



The Whatcote Village News

Hello and a very warm welcome to the July-August edition. This is the 100th edition (by my reckoning) and I guess is a limited edition souvenir. It's a real privilege to edit this very special publication.

Before we move on, I'd like to thank Sue once more for starting the Village News 100 editions ago (25 years?). Thank you so much, Sue.

As usual, there is quite a bit to read, with news, pictures and ideas. We welcome a new family (Dora), hear from our new 'agony uncle' and think happy thoughts of the increasingly elegant thatched building that we know as The Royal Oak.



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NEWS FROM
THE
DEANERY
JULY &
AUGUST
2017

Dear Everyone,

We come into summer, and a chance to rest and celebrate all that God has given us. By the time you read this, George Heighton will have been licensed as Incumbent of this group of five churches: he and his wife Drina will be living in Tysoe Vicarage, and in time a second associate minister will be appointed who will live in Brailes Vicarage. We look forward to joining together in the ministry of Christ's church in these villages – the sharing together, both in what we say and what we do, of the good news of Jesus Christ and God's immense and unending love for us.

On the day of his licensing, we went around the churches in an act of dedication, and we used these words:

"We dedicate ourselves to God's service:

As we come together in the churches of these villages,
may we know your presence, living God.

as we travel with one another in pilgrimage,
may we be open to new companions on the way

as we pray together
may we discover the depths of unity in Christ

as we share our gifts with each other
may we be ready to receive as well as give

as we worship together,
may your Word come alive among us

as we laugh with one another
may we see things from the perspective to joy

as we carry one another's burdens
may we keep the law of Christ."

(MORE)
NEWS FROM
THE
DEANERY

Deanery activities take something of a break over the summer, but there are none the less some significant events.

We shall be welcoming Sharon Goble to our Deanery: she is to be licensed as Rector of the Stourdene Benefice (i.e. Ettington, Pillerton Priors, Butlers Marston, Halford, Newbold and Alderminster) on **Wednesday, August 30th at 7.30pm** in Newbold Church. We welcome her to Shipston Deanery, and pray for God's blessing on her ministry here.

Looking beyond the summer, the only date on the horizon at the moment is the Deanery Synod, which will be on **Monday, October 9th, at 7.30pm** – venue to be confirmed.

Note that this is a **Monday** – for once this is not a misprint!

This is one image of rest: may you find some or all of it over the summer.

Rest means:

finding that God loves you are you are and that he is your Father;

an awakening to the presence of God;

a growing knowledge of His voice and leading;

inner healing from hurts;

journeying to find your true self in these times;

space to think;

space just to be;

release of creativity;

receiving of revelation;

joy;

being enabled to give yourself more fully and be more present once you are back and around others.

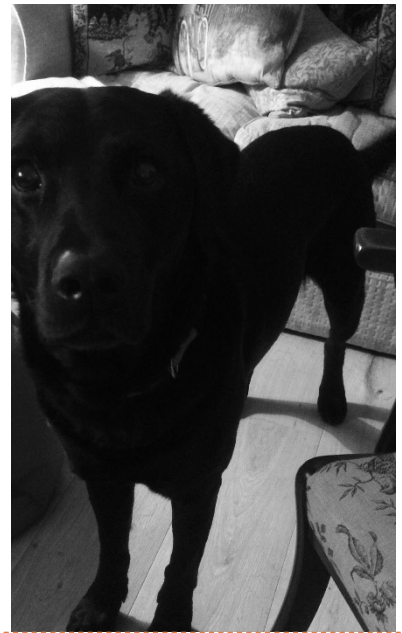
The Musings of an Urban Monk: Simon Jones

Every blessing, **Jill**

EDITORIAL

We've certainly had a busy few weeks. There's been a Big Get Together, the Photograph Competition and of course an Installation (not an Art installation) but one of Revd George Heighton as Vicar of Brailes, Rector of Sutton and Priest in Charge of Tysoe.

It's also been harvest time (witness the levels of activity out there). Sadly my knowledge of agriculture is limited but I very much hope that things are well in the farming community.



"To The Royal Oak, my friends, for 'tis there that we will find our journey's end" (uncredited, possible out take by W Shakespeare)

WAITING ON THE COUNTDOWN

Somewhere a clock has been ticking. And I think it must be close to 'zero hour' by now.

I think it's fair to say that we've probably all enjoyed watching Henry & his team restore The Royal Oak.

No doubt we'll meet the new landlord(s)/lady(ies) before long and, if possible, perhaps he/she/they will write a few lines which we can publish in the next edition?

In the meantime, with

each passing day, the pile of materials outside grows smaller and the whole place looks closer and closer to being ready for its first day back.

On a related theme, did you know that there is a pub in Moreton which is thought to have been the inspiration for the 'Prancing Pony' in The Fellowship of the Ring?

I wonder what tales The Royal Oak can tell...





Can't wait for it to
open. Please do
email your
pictures now and
from years ago
together with any
stories you have



Follow Dora on Twitter

DORA OUR LODGER

Our lodger stayed under our roof for 3 months and nearly had 3 families! I had better explain! Dora and her partner Dennis are Collared Doves and are a beautiful dove grey colour and go coo coo-coo. The nest site they choose was beautifully sheltered just under the porch ceiling about a metre in from the edge of the bungalow roof and where the Virginia Creeper is really thick, although when they arrived at the end of March there were no leaves on the creeper. They choose a bad time as we had workmen coming in and out of the house walking just below the nest. At first she was very nervous, flying off on the first day or two. Then she stayed put and just blinked nervously when anyone passed by, later on she just gave us a steady stare and was not bothered at all. The nest, such as it was, was just level with the top of the front bedroom window and Dora stared down at me through the net curtains when I was working at my PC.

DOVES?

How many of you know your Doves and can tell a Turtle Dove from a Wood Pigeon?

Well, I certainly can't and so I work on the assumption that anything grey going "coo, coo" is probably a Dove of some sort I have a reasonable chance of getting it right.

Collectively, I'm sure that the local knowledge of bird life here is considerable and perhaps we should think about a village record of bird sightings? I'm sure that was a Condor I spotted last week...

The nest was difficult to see into being quite high up (see picture) After about 3 weeks we thought we could see another grey shape underneath her and after a bit longer, Junior appeared and then fledged by flying onto the seat in the porch directly below the nest. It went back into the nest in the evening but flew up to the front garden fence the next morning. Dennis didn't seem to be around much but spent a lot of time on the TV aerial, cooing away at Dora, paying only occasional visits to the nest as far as we could see.

Then at the end of April Dora started to sit on the nest again but not much happened this time, the egg she produced was probably infertile. She gave up sitting at the end of May but re-started a few days later. Being a lot taller than me, Julian was able to see two eggs in the nest this time although the leaves had grown a lot by then. And at the end of June two quite large chicks were plain to see. One came out of the nest one afternoon onto the seat below but went back home for the night. When we got up next morning they had both fledged properly and we were not sure if we saw them again as the fledglings were hard to distinguish from the adult birds.

After 3 months the nest was getting quite foul and they decided to make a new nest in the back garden. That brings us up to date (July 8th) and if there are further developments the saga will be continued in a later magazine.

Tom Smith



*Thanks Chris and Tom and also
Dora and her partner, Richard, for
letting us into their lovely home*



SHIPSTON LITERARY SOCIETY INVITES YOU

Shipston Literary Society is a friendly group currently numbering some 25-30 members. We are an eclectic group – we are definitely not all academics – and the thing we have in common is a love of literature.

We are not a book club. We meet once a month in the White Bear in Shipston to hear a speaker on a literary topic. Afterwards, members can ask questions or join in a discussion if they so wish.



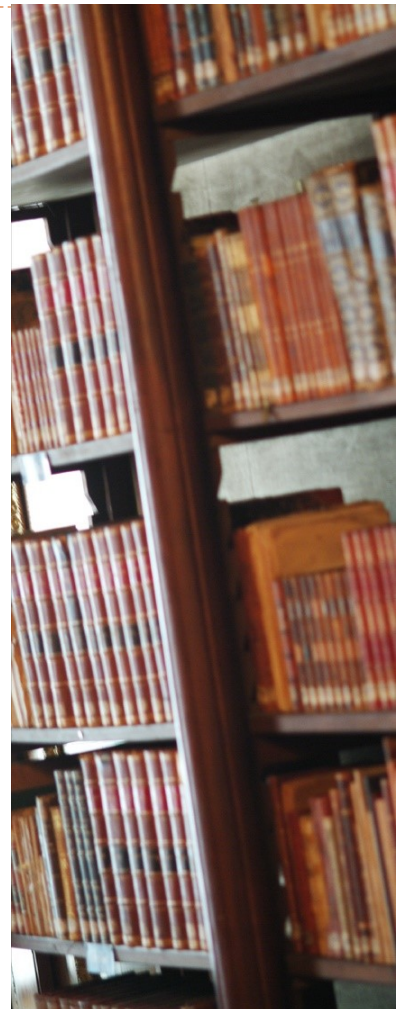
Reading in Berkshire...and South Warwickshire

MANY MEETINGS

We have six meetings per year plus a summer visit to somewhere with a literary connection and a couple of social events.

Talks last year included David Constantine talking about the transition of his short story to the successful film “45 Years” starring Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtney, Mike Harris talking about Marcel Pagnol and the crime write, Penny Freedman, on “Learning to Write”. Speakers include

past and current members of the Shakespeare Institute and Shakespeare Birthplace, lecturers from Warwick University, English teachers and some of our own members. Talks take place on the **last Wednesday of the month, at 7.30 p.m.**





Reading materials in Whatcote

HOW YOU CAN JOIN, TOO

This year's programme starts on 27 September with the subject of love and marriage in English and French novels of the 19th century, a talk by Dr. John Rignall of Warwick University, followed in October by Professor Michael Bell, also from Warwick University, talking about the Colombian author, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, best known for his novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude".

We are always pleased to welcome new members or visitors who just wish to attend a particular meeting. Membership costs £15 per annum and the charge for non-members to attend a meeting is £4.

If you are interested, do come along to any meeting – posters appear every month in Shipston and in most of the villages – or phone myself or our Secretary, Helen Marshall, 01789 740773, for more details.

We look forward to seeing you.

Elizabeth Searle

01295 688470

Installation of
the Reverend
George Heighton

On 28 June, in a service held in St. George's church, Brailes, the Rev. George Heighton, seen here with the Bishop of Coventry and Rural Dean, Canon Jill Tucker was installed as the vicar of Brailes, the rector of Sutton-under-Brailes and Priest in Charge of the parishes of Tysoe, Oxhill and Whatcote.

As part of the service, George promised to support the farming community and to protect the environment, as symbolised by a spade and pitchfork presented by Rex Greenway.


Elizabeth Searle



Pictures from Penny

Many thanks as always—please do email your pictures—Whatcote@live.co.uk





To do list

If you have the time, why not?

(If you don't, why not come along anyway for a bit?)

WHATCOTE LADY NOMADS (BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER!!!)

The next get-together will be on **Wednesday 26th July** and it is to be hoped that the August get-together will be back 'home' at The Royal Oak, on **Wednesday 30th August**. Watch this space!!

Anyone who has not been before is very welcome. Contact me on 680753 if you want more details.

Penny (Forster)

2 The Orchard

Editor: Yes I appreciate we've already passed the 26th July and I hope you all had a great time. Village website should help with these things

BRAILES SHOW

Don't forget, the Brailes Show is on 12th August

Moreton Show is September 2nd September



STOUR SINGERS - NEW SEASON

At its 2017 Christmas Concert on **Saturday 9 December**, Stour Singers will perform Kuhnau's cantata *Uns ist ein Kind geboren* and J.S.Bach's cantata 191, *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*. The evening will also include lovely carols, both familiar and unfamiliar. For the occasion, the popular soprano Robyn Allegra Parton makes a welcome return as soloist, and musical accompaniment will again be provided by Queen's Park Sinfonia. Once again, the choir is providing an opportunity for anyone with a secret urge to sing to fulfil their dream and enjoy the healthy, life affirming benefits singing provides. Under the direction of Richard Emms, the choir has established an enviable reputation for the quality of its performances. To join, there's no audition, and previous choral experience or ability to read music are not required. In the friendly atmosphere of rehearsals and with the support of specially created practice CDs even the most inexperienced novices flourish and blossom. There's even a singing workshop in September.

Like every choir in the country, it's the shy, retiring males of the species who are most reluctant to push themselves forward, so if you are a closet tenor or bass, seize the opportunity, and join our first rehearsal at **7.30pm on Thursday 14 September**, in the Hall at Shipston Primary School in Station Road, Shipston-upon-Stour.

If you would like to join Stour Singers, there is more information on the website: www.stoursingers.org.uk, or contact Ian Buchanan on 01608 730323, email: ian@buchananhn.co.uk



Despite the weather or perhaps because of the weather we started to harvest summer fruit a good three weeks earlier than last year! The raspberries canes are definitely reduced in number but we have picked some at each session which is a bonus!

They were the first to be ready followed rapidly by logan and tay berries which have cropped well and will continue for a bit longer. The construction of the fruit cage has made such a difference to the red and white currants, they were stripped last year by the blackbirds, and we have returned to bumper quantities this year! This is in spite of several blackbirds finding a way in and having a feast before we got them out. The red currants are like jewels hanging in long strings, so beautiful.

Unfortunately the blackbirds have turned their attention to the gooseberries and they have been in very short supply! Luckily the birds have largely ignored the black currants which have yielded some super succulent fruit and there were some wineberries and worcesterberries to add to the mix. May be we need more fruit cages like the one we have this year as it is in keeping with the orchard and does not detract visually.

The trees have suffered from aphid but this is part of the summer “pruning”! But the stone fruit are having their full prune as it must be done in the summer months to prevent silver leaf creeping in. Some of the plums and greengages have grown enormously, so are very happy with their conditions and treatment, and needed a severe “hair cut”. The established cherries likewise are looking good but the newer ones have a lot of catching up to do. It will take a while to complete the pruning but it will be done by the end of August.

The apples are swelling and looking very good as are the few pears. The cider apples and perry pears too look good and we do have some stone fruit. The wild flowers are looking good, the bees have given up a small amount of honey, the sensory garden is overflowing with aromatic herbs and all is looking very good!

So do come along and see us and enjoy your community orchard behind the allotments along the Shenington Road in Tysoe! And maybe join us and enjoy the fruit we grow. Contact one of us for more information

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)



16
Clockwise from left, Common Toadflax, Merton Worcestershire, Musk Mallow and Sunset (not Blvd.)

OUR PARISH

NEXT PARISH MEETING

The next meeting of Whatcote Parish Meeting will be held on **October 30th at 7:30pm** in the community centre. Please save the date and come along to participate in village things.

Liz Atkinson – Chairman



PLANNING

Planning Matters

The planning application for The Forge was passed with conditions. The replacement building is for four bedrooms, a lower roof with dormer windows, smaller footprint and single storey garage in stone. Details on the Stratford District Council web site for planning.

Check out the Stratford District Council site, too:

<https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/>

It has an interactive search function and also a map.



Village journal

Things we've been up to

As always, please do email your village news to Whatcote@live.co.uk

Easter Egg Hunt

A belated report on a very successful egg hunt in the churchyard! We had five enthusiastic hunters who had a super time finding ALL the eggs and bunnies that had been left in the church yard. They had decorated hard boiled eggs which were judged before they were let into the church yard and two won a small prize. It was such a pleasure to see the excitement and pleasure on their faces as they charged around and went home with a good basket of chocolate that hadn't been eaten en route!

This is just one of the things we do in the village to involve young people – let me know if you have more ideas.

Liz Atkinson





The Big Get Together

What a fantastic day we had on June 17th! The weather was hot, very hot, but nearly fifty villagers, friends and family gathered together on the village green from 4pm to enjoy food, drink, talking and relaxation.

Everyone brought their own food and drink but there were salads and bread rolls to share and a small barrel of Hooky donated by Henry Jervis. We were so lucky that Henry also erected a tent that provided some shade along with that under the trees. Three BBQs were fired up and people cooked when they felt like it so it was a perfect way to meet people, talk and let the children play.

By 8pm we were all cleared away and everyone had strolled home happy and asking for more get togethers like it, so we did what it said and achieved the aim of getting people together. Let's order the good weather for next year!!!!

Liz Atkinson

Return of the Halo

At last WCC have made us a new finger post for the village green! It finally returned at the beginning of July and we can now hope that lorries and trucks will be able to find their way down the Brailes Road rather than Church Lane. I know it has been a very long time in arriving but I am grateful that I can stop nagging WCC about one thing on the list.

Liz Atkinson



Looking forward to Halo 5



Photographs

Photo Competition - 15th July

A good selection of photos were submitted for the competition, seventy seven in all, and were of a very high quality! Some were of people, pets and places well known to villagers but quite a lot were of really interesting angles on things. Thank you to everyone for entering.

Penny P and I set up the tables with the various categories and then we were joined by Tom Smith to judge them, not an easy task due to the great photos.

We awarded a first and second in each category as these will be the ones that are included in the village calendar. Then we chose the three overall winners who won small prizes.

First - Pattie Snelling for a wonderful spiders web composition

Second – Will Payne for a snowy, atmospheric view down the Shipston Road

Third – Penny Forster for an amazing wood pecker

A big thank you also to Gwen, Chris Smith, Sandra and Penny P for the cakes and Sandra for manning the tea table.

For those who didn't make it to the church you missed out on a very good competition with excellent photos and the chance to see the amazing old photos of the village that June kindly set up for all to look at!!! But look forward to the calendar to see the pick of the entries.

Liz Atkinson

Your history (no, I mean 'your' history). Well, it'll make more sense when you read on, I hope

The Bells of St Peter's Church, Whatcote

Earlier this year a survey was carried on the bells in the tower of St Peter's Church. I thought it might be interesting to jot some notes from the survey.

There are currently three bells:

The smallest, at just over 3cwt (152kg) and 25 inches (62cm) in diameter was initially cast by Henry Bagley in 1652 but was found cracked in 1870 and was recast in 1878 by William Blews & Sons, Birmingham. The following inscriptions were cast in the bell's surface:

CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOVVM/ H.B. 1652

AD DEI GLORIAM ET IN USUM/ECCLESIAE S:PEDRI APUD WHATCOTE/D:D
THOYTS SACERDOS +/- TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

The second bell is just over 4cwt (203kg) and 27 inches (67cm) in diameter was cast by John Clark in 1711 and is inscribed:

JOHN + CLARK + MEDE ME 1711

The third bell at just over 5cwt (254kg) and 31 inches (77cm) in diameter was first cast by M. Bagley and carries the following inscriptions:

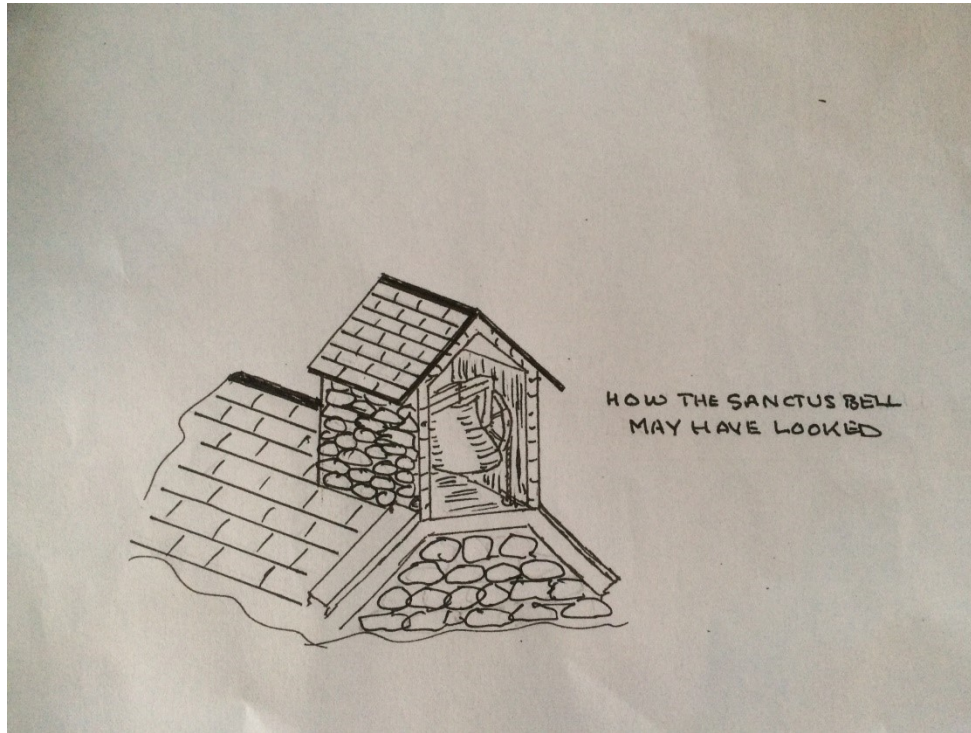
M. BAGLEY MADE ME 1766 WILLIAM MARSHALL

WILLIAM BLAKEMAN CHURCH WARDEN

RECAST QUEEN VICTORIAS DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR 1897/ WILLIAM
SANDERSON MILLER RECTOR/ H. BOND & SONS FOUNDERS BURFORD
OXON.

The bells are hung in a wooden frame probably built originally around 1590-1610. It has been altered over the years and may have possibly carried four bells as a manuscript around 1750 suggests. Unfortunately there are no records exciting to verify this.

However, in 1552 there were three bells and a 'little' bell. This little bell may well have been a 'sanctus' bell in a bellcote over the chancel arch. The sketch below shows how it may have looked.



The Bell at Idlicote

There has been a tradition that the single bell at Idlicote once belonged to Whatcote. However the bell, cast in 1656 by Henry Bagley bears the inscription JOHN RUDD WILLIAM MARTIN CHURCH WARDENS.

Both of these gentlemen are recorded in Idlicote records which clearly shows the bell did not originate from Whatcote.

Phil Wreford, Church Warden, St Peter's Church

Editor's note: Thanks so much, Phil, that's really interesting. Hope we can add to our archives in due course.



MUSIC IN WHATCOTE

We're very fortunate indeed to have the Was family here.

Thank you again for such wonderful music.

Another wonderful concert by the Was family

St Petertide Concert

Our 2017 St Petertide Concert held on June 30th saw the return of the Was family and friends playing their favourite film music, prepared by Marek and Anna Was.

Marek, who travels to schools working with children and introducing them to the world of music, included three of his students who make their debut at the concert.

Their performance was very much enjoyed by all. With grateful thanks to Mrs. Maureen Raybould, who gave much of her time to the promotion of the concert (which was part of the Shipston Proms Festival). The sum of £441.50 was raised for St Peter's Church funds.



Phil Wreford

THANKS FOR VISITING

Well, we've nearly reached the end of this edition of the Village News. I hope that you're enjoying it.

It's taking me a while to put the pages together but am aiming to publish by the first of every other month.

Most of all, thank you for reading and off course for your contributions without which you would have to put up with me rambling on for 20 pages or so about Land Rovers etc. I'll try to write something about Brexit next time because, whatever your view, it's a key issue.



Wondering whether JRR Tolkien visited Whatcote? Or perhaps King Charles 1st? Prince Rupert almost certainly rode on though or nearby

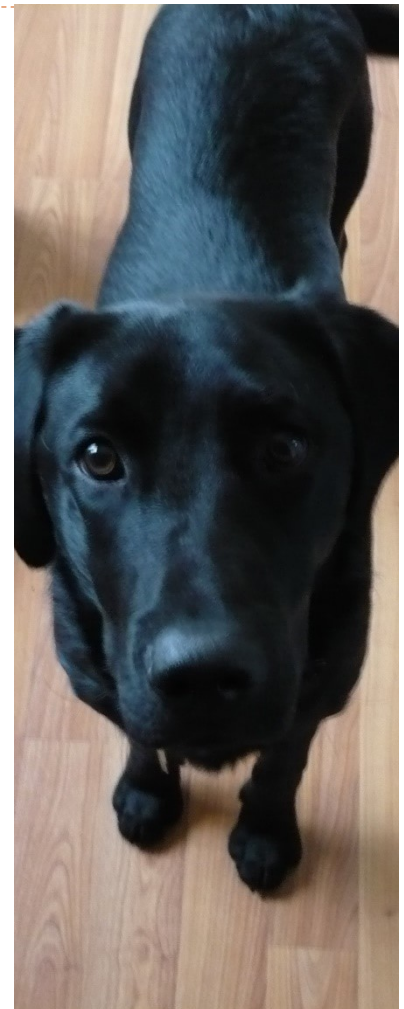
ASK FREDDIE

May I introduce our new columnist and 'agony uncle', Freddie. Writer, actor, auteur, Freddie will be well known to many of you already. His work, I think, speaks for itself. We're thrilled to have him on the team here. Please write in (confidentially if you wish) to Freddie at whatcote@live.co.uk.

We've already heard from Bumble (address withheld). Bumble wrote "Dear Freddie, I am having a bit of a dilemma, every time my mom takes me up to visit my friend Gerry, who is a horse, I have the choice of chasing the bunnies or the squirrels. I can't chase them both because they run off in opposite directions as soon as they see me?!? Can you help?"

Freddie's reply

"Dear Bumble, that's a good point you raise there. Personally, I would forget the bunnies and squirrels and just chase a ball"



Whatcote Village Association

Chairman's Report to the Village Association AGM on April 24th 2017

Last year I reported that several Committee Members were unfortunately showing their age and a deterioration in their health; this has resulted in Sue Price retiring from two major jobs in the village which she has done with great skill for many years. The first was as Treasurer and we are very fortunate to have Sandra Blewitt as a comparative newcomer, able and willing to do this job. The second job that Sue did was as Editor of the Whatcote Village News and again with great fortune we have William Payne as a volunteer to do this exacting job. I should know as I was Editor before Sue. William and family have now lived in the village for about 10 years and are established members of the community. Sue recently had a shoulder operation at the Horton hospital and is making a good recovery. The Association Committee met 6 times and William Payne, as editor was co-opted onto the Committee.

Most events have been successful in the year since the last AGM in 2016, but a couple fell by the wayside. In May we proposed a Village Walk but with only one taker, this was cancelled. In June a tour of Sheldon's wine cellars in Shipston was also cancelled due to lack of interest. In June however, to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday, an exhibition of old village photos was put on in the St. Peter's Community Centre (CC) and generated a lot of interest. The Association presented commemorative mugs to the village children. In July the Association bought some new plastic tables to replace the battered, rather fragile 40 year old baize top card tables. September saw the successful Harvest Supper, organised in conjunction with the PCC. October saw another of Penny and Colin's highly successful village breakfasts. With the darker evenings, another "Live and Local" event was held in the CC, although it was supported by many people from outside the village. The usual very successful over-60s lunch was held before Christmas and January saw a quite well-attended and interesting talk on Police matters by PCSO Emily Turner from Shipston Police team.

Finally I have to thank all those volunteers who keep the Village Association and in fact the village going. I particularly want to thank David Cunningham for not only mowing the village green but restoring it after it had been dug up by contractors.

If anyone has any ideas for village events, please talk to any of the Committee members.

Tom Smith. 12th April 2017

(Committee members are; Tom Smith (Chairman), Penny Pritchard (Secretary), Sandra Blewitt (Treasurer), William Payne (Editor), Liz Atkinson, Terry Blewitt, Sue Price, and Phil Wreford.)

And it's goodbye
from me ...until
the next episode
so stay tuned

THE WRITE STUFF

Any contributions to the Village News are always welcome although the Editor reserves the right to amend or edit them. Don't be upset if I forget to add your article—a gentle email reminder will ensure extra coverage in the next edition. Please contact Will Payne, 01295 688211 or e-mail:

whatcote@live.co.uk

Equally, if you would like a digital copy, do let me know—saves paper, ink...and walking!

Thank you for reading
and supporting this



A few (potentially) useful contact numbers:

- Stratford District Council: 01789 267 575
- The Royal Oak, Whatcote: [????] #coming soon
- Tysoe Village Stores: 01295 688333
- Tysoe Post Office: 01295 680632
- MI5: Freephone 0800 111 4645, <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us>
- Whatcote Secret Underground Bunker (switchboard): 0368 1003585
- NASA: Telephone 001 (202) 358-0000
- Youghton Parish Council: 01385 0001385
- MET Office: 0370 900 0100

Kinton Classic Car
& Motorcycle
Show (first
Thursday each
month through
Summer



Dates for your diary

(We've tried to catch them all! Did we manage it? No, probably not)

Sunday Services at St Peter's Church, Whatcote

August 6th	9.30am	Holy Communion (TM)
August 13th	9.30am	Morning Worship (JR)
August 20th	6.30pm	Evensong at Winderton (JT)
August 27th	8.30am	Holy Communion (GH)
September 3rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion (TM)
September 10th	9.30am	Morning Worship (JR)
September 17th	6.30pm	Harvest Evensong (GH)
September 24th	8.30am	Holy Communion (GH)

Abbreviations (note that personnel may sometimes change)

GH - George Heighton; JR - Jennie Rake; JT - Jill Tucker; TM - Tom Moffatt;

There will not be an evening service at St Peter's on Sunday 20th August, but everyone is invited to the annual summer service at Winderton Church at 6.30pm.

Morning Prayer will be said at St Peter's at 8.30am each Monday morning in September

Other events

August 12th	The Brailes Show
30th August.	Whatcote Lady Nomads at The Royal Oak?
September 16th	Harvest lunch