessings, in the good times and in the challenges of life, we are stating our trust in him in good times and in adversity. That can be true of any of the challenges of life, and as we look around at the grass becoming green again, at the beauty and blessings of our surroundings and the people with whom we share our lives, we are reminded that there is much to be thankful for.

Our service on 18th will be one for everyone, we hope. It will be more informal than our usual Communion services, but of course we will be singing the traditional harvest hymns! There will be coffee afterwards and a children's craft activity (that the grown-ups are welcome to join in with as well!). Do come and join us, and bring family and friends, young and old!

With every blessing,

Revd. Jane

Every 3rd Sunday, 3.00 – 4.00 p.m.
CRAFT CHURCH in NASSINGTON CHURCH
A time for everyone to join together from all the villages in our Watersmete Group, including WOODNEWTON. Come and join us for crafts and activities with prayers and songs.



ALL WELCOME!
Our next Craft Church is 17th May

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 is the 29 October. 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

The Autumn Village Clean Up Day is on 17th October. Come along to the Village Hall at 10am to help out. All welcome. See the front cover for detals.

Please contact Amy Miller at 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@gmail.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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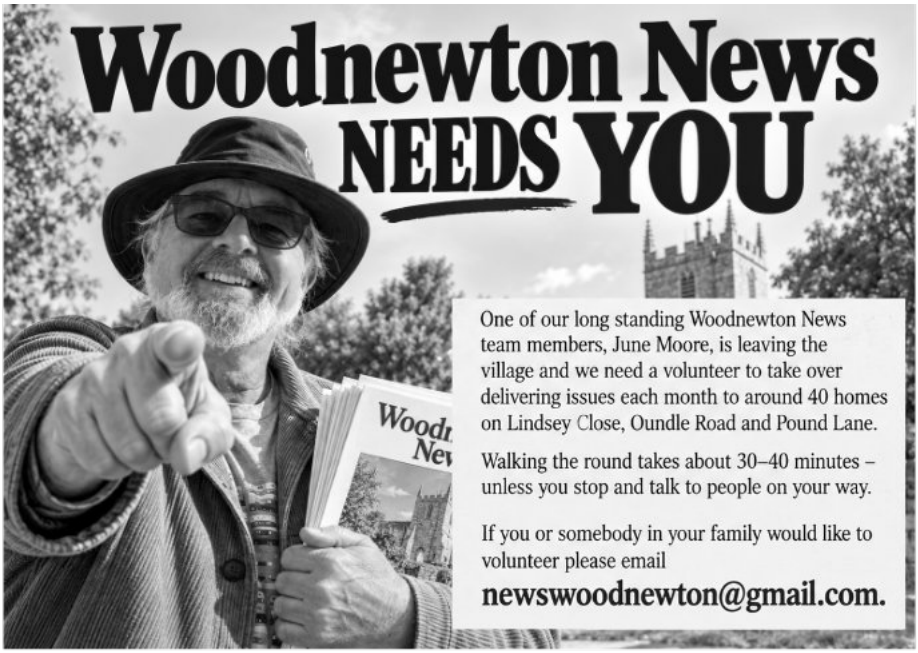
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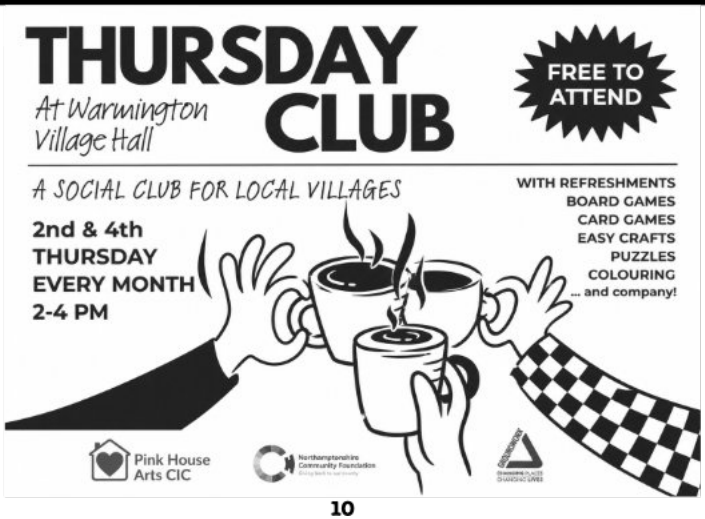
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Advertise Here

If you have a business, be it local, national, global or galactic and you want to reach the discerning residents of Woodnewton, why not place an advert in the Woodnewton News. Each issue is delivered to over 200 homes in the village 11 times a year. Our magazine is funded only by advertising and kind donations from individuals and village organisations. If you would like to be part of a very select group of advertisers in the finest village newsletter in Woodnewton then please email our advertising team at newswoodnewton@gmail.com.



MOVING ON

We moved to Woodnewton from Sheffield on Saturday 20 April 1985. Steph was 7 and Joe 3. It was raining as we went to Oundle to buy some light bulbs as the previous owner had taken all the light bulbs with her.

We had a visit from Rev Basil Turner, the incumbent vicar, over the weekend. He wanted to welcome us and invite us to church. Unfortunately Basil was blind and often spotted around the village with his white stick with a little wheel on the end. He stumbled into our hallway, bumped into the settee and tripped over children's toys before making an exit for safety reasons.

The houses on Lindsey Close had only been completed a few years earlier and were mostly occupied by families who had bought from new. John and Bridget Wilson were at no 3, Alan and Barbara at no 6, Mike and Jill Poole at no 7, Eddie and Jackie Knowles at no 8, Bob and Judy Ravell at no 9, Bob and Joyce Dawson at no 10 and Barry and Roxeene Stobbs at no 11. We were soon "roped into" the Lindsey Close team for the annual summer games. The main event was a tug of war over the Willowbrook by the bridge. To my mind it wasn't very competitive as the river bank was steep on one side and flat on the other so the team on the flat side always won. However it was a good excuse to adjourn to the White Swan for refreshments.

Having moved into the village, we became aware of a bit of local division on schools. The village school was still going with a small number of children. Some parents opted to send their children to the Nassington school which was perceived by some as being disloyal. We had already decided to send Steph to Nassington, so we got on with it and kept a low profile. Some years later there was further mutterings about whether to opt for Oundle or Kings Cliffe Middle schools. Needless to say those making the most noise were mostly locals who didn't have any school age children!

Woodnewton was a different place in 1985. As mentioned the school was open, the White Swan was not only a pub but also housed the village post office and shop as well as being the focus for the Woodnewton Care and Community Association. Dick and Bobbie Turton owned the pub and ran it. They were both heavily involved in the community. There was no village hall but the Wesleyan Chapel was open. It is now the pottery.

After 41 years and 5 months we're on the move!

Colin & June

WOODNEWTON HISTORY GROUP

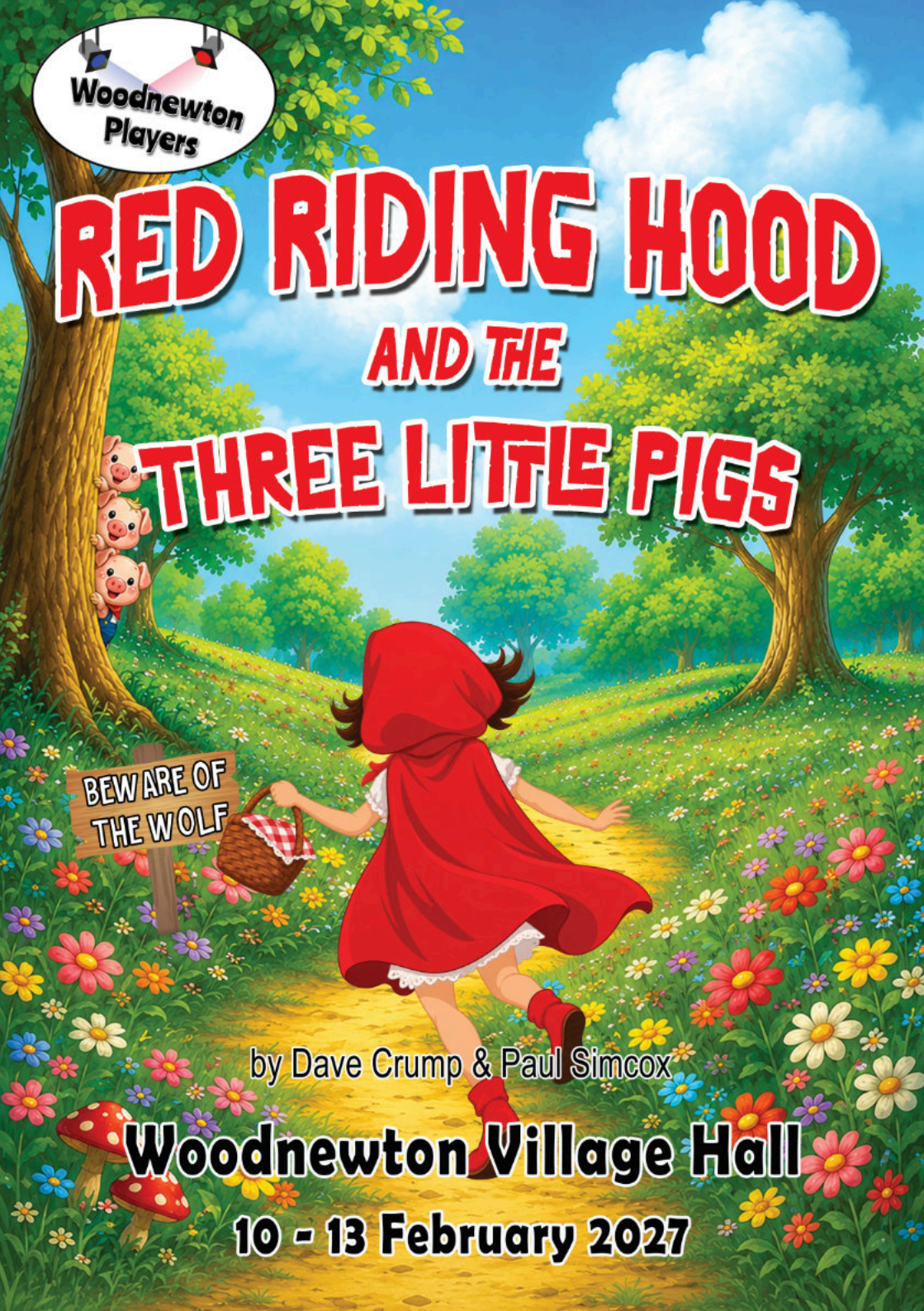
The talk on the Rutland Mosaic by Jim Irvine was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience at the village hall on Sunday 6th September.



Jim took everyone on a fascinating journey, beginning with the discovery of pottery fragments and leading through to the major excavation and eventual uncovering of the mosaic by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

His talk was accompanied by an informative PowerPoint presentation, which illustrated the story from the first discoveries through to the excavation of most of the field. Jim's enthusiasm and knowledge brought this remarkable archaeological discovery to life for everyone attending.

Copies of Jim's book, 'Finding Troy, were also available to purchase.


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AND THE
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by Dave Crump & Paul Simcox
Woodnewton Village Hall
10 - 13 February 2027