Woodnewton News

NOVEMBER 2026



No AI was used in the construction of the dead hedge but maybe it helped with this cover.

Woodnewton Clean Up Day – A Great Team Effort!



Saturday 17 October saw villagers turn out in the autumn sunshine for the Parish Council's Clean Up Day, tackling a range of jobs around the village.

At the Coronation Orchard, volunteers cut back vegetation and used the branches to construct a substantial dead hedge, providing a natural barrier against deer while avoiding the expense of removing the waste.

Elsewhere, volunteers cleared leaves, tidied the playground, worked on the outdoor exercise equipment and tackled other maintenance jobs around the village.



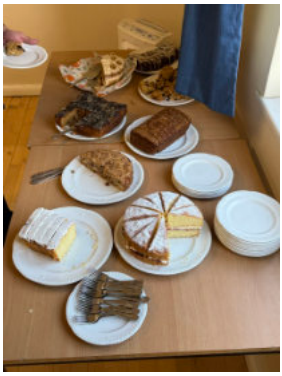
Another achievement was the installation of the new Woodnewton Parish Council noticeboard outside the Village Hall, providing a smart new home for Council notices and village information.

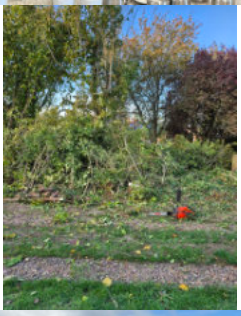
Meanwhile, back at the Village Hall, a wonderful selection of homemade cakes and refreshments awaited the workers, thanks to the generosity of local residents.



A big thank you to everyone who helped, whether digging, pruning, sweeping, making repairs or providing refreshments. Another great example of Woodnewton's community spirit!













Parish Council News, Chairman's Update – October 2026

The Parish Council met on 5 October, with no declarations of interest or apologies. One resident attended to thank the Council for listening and acting on concerns about the proposed EV charging scheme. Cllr Fairhall also attended to discuss the scheme and upcoming NNC consultations.

Electric vehicle charging: The Council has received formal confirmation that no EV charging installation will take place in Woodnewton at present, due to the limited number of homes without off-street parking. The position may be reviewed in two to three years. Any future proposal would need to consider conservation area requirements and undergo appropriate checks and consultation.

Local Plan and governance review: Cllr Fairhall advised that the next stage of the Local Plan has been delayed, with consultation likely around February next year. The Council confirmed its position in the Community Governance Review: Woodnewton's existing arrangements remain appropriate, with no changes proposed.

Churchyard and cemetery: An updated notice about the Churchyard Management and Rewilding Project will be displayed on the churchyard noticeboard. The Council thanked Crowsons for completing remedial grave work at no charge.

Road safety: The vehicle-activated signs are working well. During the quarter, 92,282 vehicles entered the village across the three roads. Average incoming speeds were 26.64 mph on Oundle Road, 23.85 mph on Apethorpe Road and 24.24 mph on Nassington Road.

Playground: The latest inspection identified several jobs for the clean-up day, including raking, sweeping and repairs to a loose goalpost bracket and exercise equipment. Councillors will investigate repairs to the air walker and goalpost. Lifting, cleaning and replacing matting tiles around the slide were discussed as a short-term solution to trip hazards. More extensive work, potentially requiring temporary closure of equipment, is being considered for spring.

Allotments and Coronation Orchard: Following concerns about plot boundaries and paths, the Council measured all plots to establish a permanent record. Sizes vary considerably, with a typical plot around 10m by 25m. Prospective tenants can inspect available plots before renting, and the Council encourages the community-minded approach that has traditionally kept paths clear. Rents remain £22 per plot for the coming year. Vacancies will be offered to residents on the waiting list, and a change of responsibility for one plot was agreed. Previously obtained orchard work estimates of around £1,200 were not discussed further, but Cllr Blackmore will continue seeking grant funding for deer protection and watering bags.

Village WhatsApp group: The Council agreed WhatsApp could supplement formal communications by sharing agendas, meeting details and minutes. Messages should remain simple, factual and objective. A policy will be developed for adoption.

Village noticeboard and clean-up: Volunteers will be invited to help install the new Village Hall noticeboard on Clean Up Day, Saturday 17 October, meeting at 10am at the Village Hall. Residents have offered cakes and refreshments. Green waste will be used to create a dead hedge behind the Coronation Fruit Orchard, providing deer protection without the expense of a woodchipper.

Planning: No applications were received this month.

Other matters: Cllr Guttridge attended the Augean ENRMF and Thornhaugh Landfill Liaison Meeting. No environmental incidents or community complaints were reported in 2026, and Environment Agency inspections resulted in an excellent compliance rating. Councillors were also invited to respond to a Police Liaison Team questionnaire.

The meeting closed at 9.49pm.

Paul Blackmore, Chairman WPC

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 2 November 2026 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

St Mary's Church News

Services at St. Mary's Church Woodnewton October 2026

1st November – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

8th November – 10.55 a.m. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

15th November – 9.30 Holy Communion (Modern Language)

22nd November – 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP (Traditional Language)

29th November – 10.00 a.m. Benefice Songs of Praise for Advent Sunday at Nassington

6.00 p.m. Benefice Holy Communion at Thornhaugh

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

Remember, remember…** Well, not just the 5th of November, but the whole month, because in the church calendar, we can think of November as our "remembering month".

We begin with All Saints' Day on 1st November, when we remember the saints of the Church whose stories have inspired, taught and encouraged us as we seek to follow their example as the ordinary, everyday saints of God today. The following day is All Souls' Day, when we remember those we have loved, and indeed love still, but who now rest in God's closer care after death. Of course, there is Hallowe'en as well, and while many might see it as a time for scary fun, we also remember that the light comes again, and that light and goodness are always stronger than darkness.

We recall this again the following week, on Remembrance Sunday, when we remember the darkness of war and those who gave their lives for our freedom. Remembering and giving thanks for their courage in the midst of darkness can lead us to the light of hope, perhaps something we particularly need in the face of all that our world faces today. Remembering helps us to acknowledge the past, give thanks for those who have been, and still are, important to us, and find encouragement and hope for the future.

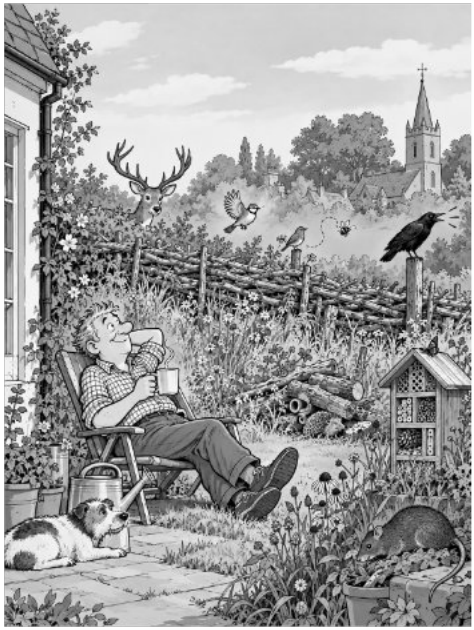
The following Sunday is known in the Church as Safeguarding Sunday, a different sort of remembering, focusing on the importance of ensuring that all who come to our churches feel welcome and safe. Our churches have policies and procedures that seek to ensure everyone we encounter is cared for and kept safe, so that memories made with us are good ones. It is also a day to remember that, for some, contact with the Church has resulted in experiences and memories that have blighted their lives. Our prayers and services that day focus on this different kind of remembering.

If November is a month for looking back, giving thanks, seeking to learn from the past and finding encouragement for the future, then its final days look forward as we celebrate Advent Sunday, the first Sunday of a new church year. This year, we are holding a joint service for all our churches at Nassington at 10am. This won't be a Communion service but will instead be a more informal service of Advent hymns and the stories behind them, readings and poems. There will be a choir to lead us in singing as we celebrate the year to come, with all the memories that await us.

May this "remembering month" of November be a time when we can look back and find healing and hope in dealing with difficult or sad memories, and be encouraged by the special, wonderful memories that we treasure and that continue to shape our lives.

With every blessing, Revd. Jane.

Lost the Plot?



Elsewhere in this month's Woodnewton News you can read about the work that took place on the village clean-up day in October. One of the bigger undertakings was the construction of the "dead hedge" at the top edge of the allotments. Designed as a way of using tree trimmings to protect the allotments from incursions by marauding deer, it fits in nicely with the work around the village to rewild parts of the churchyard and cemetery, and the planting of a wildflower meadow.

The more regimented amongst us will get a cold shiver at the idea of gardens and open spaces not being mowed and manicured within an inch of their lives. Personally, I like the idea. I love visiting a beautifully designed and maintained garden, but creating and looking after one is another matter. Way too much effort.

So leaving bits of your garden alone to provide an oasis for wildlife is appealing. That great pile of decomposing wood that's been lurking at the top of our garden for the last couple of decades is now an environmentally responsible habitat rather than an eyesore. To be honest, there are at least two of them.

Not mowing the lawn saves time and effort and, with Trump's war with the Iranians causing huge increases in the cost of fuel for the Honda, saves increasing amounts of money too. It also reduces my carbon footprint. Better still, it allows me to use that petrol for more interesting pursuits. Burning fuel to go to Cars and Coffee on a Sunday morning while not mowing the lawn feels almost guilt-free.

But with every upside comes a downside. Newton's law of karma says that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Our wilder garden encourages more wildlife. That's great when it's musical song thrushes or aerobatic blue tits, but less fun when it's big black crows whose cawing disturbs the peace.

Even worse are their terrestrial equivalents: rats. They say you are never more than six feet away from a rat. This may or may not be true, but when you can see one right outside your bedroom window, you can't really argue with it. So, on the one hand, we encourage wildlife; on the other, we put out rat bait boxes to discourage it. At least in our little corner of the world you're unlikely to encounter genuinely life-threatening wildlife – well, at least while Putin's bubonic plague remains confined to Siberia.

I know that a few folks in the village have created insect hotels in their gardens. The concept intrigues me. Is there an insect equivalent of TripAdvisor where they can review the best hotels and award them stars?

"Four stars. This place has a real buzz, but the bees kept me awake."

And if there are insect hotels, why not arthropod pubs? Imagine the centipede pub crawls.

Headline in the Arthropod News: "Centipede barred from village pub after getting legless."

The Grumpy Geek

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

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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Typical things could include
Grass and Hedge cutting.
Car cleaning and valeting
Pet Care and/or excercise

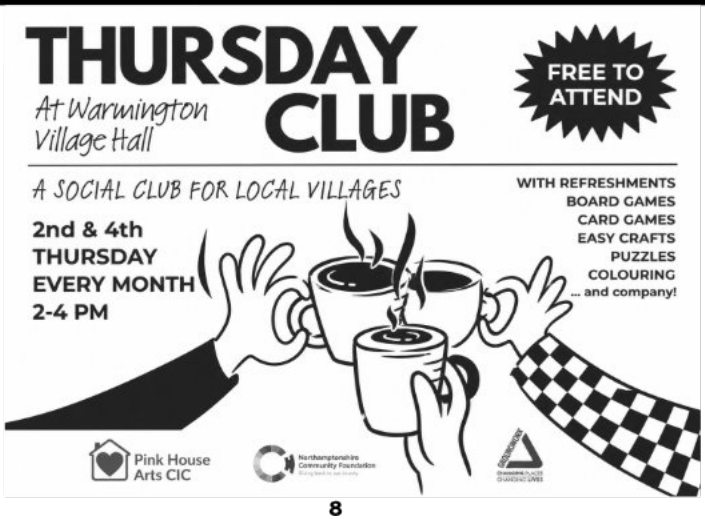
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Email: dillon91166@hotmail.co.uk

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.



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 26th November. 2026

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

This month we are donating all our proceeds to McMillan Cancer Support. We will have an official collection box for donations and also a larger than usual raffle so your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Last year we donated £279 to McMillan Cancer Support so let's hope we can do the same, or even better, for this worthy cause this year.

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

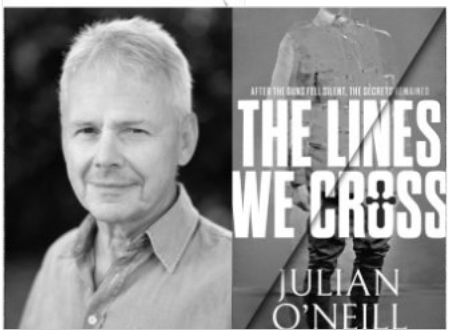
No experience necessary. The aim is to have fun and improve fitness along the way. No need to book. £4 a session. Ring/text/email Tasha for further details.

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/

AUTHORS
IN OUNDLE



Join Northamptonshire author Julian as he talks about the research and inspiration behind his debut historical novel, The Lines We Cross. Beginning at the Somme in 1916, the story follows three lives caught up in the horrors of the First World War and the subsequent struggle for Irish independence, where former comrades find themselves on opposing sides. Julian will discuss the creation of his novel, drawing on his lifelong interest in military history. The book is published on 6 November and will be available at Oundle Bookshop and at the event.

Friday 20th November

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The Whitwell Room, Talbot Hotel

New Street, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4EA

£6 – £8

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

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for Woodnewton Village Clean Up Day on 17 October! It was lovely to see so many residents getting together to help make our village look its best. Special thanks to everyone who brought along cakes and helped with the refreshments — they were very much appreciated. We couldn't have done it without you!

Please contact Amy Miller at clerk@woodnewtonparish.gov.uk.

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What's On?

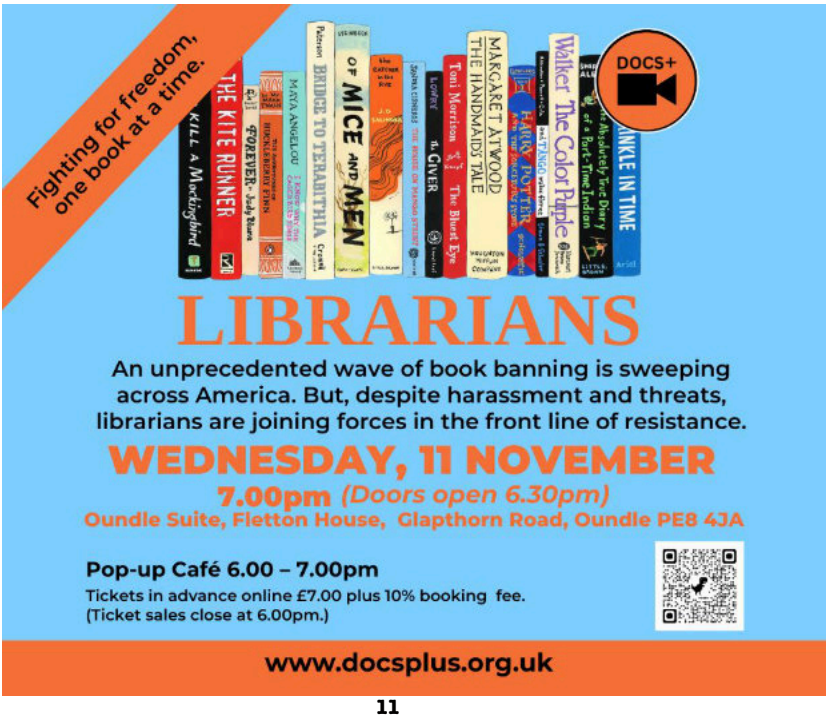
Chapters in the History of Lilford Hall

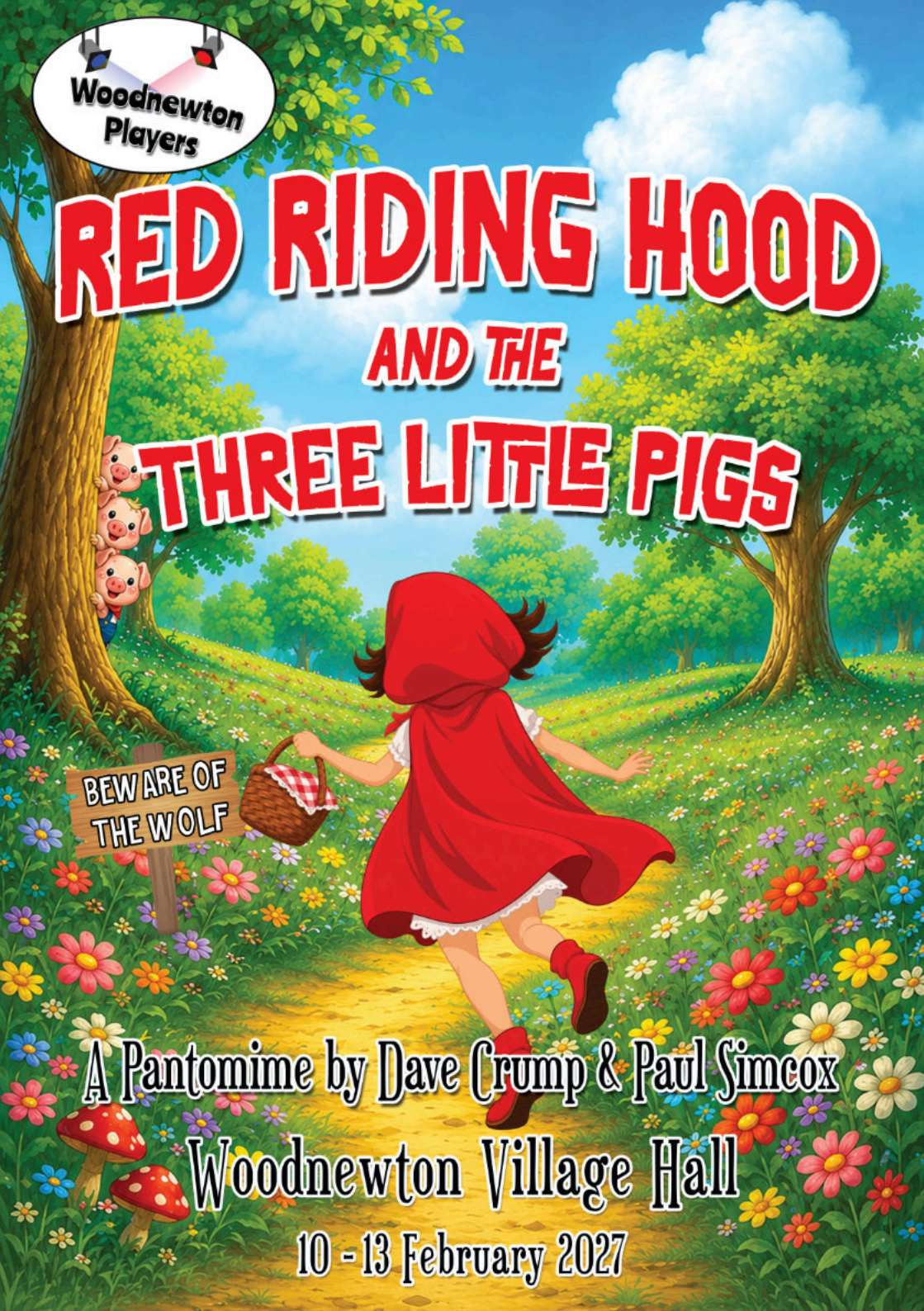


Oundle U3A Local History Group, in partnership with DOCS+, presents an illustrated lecture on the history of Lilford Hall. Find out more about this Jacobean mansion and park that hosted exotic birds and was once Northamptonshire's biggest attraction.

FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER

7.00pm (***Doors open at 6.00pm***)




Woodnewton Players
RED RIDING HOOD
AND THE
THREE LITTLE PIGS
BEWARE OF THE WOLF
A Pantomime by Dave Crump & Paul Simcox
Woodnewton Village Hall
10 - 13 February 2027