

**WOODNEWTON NEWS**  
**DECEMBER 2025**

# *Jingle* AND *Mingle*

JOIN US FOR A  
*Christmas Party*

THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7:30PM

Woodnewton Village Hall

Mince pies and mulled wine  
Bring your own drinks & nibbles



Prize for the best  
Christmas jumper





Wishing all friends & neighbours a  
Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
with our special thanks for your support,  
kindness & understanding - especially as  
Phil & I take our precarious but essential  
walks round the village!

*Jennie & Phil Wood*

*Marilyn and Russ*  
would like to wish all their  
Woodnewton friends a very happy  
Christmas and a healthy New Year.

SEASON GREETINGS  
to all friends and neighbours from  
*Joan and Dillon Danks*

*Peter Clark*  
wishes all his friends and neighbours in  
Woodnewton a  
*Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

*Augusta and Michael Barnwell*  
wish all their friends in Woodnewton a  
Very Merry Christmas and a Happy  
and Healthy New Year

*Grant & Alex*  
Send the best wishes for Christmas and  
2026 to anyone who reads this.

The Newsletter team sends  
thanks for the kind donations.



## **Woodnewton Parish Council – November Meeting Highlights**

Meeting held: 3rd November 2025, Village Hall

Next meeting: Monday 1st December, 8.00pm

### **Churchyard & Cemetery**

Final grass cut and hedge trimming scheduled before year-end. Gravestone safety check completed – no repairs needed, just minor movement noted on four stones. New memorial stone and inscription approved. Maintenance tender for 2026–2028 issued to four contractors.

### **Speeding**

All vehicle-activated speed signs are working well.

### **Playing Fields & Playground**

Routine inspection found no new issues. Community clean-up day saw great progress – new fencing posts, repainting, and matting repairs completed. Awaiting a few replacement parts from Wicksteed to finish the repair programme.

### **Planning**

Oak Barn, Woodnewton Road, Fotheringhay: permission granted for a one-and-a-half storey extension.

### **Village Tree Audit**

Full village tree survey completed in October – no major works needed. Some ivy removal and light crown trimming to be done gradually over the coming year.

### **Allotments**

Plans discussed for a natural hedge or tree line along the back of the allotments and orchard; grant options being explored.

Bonfire site closed on 9th November and will be burned and cleared soon after.

Permission granted for an allotment shed.

### **Village Maintenance**

Volunteers planted Carlton daffodil bulbs along the Oundle road, in the churchyard, and in small spots around the village – thank you to everyone who helped brighten up Woodnewton!

### **Councillor Updates**

Funding options being explored for a new noticeboard outside the Village Hall.

Next meeting 1st December 2025 at 8pm at the Village Hall

Alex Neville - Vice Chair

## **WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Seasons Greetings**



**Woodnewton Parish Council wishes all Woodnewton Residents and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year**

To raise any issues please contact the Parish Council: [woodnewtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:woodnewtonpc@gmail.com)

# St Mary's Church News

## Services at St. Mary's Church Woodnewton December 2025

### Services at WOODNEWTON unless otherwise noted

7th December – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

14th December – No service at Woodnewton – Holy Communion at Nassington and Wansford 9.30 a.m. and Yarwell 11.00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 17th December 7.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE followed by refreshments

21st December – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

MONDAY 22nd December – 3.00 p.m. Christingle Making and Service

CHRISTMAS DAY – 9.30 a.m. Christmas Communion

28th December – 10.00 a.m. BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION at WANSFORD

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](mailto:jdtailby@aol.com))

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to 21st December. No, not a typo, of course I am looking forward to our Christmas celebrations, but 21st December is the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, and after that, the days begin to get longer again at last. From 21st December, we can look forward to more and more light each day, and I, for one, am not a winter person; I need the sunshine and as much daylight as possible! I certainly look forward to the growing light once more.

The growing light in our church calendar, though, and maybe in your own calendars as well, starts as December begins with the expectation of Christmas, the celebration of Christ's coming as the Light of the World. Advent, the church's season leading up to Christmas is a time of the light of hope becoming brighter each day, a time of expectation for the yearly celebration of the coming of Christ, God's Son, into the world. In our church buildings, this is symbolised in our Advent wreath: four candles in a ring representing the weeks of expectant waiting, surrounding a white candle in the centre, representing Christ, the Light of the World. Each week one more candle is lit and then the final white candle is lit on Christmas Day; each week the light on the wreath is brighter. Light can represent hope, and we look towards hope brightening our lives in these dark winter days.

Our services in church also focus on the growing light of the season. Advent this year begins on 30th November, so by the time we come together for our first church service of December, we will be lighting two of our Advent candles.

Our carol service takes place on the evening of Wednesday, 17th December at 7.00 p.m. when we will have three of our Advent candles lit. Do come and join us to sing your favourite carols! The light will grow even brighter at our Christingle service at 3.00 p.m. on the Monday before Christmas (22nd) when we will be making Christingles and sharing in a short all age service. All are welcome, you can make a Christingle whatever your age! Christingles have their own candles of course, and it is one of my favourite Christmas moments when the candles on the oranges are lit, the lights are turned off, and we sing Away in a Manger in the candlelit. The central Christ candle of our Advent ring is lit, of course, on Christmas Day. Do come and join us for a simple service of Holy Communion suitable for all at 9.30 a.m. December ends with a celebration of the light of Christ at a benefice (group) service for all our churches at Wansford at 10.00 a.m. on 28th December.

May this month be full of light for us all, may the light of hope shine ever brighter in our lives and in the dark places of our world. May Christ, the Light of the World illuminate our path as we look to a new year to come.

With every blessing,

Rev. Jane



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**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/>**

# 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 18 December. We are pleased to say that this month we have a retired Police Officer coming to give talk on his experiences as a drugs and explosive Detection Dog Handler and trainer.



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 HISTORY GROUP

The History Group has agreed to participate in the 2026 Villages event at Oundle Museum, where they will present a display that will be open from April through to October.

An article on Manor Farmhouse has been uploaded onto the History Website

## Village Defibrillator Account DONATIONS REQUEST

A huge **THANK YOU** to all the villagers who have kindly donated to the defibrillator account, after my request in the last newsletter. Also, to Janet and Geoffrey Rawding for donating money collected from the raffle at Come & Chat.

The balance of account is now: £382.32

If anyone would still like to make a donation you can do this by posting through my door (10 Lindsey Close, Woodnewton) or pay into the following bank account, using DEFIB as a reference:

**Eunice Williams**

**Sort Code: 04-00-03**

**Account No: 58494323**

Your contributions make a huge difference in our community, helping to ensure life-saving equipment is available when needed.

Eunice Williams

T. 07904 997637

E. Unewilliams@hotmail.com



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 Fully insured



Please mention Woodnewton News when responding to adverts

## Useful Numbers and Information

<b>Parish Council Clerk</b>	<a href="mailto:woodnewtonpc@gmail.com">woodnewtonpc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Village Hall Booking</b>	Anne Hills 07399 359262 <a href="mailto:villagehallwoodnewton@gmail.com">villagehallwoodnewton@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	<a href="mailto:woodnewtonnw@googlemail.com">woodnewtonnw@googlemail.com</a>	
<b>Police</b>	101 Ext 345306 for PCSO Artur Pereira <a href="mailto:artur.pereira@northants.pnn.police.uk">artur.pereira@northants.pnn.police.uk</a>	
<b>Doctors Surgeries</b>	Oundle	01832 273408
	Wansford	01780 782342
<b>Veterinary Surgeries</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto:newswoodnewton@gmail.com).



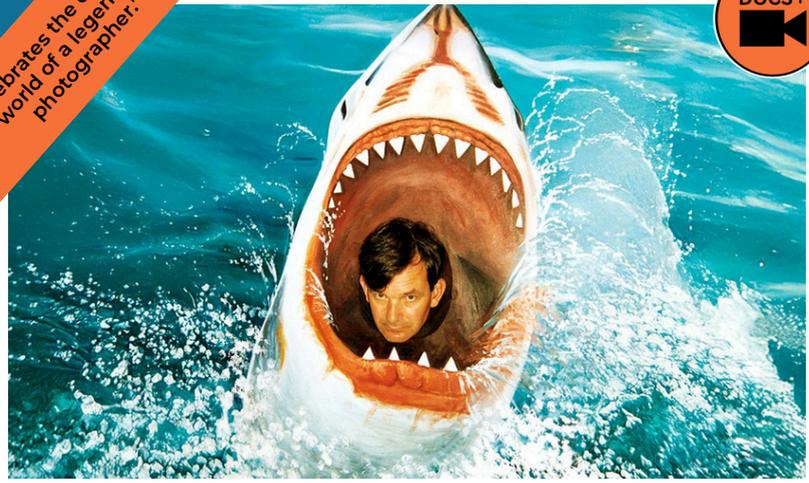
Hall bookings may be made with Anne Hills on 07399 359262 or [villagehallwoodnewton@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallwoodnewton@gmail.com).



<https://www.facebook.com/WoodnewtonVillageHall/>.

# What's On?

"Celebrates the eccentric world of a legendary photographer."



## I AM MARTIN PARR

The beguiling work of English photographer, Martin Parr, is the subject of this thoroughly enjoyable study; the definitive portrait of the maverick behind some of the most iconic images of the past century.

*Special guest: Corby photographer, Kate Dyer.*

**WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER**  
**7.30pm** (Doors open 7.00pm)

**Oundle Suite, Fletton House, Glaphorn 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.docplus.org.uk](http://www.docplus.org.uk)

# Lost the Plot?

## Hue Knew?

As I write this, we're deep in the swirling retail vortex known as Black Friday. This recently adopted tradition has washed up on UK shores from across the Atlantic, presumably on a wave of discounted air fryers. Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving, which always falls on the fourth Thursday in November. It was very considerate of the Americans to settle on this convention in 1863; otherwise, we might have ended up with Black Saturday, or Black Tuesday, or even Black Sunday — which would give the whole thing a somewhat biblical flavour.

The term "Black Friday" had been used before to describe financial catastrophe, as in the gold panic of 1869, but it was the post-Thanksgiving shopping traffic that inspired the Philadelphia police to give the big day its modern name. Attempts were made to rebrand it "Big Friday", but that never really took off. (Probably because it sounds like a burger.) Its rapid adoption here seems to have grown alongside online retail, with Amazon in particular fanning the flames — or at least fanning the promotional emails. Interestingly, many of our European neighbours have adopted the concept but often keep the English name. You sometimes see *Venerdì Nero* in Italy, and the occasional *Viernes Negro* in Spain, but in France and Germany they lean heavily into the anglophilia — which may come as a surprise, depending on your view of continental taste.

All this annual bargain-hunting madness made me think about how we use colours in other parts of life — and how those meanings shift over time. We've lived with red, amber and green since traffic lights arrived in the early 20th century, but those colours have started sneaking into other things like nosy little pigments. Weather warnings, for example, now come with their own colour codes. My memory may be failing me, but either the weather is getting more extreme or we are getting more dramatic about it, because these warnings only appeared in the UK around 2008. They don't quite follow the traffic-light pattern — no green — but alongside amber and red we also have the ever-popular yellow warnings. I remember one yellow warning from childhood which involved not eating snow of that colour. Very sound advice.

Green, meanwhile, has become the colour of movements intent on stopping things — mostly climate change, but sometimes traffic. The label seems to have originated with the German *die Grünen* party, but now it's everywhere. Here in the UK, cars with zero emissions get a little green stripe on their number plates, but German manufacturers have sometimes used blue to denote environmentally friendly models. I feel the French really missed an opportunity by not christening their eco-cars *Sacré Bleu*. Though perhaps that would have been pushing their luck with the clergy.

Red, of course, is the colour I associate with Santa. Historically, Santa (or Father Christmas) wore all sorts of outfits. In Victorian Britain he was often shown in green with a woodland, "I've just popped out of a hedge" aesthetic, and in some traditions he dressed like a bishop complete with mitre. Although red was occasionally used, it was Coca-Cola's Christmas campaigns between 1931 and 1964 that truly locked in the red-and-white version we now leave mince pies for. So upset him by leaving out a Pepsi Max maybe laced with a shot of Jack Daniels.

## The Grumpy Geek



# What's On?

## Yoga by Candlelight Woodnewton Village Hall

Enjoy a slow, meditative and gently flowing class. Restore, stretch, strengthen and deeply relax with techniques that will soothe and balance your nervous system



Contact: Elaine  
07867 367353

salayogauk@yahoo.com  
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# CHRISTMAS Magic

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Tickets available online at [www.penthouse-glasgow.org.uk](http://www.penthouse-glasgow.org.uk) on 2.30pm & 7.30pm Saturday 15th December



## CHRISTMAS MISTLETOE from mid-December 2025

It's time to harvest the mistletoe again ready for Christmas decorations and there's plenty to be cut!

If you'd like some, place your order with Phil & Jennie Wood at: 7, Wades Close

Tel: 07840717765 email: [jennie.wood@yahoo.com](mailto:jennie.wood@yahoo.com)

Cost? Just a donation (minimum £2.50, please) which will go to the **Friends of St Mary's fundraising project** for a toilet & servery.



# **SNOW** WHITS *and the Seven Dwarfs*

*Wednesday 11 February at 7.30*

*Thursday 12 February at 7.30*

*Friday 13 February at 7.30*

*Saturday 14 February at 2.30*

*Saturday 14 February at 7.30*

**Woodnewton Village Hall,  
Adult ~£11 - Child Under 16 ~ £5**

**A Pantomime  
by Tom Whalley**

**Box Office Opens  
9 a.m. on 3 January 2026**

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*Doors open at 7pm (2pm for Saturday matinee)*

*Refreshments available ~ Please note that only food and drinks purchased at the venue may be consumed on the premises*